SUMMARY

The present dissertation is a study of the Chinese fiction in Singapore and Malaya from the year 1937 to 1942, i.e., five years before the breakout of the Second World War.

The paper is divided into Six chapters.

Chapter I is about the significance, objective and approaches of this project.

Chapter II focuses on theme analysis, elaborating the types of themes found in the Chinese fiction in Singapore and Malaya at that particular time, and their respective characteristics.

Chapter III is to analyze authors' mentality as revealed in their writings, paying special attention to the "consciousness of overseas sojourners" and the "consciousness of local identity" underlying the fictions.

While Chapters II and III deal with the content, the following two chapters concentrate on the analysis of expressive methods, artistic, forms and techniques. To be specific, Chapter IV discusses the various writing styles and artistic modes and Chapter V serves to expound the creation of literary figures, taking into account its features, achievements and flaws.

The last chapter, Chapter VI, based on the analyses conducted in the previous four chapters, makes a comparative study between the two peaks (the period of 1927 to 1930 and the period of 1937 to 1942) in the development of the Pre-War Chinese fiction in Singapore and Malaya. Then with the whole history of the Chinese fiction development as its frame of reference, the present writer clarifies her views on the importance of the Chinese fiction in Singapore and Malaya during the period, pointing out that the Chinese fiction in that particular period can be the heights in its development in Singapore and Malaya before the War.