

MASTER'S THESIS

Shakespeare in Hong Kong: transplantation and transposition

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**SHAKESPEARE IN HONG KONG: TRANSPLANTATION
AND TRANSPOSITION.**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
for the Degree of
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Abstract

This thesis consists of two parts. The first part looks at the history of Hong Kong English education through which Shakespeare was introduced to the people of the territory. The investigation of the wax and wane of Shakespearian plays in the English syllabus helps to map the development of English education in Hong Kong. Yet, Shakespeare did not write for readers in their armchairs but audiences in the theatre. Therefore, Shakespeare on the Hong Kong stage is another focal point of this part. Hong Kong theatrical history is also dealt with as a basis for the investigation of the causes of the belated appearance of Shakespearian performance in Cantonese. The history of Shakespearian performances in Cantonese is presented chronologically. A study of the Shakespeare festivals in 1954, 1964, 1984 is also conducted to give a glimpse of the theatrical reception of Shakespearian plays in Hong Kong.

The second part chiefly examines the Hong Kong Shakespearian adaptations for the stage. Five Shakespearian performances are selected as case studies which address the cultural questions that the directors overlooked. A total replacement of the Elizabethan world in the Shakespearian plays with a Chinese world seems impossible because of cultural barriers. The five selected Shakespearian performances in Cantonese are used to illustrate the existence of these barriers which thwarted the directors' intention to acculturate the Shakespearian plays.

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