Summary

After the emergence of Malayan Chinese modern literature in October 1919, the classical poetry continues to develop. But a comprehensive study of this genre of Chinese literature has never been carried out by contemporary scholars in the last 70 years.

On going through the relevant data from twenty-two types of old newspapers, it was discovered that Malayan Chinese classical literature was closely related to the political movements in China. In this thesis, the development of Malayan Chinese classical poetry was therefore divided into the following estimated periods: The Sino-Japanese War of 1881 - 1895, The Reform Movement of Wuxu 1896 - 1900, The Revolution of Xinhai 1901 - 1911, The New Culture Movement 1912 - 1926, The Civil War between Guomintang and Communist Party 1927 - 1936, and The War of Resistance Against Japan 1937 - 1941.

The thesis contains eight chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which gives the definition of the Malayan Chinese classical poetry and a brief account of the development of the Malayan Chinese classical literature.

From second chapter to seventh chapter are analyses of the development of the classical poetry in various periods. The representative works of major poets in each periods are closely examined. There is a brief summary at the end of each chapter.

The eight chapter is the conclusion. It was found that the development of Malayan Chinese classical poetry was in pace with the rise and fall of the political movements in China. This phenomenon was clearly reflected in the texts of the poems. Different political movement produced different types of works which depict the political, economic and social situation of the Chinese community in Malaya and the flavor of Southeast Asia.