

Popular Literature under Japanese Rule

Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature, National Taiwan University,

Professor Huang Mei-e 2009.6.30 17 : 15-18 : 30

◎Speakers' Profile

Huang Mei-e, professor of the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature at National Taiwan University, has been studying and teaching Taiwan literature for two decades. Her publications include *Mirrors of Multiple Modernities : Cultural Visions and Literary Imagination of Traditional Taiwanese Literati in Japanese Colonial Period*, *Classical Taiwan: On Literary History,, Poetry Groups, and Authors*, and other essays. She also works on preserving and researching Taiwan literary materials and texts and edited the following titles: *Zhang Jingsheng's complete works*, *Mei-he Zhai poetry* and *Bibliography of Taipei in Japanese Colonial Period*. She also co-edited anthologies such as *Selection of Taiwan Popular Fiction in Classical Chinese (I) (II)*, *Collection of Taiwan Literature during the Japanese Colonial Period*, *Poetry from Treetop— Collection of Hsieh Jing-yun and Wang Qiu-chan* , *Collection of Hsieh Sen-hong and Hsieh Lin-chi*. Currently she is working on a project on Taiwan historical materials' collection; her efforts result as the anthology entitled *The Collections of Taiwan Official Local History of Qing Dynasty*.

◎Introduction of curriculum content

The program will mainly introduce popular literature of Taiwan during the period of Japanese Occupation, and it is considered as of newly burgeoning area among the research of Taiwanese Study, and it has just received more and more attention and exploration in recent years. As for “popular literature,” this program will conduct aspects of discussion including joke, pop song (focus on song lyric), and popular novel. Since the issue concerns problems as secularization, popularization, entertainment consumption, and modernity, it will be excellent focus of inter-discipline for one to observe literature research and cultural study.

As for curriculum content, it will based on the above-mentioned three separate parts for elaboration. For the part of “joke,” it will, aside from pointing out the contrast of modern joke and joke in folk literature, also identify the link of “joke” and “modernity,” especially the prominent features of critique and reflection; for the part of “popular song,” it will, more than simply briefing on the development context of Taiwanese pop song, also illustrate how the song lyric should echo modern

civilization and bi-sexual relationship. As for “popular novel,” it will be taken as the focus of delivery for this curriculum, and its content should embrace: 1. introduce current publishing scenario for pop novel, and sign of serial publication on newspaper; 2. choose examples for major types of pop novel in Taiwan (detective, marital arts, mysterious, and romance), while illustrations are conducted to delineate the outline of composition content, and it will comment on writers of major type of novels and their relevant artistic expressions; 3. focus on special literature and cultural significance as found in Taiwanese pop novel, and pin-point certain dimensions for discussion, for instances, the description of atmosphere in western and exotic countries found in novel, and the description of local space in Taiwan; 4. introduce the two comprehensive art and cultural journals “三六九小報” and “風月”(3-6-9 Tabloid) and (Wind and Moon or Romantic Affairs) given with popular entertainment. At the end, it will conclude the research scenario of Taiwanese popular literature during Japanese Occupation, and possible research topics to work on in the future.

◎Course Outline :

This course will take for 75 minutes, content as follows:

I. Introduction

- A. Popular literature’ s difference from elite literature, its meaning and system
- B. This class focuses on modern entertainment popular literature
- C. The epistemology of Taiwan during Japanese Colonization

II. Joke

- A. Joke in folk literature
- B. Modern joke in modern society
- C. Creating and consuming of joke
- D. examples

III. Popular song

- A. History of Taiwan popular music
- B. the most significant work : The movie song of “The Peach Girl”
- C. Lyric: “Viva Tonal”
- D. Well-know lyricists

IV. Popular fiction

- A. Where to find them ?
 - 1. newspapers and periodicals during this time
 - 2. Pamphlets
 - 3. Collections and complete works
- B. Genres of popular fiction and introduction to individual works
 - 1. Detective Fiction
 - 2. Martial Arts Fiction
 - 3. Gods and Spirits Fiction
 - 4. Romance Fiction
 - 5. Others : Science Fiction
- C. Introductions of Writers
- D. Literary and cultural meaning of fictions
- E. Exoticism and local writing of fictions

V. Two Popular Periodicals of Taiwan

- A. *369 tabloid*
- B. *Fong Yue*

VI. Conclusion

- A. Taiwan now begins to study advertisements, popular songs and fictions, but comics and jokes is paid little attention.
- B. The popular fiction during this time could be regard as an epitome of many issues, such as the birth of modern media, the reader, and urban culture.....and all should have more concern.

○ References

- 下村作次郎、黃英哲編《台灣大眾文學》第一輯・八冊(台北：前衛，1998年8月)
- 黃美娥、黃英哲編《日本統治期台灣文學集成・台灣漢文通俗小說集》(東京：綠蔭書房，2007)
- 吳福助主編《日治時期臺灣小說彙編》(臺中市：文听閣圖書，2008.04.)
- 《三六九小報》，臺北：成文出版社復刻本。
- 《風月報》，河原功監修，臺北：南天書局復刻本，2001。