ABSTRACT

It has been a long time that scholars considered Jia Daos’ poetry significant only for its form of writing. In this thesis, I argue, by exploring its use of words and imagery, that Jia Dao’s poetry is full with meaning of the Zenism that was flourished in his period.

Under this condition, Jia Dao’s poetry was a reflection of his personal experience and his feeling from which we observe a sort of enlightenment of Zen. The previous commentators considered Jia’s poetical style “cold” (寒) and “thin” (瘦). I would say, however, the so-called “cold” and “thin” style is actually a presentation of peaceful characteristic of the Zen.

For a better understanding of Jia Dao’s poetry, I also try to explain Jia’s life experience as well as his relationship with his contemporaries, by which I try to discuss the various factors that influenced Jia’s style of poetry.

Many poets of the late Tang period regarded Jia Dao as the ancestor of Tang poetry and, tried to follow his writing style, as the book Cang-lang shi-hua mentioned. However, they didn’t catch the spirit of Zen from Jia’ work, but only imitated Jia’s form of writing.