ABSTRACT

This five-chapter dissertation looks at the study of Si-Fu poems (思妇诗) of the literati in the Southern-Dynasties. Si-Fu poems have appeared as early as 600 B.C. in the “Anthology of Classical Poems” (诗经), which later emerged as one of the main subgenres in Chinese classical lyric literature. However, studies on the sentimental aesthetic value of the Si-Fu poems have not yet emerged as a major topic of interest. Hence, the aim of this thesis is to provide exploratory insights on this subgenre in the Southern-Dynasties.

Since the Wei-Jin period when the Era of Literary Consciousness (文学自觉时代) began, literati have started to realise and appreciate the aesthetic value of Si-Fu poems. Therefore, as the trend of literary works developed, Si-Fu poems in the Southern-Dynasties fully blossomed its refined and sentimental aesthetic trait. This thesis aims to inquire in depth the literary background for the development of the Si-Fu poems of the literati in the Southern-Dynasties, the manifestation of the Si-Fu and the value of the aesthetic significance.
Finally, this research points out the aesthetic significance of the *Si-Fu* poems in the Southern-Dynasties which brings forth the new literary trend. This significance influences the *Si-Fu* poems in the later ages, especially the *Si-Fu* poems in the Tang Dynasty and the Wan-Yue-Ci (婉约词) in the Song Dynasty.