SUMMARY

Much work has been done on the literature history of Six Dynasties, but little attention was paid to the migration of the literati and its impact on literati’s spiritual world, their literary works, literary criticisms and other related aspects. Based on previous studies, this thesis was hoped to cast a new view on literature of this period.

The Wei (220-265), Jin (265-420), Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589) were one of the most tumultuous times in Chinese history, which caused numerous literati to move from one place to another place. From the historical perspective, literati’s migration can be divided into two periods concerning their relatively different characteristics. The first one was during the period from the Eastern Han dynasty (25-220) to Wei and Jin dynasties; the second one occurred in late period of Southern and Northern dynasties.

In the first period, the migration’s impact on literature was obvious for many particular literati such as Wang Can, Lu Ji and Guo Pu. The migration caused the changes in the literati’s psychology, literary styles and literary criticism. The discussion focuses on the migration’s impact on several representative literati since the migration greatly influenced the political and literary environment. For the second period, the migrations were of much more significance than the first period. The migrations had profound impacts not only on the literary tastes of the imperial members of the Northern Zhou (557-
581), Sui (581-618) and Tang (618-907), but also on the formation of the Sui and Tang dynasties’ literature. A general interest in the Southern dynasty’s literary style became a common practice in Early Tang as the result of migrations.

In conclusion, the migrations had a close relation with classical literature especially in the periods of the Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties because they caused great changes in literati, literary works and criticism. Most important, the migrations played an important role in transforming the Six Dynasties literature into the Sui and Tang literature. Especially, they helped form the style and taste of Early Tang literature.