SUMMARY

This study aims to explore the finance and management methodology in *A Dream of Red Mansions*. This novel, written in 18th century by Cao Xueqin, (曹雪芹，1715? – 63) is the most well-known and influential work. It covers a wide scope of subjects available in the world, ranging from politics, geography, architecture, literature, sociology, and above all management and economics. It is proposed in this thesis that the achievement of *A Dream of Red Mansions* transcends the literary context and offers the basis for an insight into the nature of modern business practices. To study with this perspective, this dissertation is divided into six chapters to examine the finance and management aspects of the novel. Chapter 1 deals with the objectives, scope and methodology adopted for the study. Chapter 2 traces the economic activities as reflected in the literature. In addition to that, the House of Jia’s economic spending, reasons and strategies adopted in saving its economic downfalls will be given indepth exploration. Chapter 3 highlights the characteristics of one of the major character in the literature: Wang Xifeng (王熙凤), as well as comments on the finance and management methodology adopted by her. Chapter 4 analyses the finance and management strategies practice by another major character in the act: Jia Tanchun (贾探春), and how these strategies helped to prolong the time of Jia’s economic downfall. Through the role of Liu Laolao (刘姥姥), chapter 5 provides an insight into the extravagant spending of the House of Jias, above which is the main reason behind leading to its downfall. The concluding chapter re-emphases the reasons leading to the House of Jia’s downfall, and acknowledges the fact that the finance and management methodology adopted by Jia Tanchun (贾探春), does in a way helped to prolong the time of the downfall. The findings confirm my belief that this great Chinese classical novel provides important insights on the finance and management methodology which can be seen applicable to the modern business world of today.