Abstract

Yan Fu ( 严复 , AD 1854 -- 1913 ) was a great thinker and translator of the late Ching dynasty. He was essentially a product of the time. His views on literature reflected the political structure, historical background and philosophy of that period.

This study is an attempt to investigate Yan Fu's main works and influence he received from Western thinkers such as R.C. Darwin, T.H. Huxley.

After a brief introductory chapter, the study continues with an examination of the relationship between his background and his feelings and thoughts on tradition and culture. The main thesis is divided into two parts: (1) the Intrinsic Study of Yan Fu's view on linguistics and the nature and function of literature, (2) the Extrinsic Approach on Yan Fu's views of literary forms such as poems, fiction. There is also a comparison of theory into application for prose and translation.

From an analysis and examination of Yan Fu's works it is clear that he had been influenced by Western literary thought. His concept of "pure Art", however, is not clearly or obviously seen in his own work.