Abstract

_Fu Sheng Liu Ji_, a book written by Shen Fu (1763-1825?) in the early 18th century in China during the Qing Dynasty. Shen Fu was not a well known writer nor a wealthy person during his lifetime. In fact, he was just an unfortunate man who suffered a lot, both mentally and financially. After a few years of his death, the one and only book written by him – _Fu Sheng Liu Ji_ was found. The unique style of writing and the sorrowful story line has attracted a great pools of readers.

This dissertation is written under the motivation that many researches on this topic had not been done thoroughly, but yet it is valuable enough to be discovered. In the past, profession and writers mainly focus on three points: verifying the authenticity of the last two chapters in _Fu Sheng Liu Ji_; finding the exact year of Shen Fu visited Ryukyu; and finding the actual year of Shen Fu’s death. Very seldom effort is put in reviewing the literature value of the book.

In this work, first of all, I reported on why and how I should start with this dissertation. In second chapter, a review on the results did by others in the past is presented. The most important part is to focus on the motive of Shen Fu in writing the book, and the moral nature and thoughts of the two main characters (respectively the writer Shen Fu and his wife), which was not discussed by anyone in the past. These occupied the third and forth chapters of this dissertation. The fifth chapter explored the literature value of _Fu Sheng Liu Ji_. The comparison with other similar genre and its influences is contained in the last chapter.

One significant contribution worth mention in this dissertation is the use of a Malay translated version of _Fu Shen Liu Ji_ as one of the reference. This is the first ever discovered so far but it did show how wide the influence of _Fu Sheng Liu Ji_ is.

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