

MASTER'S THESIS

晚清上海小說的城市書寫

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晚清上海小說的城市書寫

City Writing in Late Qing Shanghai Fictions

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提要

晚清上海小說是一組以時空和地理原則來挑選的文學創作，它體現了文學的晚清和歷史文化的晚清共同建構的思想世界，亦展現晚清所具有的多重變革意義。本文試圖突破以往名家、名作、典型人物和小說類型的研究方法，歸納內外兩重現代化的軌跡，以上海為焦點考察晚清小說在創作技巧上的更新與現實世界的關係。城市小說家的作品成為文學與外部世界對話的中介，小說猶如一幀照片，呈現具體可觀的城市演變，例如建築實景、社會現象、生活百態和政制時事，而拍攝角度、取景標準、光暗焦距則是表述手法與寫作技巧。但小說比照片更清楚紀錄書寫者對社會的評價和個人經驗，因此晚清上海小說蘊藏的不只是城市現代化的痕跡，也有中國文學現代化，而城市書寫正好包涵兩方面的嶄新意義。

晚清時期的城市現代化可說是一個趨新的過程，當外部的更新進入小說後會激發奇妙的結果，例如馬車改變了小說時間觀、製造緣分便於連接線索；市政限制了人物活動，亦帶來中西文化比較與衝突；時髦長三妓女的音容不單是性慾與愛情的幻想對象，亦是現代城市女性的模楷；高級妓院的空間說明了西方器物普及化與性別權力轉移；功能性景緻對營造上海有顯著效果，包含了文化喻意的暗示；買辦商人喚起小說家對道德的思考，而小說的譴責傾向亦由此而來；娛樂事業說明外來文化的風行，亦有利於描寫城市人的頹廢、囂張和耽於逸樂。

本文牽涉的概念雖然蕪雜，如「寫甚麼」、「怎樣寫」、「海派」、「敘述立場」、「虛構紀實」、「想像」、「新舊交替」等等，然而這一切都可納入晚清上海小說的討論範疇，以文學配合作家筆記、歷史資料、文化史這些大眾文化材料，尋找上海於世紀之交繁華與破落並存的詭異局面。

Abstract

The Fiction of late Qing Shanghai is a group of spatiotemporal and geographical literal works. The fiction exemplifies the mental world representing the literal Late Qing and historic Late Qing dynasty, and thus, explains Late Qing's multi-revolutionary value. This thesis tries to break off from the traditional academic research foci, such as famous novelists and their novels, typical characters or genres of fiction, and instead, tries to integrate the internal and external pathway of progress to modernization, zeroing in on the city of Shanghai to determine the relationship between the real world and the renewal of creative writing skills. The work of novelists who lived in and wrote about this city becomes the medium between literature and reality. Then, a novel becomes a photo, revealing concrete changes in architecture, social phenomena, citizens' lifestyles and current events. The shooting, panning and zooming of a camera would be similar to skills the writer used to narrate and present. However, fiction is much more clearer than photo in the recording of the writer's personal experience and judgment. Hence the Late Qing Shanghai fiction not only reveals the modernization of city, but also the modernization of Chinese literature. And City Writing encompasses both of these creative purposes.

Modernization is an evolving process. Some wonderful results might occur when external catalysts enter the elements of fiction. For example, carriages changed the time of the setting and may thus alter fate; municipal policies restricted characters' activities, and simultaneously stimulated the comparison and contradiction between Chinese and Western cultures; "Chang-san girls" became the object of sexual and romantic fantasy and they also became the role model of their contemporary peers; high-class brothels

reflected the popularity of western materialism in Shanghai and the power transfer between genders. Functional scenes helped establish Shanghai's city image: compradors aroused the reinterpretation of moral value, hence the tendency of accusation in this kind of fiction; and popular entertainment reflected the invasion of foreign culture, indicating the decadence, arrogance and sybaritism of Shanghai people.

The thesis involves so many concepts such as “what to write”, “how to write”, “Shanghai style (hai pai)”, “narrative perspectives”, “imaginary versus reality”, “imagination”, “evolution” and so on. All of these concepts can be topics of discussion on Late Qing Shanghai fiction, utilizing literature and personal records, historical information, cultural studies, and other materials to identify Shanghai's exotic features when flourishing glory coexisted with shabby downfall in the turn of the century.

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