ABSTRACT

This dissertation is aimed to study the life of Zhu Shu Zhen and how it affected her literary works. A study on her personality, ideology and mindset is carried out while analyzing her literary works. Zhu Shu Zhen was not a prolific Ci-poet and all her works (31 pieces) were explored and analyzed for this study. In this dissertation, Zhu Shu Zhen’s works are studied from a perspective of the literature of Feminism constructed in the Western literary theory. The study is aimed to explore her private life including her romantic encounters and self-realization as a woman of that time, which is believed to have formed the main theme and cast considerable influence on her works. A woman’s self-discovery process and how it is presented aesthetically in her works are discussed and analyzed.

It is found that her works subconsciously revealed a lot of her feeling and emotion, which is hardly found in other Song Poets’ work. As a female writer at her time, her works contained more flashes of feminism than that of her peers.