Abstract

Yuan Hongdao, a famous literate in the Ming Dynasty of ancient China, enjoys a high prestige in composing essays. The purpose of this thesis is to explore Yuan Hongdao’s thought and interest in his travels. His mind, thoughts, feelings, art of composing, preferences and so on will be discussed from my point of view in order to discover the distinctive style and nature of his travel writing.

Besides, my research will not only focus on the content of Yuan Hongdao’s travel notes, it will also involve a study of his individual style and spirit. This is because Yuan Hongdao’s thought and interest affected his art and style of writing directly. Thus, this thesis will discuss and comment Yuan Hongdao’s thought and interest through the study of his travel notes in order to comprehend the value of these writings.

In this thesis, the first chapter will introduce the scope and method of my research. Then, Yuan Hongdao’s background will be discussed in chapter two to find out the elements that may have influenced his thinking and personality. And following that, chapters three, four and five are also
part and parcel of this thesis. In chapter three, Yuan Hongdao’s theory of composing and his sentiments towards the nature will be studied. As for chapter four, I will comment on Yuan Hongdao’s personal theory and notion in his travel notes. Next, his unique taste for the landscape and techniques of description are the main points for the discussion in chapter five. Finally, I will make a conclusion in the last chapter.