ABSTRACT

In the history of Taiwan modern literature, Bai Xian Yong (白先勇) (1937--) represents one of the great writers in the depiction of female characters. Among his 36 short stories, he has successfully portrayed a series of interesting female characters who are able to leave behind a lasting impression regardless of the cast they played in the story line.

An extensive study of and the systematic research on these female characters in Bai Xian Yong’s short stories are regrettably scarce. This four-chapter thesis is therefore designed to look at the female characters in Bai’s famous short stories series “Tales of Taipei Character” (台北人). The first chapter, which is also the introduction states the significance of the study. The second chapter attempts to analyze the life and fate of these female characters, and their connection with the theme of each story. The third and the last chapters will concentrate on the characterization of these female roles. In these two chapters, the direct and indirect techniques of character portrayal employed by the writer will be closely examined.

It is hoped that the study will provide some insights for Bai’s female character depiction to facilitate those interested in this aspect of Taiwan modern literature.