ABSTRACT

The simplest definition for narration is to tell a story, and its basic objective is to transmit certain information to another person. Treating the Book of Mencius as a story, this thesis attempts to discover through the narrative form how the story is told. It also attempts to find out what this form might tell us about its protagonist Mencius. The Book of Mencius may be considered as clusters of "recorded sayings". The narrator and the story character exist on two different planes, and the two construct the story of Mencius.

Chapter 1 examines the act of narration by classifying the narratives in the book and thereby identify the objective of the narration. Chapter 2 looks at the central character in the story, i.e. Mencius, as well as the various ways he was allowed to articulate himself. Based on the analysis in Chapter 2, Chapter 3, investigates some of Mencius’s typical modes of philosophical expression whereby the central themes in the Mencius are revealed.

The findings in this thesis may not be original, but the analysis and presentation of the thinking of a character through the narrative form may offer a new research angle.