SUMMARY

Liang Yuchun (1906 - 1932) was one who bore great resemblance to a shooting star which vanishes in a twinkle. His brief twenty-six years, though simple, was tumultuous. He was a idealistic and reflective soul, full of feelings for life. His unparalleled talent was best demonstrated in the two thin collections of prose, namely *Chun Lao Ji* (The Mellow Wine Collection) and *Lei Yu Xiao* (Tears and Laughter). Though the number was somehow insubstantial, the works left a lingering impression on the readers.

The dissertation is a comprehensive study on the themes, ideas, thoughts, content and the artistic qualities of the much neglected Liang Yuchun's prose.

The first chapter of the dissertation outlines the significance and objectives of this research. The scope of the research and the methodology involved are enumerated.

The second chapter traces the twenty-six years of Liang Yuchun's life. Knowledge of his biography basically facilitates the better understanding of ideas, content and the artistic qualities inherent in his works. To provide a backdrop for analysing the prose of Liang Yuchun the development of modern prose in the 1920s and 1930s has been laid out thereafter.

The analysis of the contents and ideology of Liang Yuchun's prose is dealt with in the third chapter of the dissertation. The dissertation seeks to analyse in the following categories: namely the comprehension of the external world; criticisms directed at the reality; the pursuit of an ideal life and last but not least the expression of his emotions and state-of-mind. A thorough evaluation brings us to conclude that Liang Yuchun was one who sincerely treasured life. In addition, it also brings to light that the only thing Liang Yuchun desires of his life is to "live with understanding", that is to continually explore the meaning of life.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation is an exploration and summary of the artistic qualities of Liang Yuchun’s prose, namely: the distinctiveness of his selection of materials; a departure from the traditional style of expressions; the articulation of his inner most feelings; the ability to come up with original and unusual themes or subjects in his works, and to immerse himself totally, without inhibitions when writing about them; the extensive use of unconventional metaphors to enhance the images found in the prose, and finally, the extensive use of satirical writing and a writing style that knows no bounds in the use of subjects and themes.

In addition, the fifth and final chapter of the dissertation expounds certain issues, which need to be accomplished in detail, for example, Liang Yuchun was hailed as the "Ellia of China"; his assimilation of and drawing from the English prose; the fact that his works were critically acclaimed and were known to be "works of the Six Dynasties in a new era"; the manifestation of his inheritance of traditions in his work, etc. It is hoped that through such an exploration of these issues, a more thorough and in-depth understanding of Liang Yuchun's prose can be achieved. At the same time, it is also hoped that the distinctive features of his works can be accorded in the history of modern Chinese prose.