A STUDY OF TAI JING-NONG'S SHORT STORIES

Tai Jing-Nong has been living in Taiwan since 1945. For many people, he is a well-known scholar but few know that he has written quite a number of excellent short stories. His short stories are very regionalistic in the sense that almost all the characters and subject matters of his stories were drawn from his native place. Lu Xun, a popular short stories writer, also gave high recommendation of Tai Jing-Nong's works. Lu Xun said that Tai's short stories fully expressed the regional characteristics of his hometown. However, Tai Jing-Nong, who emerged in 1920's as a distinguished short stories writer, has been forgotten by present day readers for the last thirty years. His excellent short stories have been recovered by many literary critics recently. In May 1980, a seminar was held in Taipei to discuss Tai Jing-Nong's achievement in short stories. In June 1980, his stories were recollected and republished under the title The Collection of Tai Jing-Nong's Short Stories.

The purpose of this Academic Exercise is to study and evaluate Tai Jing-Nong's achievement as a short story writer. I have divided this essay into seven chapters. First chapter is a brief introduction. In Chapter Two, I outline Tai's biography to serve as an introduction to his stories. In the following chapter, I try to examine the biographical and critical writings of Tai's short stories which were published in 1930's. In Chapter Four, Tai's short stories are studied with special reference to the regional fiction. Obviously, Tai's short stories are reflections of the livelihood of the people in the old days. The names of the characters and the language used by the
characters make us recall the lives and the country folks in the small town of old day China. In Chapter Five, I make a comparative study of the short stories of Lu Xun and Tai Jing-Nong. Chapter Six is an analysis of the artistic achievements of Tai's works. The final chapter is a conclusion in which I evaluate the success of Tai's parents for the many ways they have contributed towards short stories.

I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to my

My above study shows that Tai Jing-Nong is unusually strong in describing the miseries of living of the country folks. His stories are filled with sadness and darkness. The backwardness of the small town of the old days are fully expressed in his stories. Therefore, I may conclude that Tai Jing-Nong is a successful short stories writer though he has written only a small number of stories.