An Analysis of Overseas Chinese Literature Research in the 20th Century Based on English PhD Dissertations

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Abstract: Overseas Chinese studies refers to the study of Chinese issues by scholars outside China, including traditional Sinology and contemporary Chinese studies. Chinese literature has a high acceptance abroad and has become the topic for many doctoral dissertations. The doctoral dissertation on Chinese literature is an important result of overseas Chinese studies (sinology). Especially since the 20th century, there have been a large number of researches and fruitful results. Due to the difficulty of obtaining English doctoral dissertations, these research results have not been fully utilized. The author has collected 989 English doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature in the 20th century based on the database. The research methods, themes, and characteristics of these dissertations are sorted out and analyzed, and suggestions are made for better use of these research results. The main characteristics of overseas doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature include: research based on translation and annotation, research from multicultural and multidisciplinary perspectives, limitations of research caused by historical culture and geography

Keywords: Chinese Studies; Overseas Chinese Literature Studies; Doctoral Dissertations

1. Introduction

Overseas Chinese studies (Chinese studies) refers to the study of Chinese issues by scholars outside China, including traditional Sinology and contemporary Chinese studies. In 1814, the French Academy of France officially established the "Han Man Tartar Language and Literature Lecture", which marked the transition from amateur to professional sinology studies in Europe. After the 1950s, the United States strengthened its comprehensive research on China and introduced various theories, methods and methods of social science on the basis of European Sinology, which greatly broadened the research horizon of traditional European "Sinology", and the United States became a Western Chinaology. The center of research.

Chinese literature is an important branch of overseas Chinese studies. Western scholars have conducted a more comprehensive study of Chinese literature from a unique perspective, opening up the field of overseas Chinese literature research. Since the 1980s, my country's academic circles have begun to attach importance to foreigners' research on Chinese issues. Overseas Chinese studies have provided us with an extraterritorial perspective and research methods, and have become a hot spot in my country's academic circles. Overseas Chinese studies literature includes published monographs, newspaper academic papers, conference papers, and doctoral theses. Doctoral theses are gray literature and it is difficult to obtain them. However, overseas literary doctoral theses involving Chinese topics are important for Chinese literary research. Reference value. This research made use of the printed version of "Guide to Doctoral Dissertations by Chinese Students in America, 1905-1960) and "Doctoral Dissertations by Chinese Students in Great Britain" (Doctoral Dissertations by Chinese Students in Great Britain). And Northern Ireland, 1916-1961), "A Guide to Doctoral Dissertations by Chinese Students in Continental Europe, 1907-1962), and three "Doctoral Dissertations on China"-1. Doctoral Dissertations on China: a bibliography of studies in western languages, 1945-1970. Seattle: Published for the Association for Asian Studies by the University of Washington Press, 1972. 2. Doctoral Dissertations on China, 1971-1975: a bibliography of studies in western languages. Seattle, Washington: Published for the Association for Asian Studies by the University of Washington Press, 1978. 3. Doctoral Dissertations on China and on Inner Asia, 1976-1990: an annotated bibliography of studies in western languages. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 1998, and searched the ProQuest database for English doctoral dissertations related to Chinese literature from 1991 to 1999, and systematically compiled the catalog of doctoral dissertations in the 20th century in Europe and the United States

before 2000 that involved Chinese (including Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao) literature A doctoral dissertation on the subject and written in English. By systematically combing the temporal and spatial distribution characteristics of doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature in the English-speaking world in the 20th century, summarizing its research themes, methods and characteristics, and exploring its significance and value on the basis of comparing China and the West to seek differences, for the new era of Chinese literature research Undoubtedly, it has great academic reference value.

2. Quantitative analysis of overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations

2.1 Country distribution

This research collected a total of 989 English doctoral dissertations on overseas Chinese literature in the 20th century. Among them, the United States is the country with the most overseas Chinese literature and English doctoral dissertations, with a total of 822 papers, accounting for more than 83%. There were 73 doctoral dissertations issued by the United Kingdom, 44 doctoral dissertations issued by Canada, and 24 doctoral dissertations issued by Australia. These 4 English-speaking countries accounted for 97.37% of the total. The remaining papers are 5 in Sweden, 4 in Hong Kong, 3 in Germany and India, 2 in the Netherlands, Malaysia, New Zealand, and 1 in the Philippines, Ireland, Czech Republic, Norway, and Poland. Doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature in non-English speaking countries are generally written in the official language of the country, but English is also allowed to be written in the international language. This article does not involve the publication of doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature in other non-English speaking countries such as Germany.

2.2 Distribution of issuance time

According to statistics every ten years, the time distribution of the 989 doctoral dissertations in this study is obvious. There were only 4 papers before the 1950s; there was a large increase from the 1950s to the 1960s, a total of 82 papers; from the 1970s there was a significant growth trend, with an increase of about 100 papers every ten years, and a total of 903 papers from the 1970s to the 1990s. Accounted for 91.3%.

The early papers were all from American universities, and there were not many articles, but there were no shortage of masterpieces. The first overseas English doctoral dissertation on the subject of Chinese literature can be traced back to "Chinese themes in American verse. University of Pennsylvania, 1935" written by William Robert North of the University of Pennsylvania in 1935.). In 1946, the doctoral dissertation "Han-shih Wai-chuan: Han Ying's Illustrations of the Book of Songs" (The Han-shih wai-chuan: Han Ying's Illustrations of the "Han-shih Wai-chuan" by Hightower, James R., Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University Didactic Application of the Classic of Songs, Harvard, 1946) can be regarded as the first doctoral dissertation on Chinese literature. Mr. Hai Taowei has been teaching at Harvard University since then, and he is a giant in American Sinology. Since then, there have been two more doctoral dissertations in Chinese literature, namely Shih-hs üeh: translation and research by Elizabeth Huff of Radcliffe College in 1947. of a study of Chinese poetry by Huang Chieh. Radcliffe, 1947) and "Some problems in the language of "New Compilation of Five Dynasties Shi Pinghua" by James Irving Crump, Jr., Yale University in 1949. the Shin-bian Wuu-day shyy pyng-huah. Yale University, 1949). Ke Runpu is an outstanding translator in American Sinology and the originator of Yuan Zaju, who studied Yuan Zaju. He studied under Sinologist George Alexander Kennedy (1901-1960).

By the 1950s, there were 28 English doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature, including 5 British universities and 23 American universities. The five British titles are all from the University of London and Oxford University. Among them, there are seven PhD recipients with Chinese background, including Yang, Richard Fu-sen, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1956, and later served as the University of Pittsburgh in the United States. Professor and Dean of the Department of Oriental Languages; Liu, Tsun-yan, who received a PhD from the University of London in 1957, was the Dean of the Chinese Department of the Australian National University and Dean of the School of Asian Studies. In the 1960s, in addition to Britain and the United States, 5 doctoral dissertations on Chinese literature appeared in Australia, including 4 from the University of Sydney. In addition, India and the Czech Republic have one each. Although there are related research results on a global scale, in general, the number of overseas Chinese literature and English doctoral dissertations in the 1960s is still slowly increasing.

In the 1970s, it entered a period of obvious rapid growth, and the number of papers soared to 205. During this period, Canada began to appear doctoral theses on Chinese literature, concentrated in the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia, a total of 6 papers. Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Ireland, the Philippines, and New Zealand each appeared in one article. The 1980s and 1990s continued the previous growth momentum, with a total of nearly 700 papers, demonstrating the prosperity of overseas Chinese literature research. Hong Kong, Norway, and Malaysia have all begun to produce related papers, and the scope of Chinese literature being studied overseas has further expanded, but overall the United States still occupies an absolute dominant position.

2.3 School distribution

According to the statistics of the number of doctoral dissertations issued by the schools, the top ten are all American universities. See Table 1 for details of the schools and the number of theses.

No.	Name of University	Number
1	University of Washington	73
2	University of Wisconsin-Madison	56
3	Harvard University	54
4	Stanford University	51
5	University of California, Berkeley	44
6	Indiana University	43
7	Columbia University	37
8	Princeton University	37
9	Yale University	35
10	University of Michigan	25

Table 1 Top ten schools in the number of dissertations

Beginning in the late 1950s, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the US federal government invested heavily in the establishment of educational institutions for research on Chinese issues in universities. By the end of the 1960s, there were 50 universities with Asian or Chinese research institutions. Many institutes, [3] The number of graduate students engaged in Chinese studies has increased significantly, and the United States has become the center of Chinese literature research in the Western world. The training of Chinese literature professionals in the United States is mainly concentrated in some colleges and universities that have established Asian (or East Asia, China) research centers (or departments), and the Chinese literature doctoral education in the United States is also mainly concentrated in powerful and rich Chinese collections. First-class university.

In addition to the above-mentioned American universities, there are also some famous universities in other English-speaking countries that are training doctoral students in Chinese literature. Most doctoral dissertations in Chinese literature have been awarded by the University of London with 20 papers, the University of British Columbia with 17 papers, the University of Toronto with 17 papers, and the University of Oxford, UK. of Oxford), 11 from the Australian National University (The Australian National University), 8 from the University of Sydney in Australia and 8 from the University of Cambridge in the UK. It is worth mentioning that the University of Stockholm in Sweden has 4 articles, which are in line with Sweden's Klas Bernhard Johannes Karlgren (1889-1978), Ma Yueran (Goran Malmqvist, 1924-2019) and Torbjorn (Torbjorn) since the 20th century. Loden, 1947-) The three generations of Sinologists and the many outstanding Sinology talents they cultivated are closely related.

Looking at the number of doctoral dissertations in Chinese literature research issued by European and American countries, it can be seen that the famous first-class universities in the West are the focus of Chinese literature research, and the United States is the research center of the English-speaking world.

2.4 Source Analysis of Authors of Doctoral Dissertations

Through fuzzy screening of the spelling of the author's name of 989 papers, 485 authors whose names are Hanyu Pinyin or Webster's Pinyin can basically be judged as Chinese or Chinese, accounting

for nearly half of the number of authors. Although there is no clear ethnic identification, it can be found by browsing that most of the doctoral dissertations since the 1980s, especially the 1990s, have been written by Chinese authors. This reason is attributed to the rapid development of scientific and educational exchanges between the two countries after the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and the United States in 1979, and the rapid increase of Chinese students and scholars studying or visiting the United States. "In the first 10 years after the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, about 30,000 Chinese students and scholars came to the United States to study and visit, more than the total number of people who went to the United States from 1860 to 1950. According to the statistics of the Chinese Ministry of Education, in 1978, the United States There are only 50 international students from mainland China; from 1978 to 2002, the total number of Chinese students studying in the United States exceeded 380,000. The United States has become the country with the largest number of Chinese students. In 2001 alone, there were about 7.8 Ten thousand are studying in the United States, and most of them are studying for master's or doctoral degrees." [1] These large numbers of Americans or foreign students have become an important new force in the study of Chinese literature in the United States.

3. An Analysis of the Research Topics of Overseas Chinese Literature Doctoral Dissertations

3.1 Distribution of research topics

This time, the compilation of overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations in English is based on the classification of the "Doctoral Dissertations on China" catalog, and the overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations are subdivided into 18 categories, namely: General On Literature in General, Biographical Studies, Children's Literature, Diaries, Drama and Theater, Folk Literature, Literary Criticism and Literary Theory, Poetry, Prose and Fiction, Report Literature Reportage Literature, Travel Accounts and Narratives, Mongolian Literature, Tibetan Literature, Uighur (Uygur) Literature, Asian and Western Literature in China Chinese Interest in Asian and Western Literature, Foreign literature works mentioned China Depicted in Foreign Literature Works and Chinese Influence on Foreign Literature, Overseas Chinese Literature and Comparative Literature.

From the perspective of the thematic distribution of doctoral dissertation research, the most concentrated areas of overseas Chinese literature research are prose and novels (239 articles) and poetry (193 articles), followed by foreign literature mentions China and China's influence on foreign literature (115 Chapters), Dramas (98 Chapters), Overseas Chinese Literature (90 Chapters), and Comparative Literature (51 Chapters) and Character Studies (47 Chapters). Literary criticism and literary theory, the influence of Asian and Western literature on foreign literature in China and China, and folk literature have also produced some results. Travel notes, children's literature, reportage, Chinese minority literature, etc. are relatively few fields, and there are only a few articles.

3.2 Prose and Novel Studies

The essays and fiction works studied in the doctoral dissertation are mainly concentrated in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties to the Republic of China. Among them, there are 91 works in the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties, 15 in the Late Qing Dynasty, and 62 in the Republic of China, which fully illustrates the Chinese at this stage Prose and novels are the hotspots of overseas Chinese literature research, and it can be seen from these that prose and novels at these stages have a significant influence on world literature.

In the study of Chinese fiction, Ming and Qing novels have become a hot topic for doctoral dissertations. The most researched works are "A Dream of Red Mansions" with 16 works, followed by "Jin Ping Mei" with 12 works, and the most involved works include "Journey to the West". "10", "Water Margin" 8", "The Scholars" and "Liao Zhai Zhiyi" each 7 books, "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms" 6 books.

3.3 Poetry and Drama Studies

In the study of Chinese poetry, Cao's father and son were the most involved topics in the early studies of Chinese poetry. There were 5 papers and 4 researches on Tao Qian. Tang poetry is the topic center of ancient Chinese poetry research. Song Dynasty poet Su Shi has become a particularly favored poet in the selection of doctoral dissertations. There are as many as 10 papers about him. The study of

early Chinese drama is an area where the United States has made significant achievements in the study of Chinese drama, and the research on Yuan drama is particularly prominent. Chinese female scholar Liu, Chun-jo's 1952 doctoral dissertation "A Study of the Tsa-chu of the Thirteenth Century in China" (A Study of the Tsa-chu of the Thirteenth Century in China) examines the origins, script and themes of Yuan Zaju, Is the first doctoral dissertation in English in Chinese drama. The most abundant research on modern Chinese drama is the study of Peking opera. An important aspect of the study of Chinese drama in the United States is the comparative study of Chinese and Western drama and the study of the phenomenon of Chinese and Western intercultural drama in the 20th century. Research on the influence of Chinese culture on overseas literature is another preferred topic for doctoral dissertations. For example, there are as many as 33 doctoral dissertations involving American poet Ezra Pound and American female writer Pearl S. Buck (Pearl S. Buck). There are also 6 doctoral dissertations. Overseas Chinese literature research is an important branch and dominant field of overseas Chinese literature research. There are as many as 25 papers involving American Chinese writer Maxine Hong Kingston (Maxine Hong Kingston) in the selection of doctoral dissertations, and there are more topics Overseas Chinese writers include Jade Snow Wong, Amy Tan and Zhang Ailing. The comparative study of Chinese literature and Western literature is also a hot topic for doctoral dissertations, comparing Chinese and foreign literature under the same historical conditions to find out the similarities and differences, reasons and common laws.

3.4 Research on writers

An overview of the 20th century overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations in English, with a certain writer as the topic, introducing and researching his life, time and works, it can be said that many doctoral dissertations prefer the topic. With the advancement of overseas Chinese literature research, general research across writers, eras, genres, and disciplines has become an increasingly common phenomenon. Even if it is a study of a single writer, it is not satisfied with the traditional discussion of the writer's life, thought, and artistic style, but is dedicated to digging deeper issues of literary history and cultural history. In the study of Chinese literature in the United States, the number of doctoral students applying to study ancient Chinese literature is far less than that of modern and contemporary literature students, and the number of doctoral dissertations in modern literature research has increased rapidly. The overseas doctoral dissertation on Lu Xun began in 1955 in William R. Schultz's "Lu Hsun: The Creative Years. University of Washington, 1955. 431 p.", the author with the most research. It also belongs to Lu Xun. There are 17 English doctoral dissertations on Lu Xun. There are also English doctoral dissertations that have studied more modern Chinese writers by Mao Dun (8), Lao She (7), Shen Congwen (5) and Cao Yu (5).

3.5 Other

The doctoral dissertation of overseas Chinese literature studies has created many "firsts" in this research field, such as Francis Abeken Westbrook's doctoral dissertation "Landscape Description in the Lyric Poetry" (Landscape Description in the Lyric Poetry). and "Fuh on Dwelling in the Mountains" of Shieh Ling-yun. Yale, 1973, 353p.) is a complete translation and detailed commentary on Xie Lingyun's "Mountain Jufu", both in the European and American Sinology circles as well as in the research of Xie Lingyun in China For the first time, [5] Sun Mei's doctoral dissertation "Nanxi: the earliest form on Xiqu. University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 1995, 294 p." is the first to A comprehensive study of Nanxi in English is also the first study of Nanxi from an overall dramatic perspective in any language. [4]

4. Research methods and characteristics of overseas doctoral dissertations in Chinese literature

4.1 Research based on translation and annotation

Overseas Chinese literature studies deal with content involving Chinese literature based on Western research methods. In the use of documents, in addition to Chinese documents, a large number of documents published in Western countries such as English, French, German, and Japanese are also cited. Therefore, overseas Chinese studies studies are more international in terms of document utilization, showing the researchers' international vision and academic tolerance. Even if Chinese documents are cited, they generally need to be translated into Western languages, because the language of overseas Chinese academic research is Western languages such as English.

The general process of overseas Chinese studies is to determine the "primary literature" and other related literature on the topic after selecting a research topic, and conduct close reading and research. The researcher must first translate the selected "primary documents" in English, and inject relevant exegetical textual research materials, and write them as "annotated translation, translation with annotations". These textual texts are often translated as "primary texts". Literature" several times. A detailed annotated translation is called annotated translation, which is also an important result of doctoral research. It will appear in the doctoral dissertation or become an attachment to the doctoral dissertation, and some may also become a separately published translation. Translating the text into English word by word is the only way for graduate students studying Chinese classical literature in American universities. The translation is the best yardstick to test a scholar's knowledge and understanding of the text. The reason why overseas China studies has formed this unique research method is because the study language of overseas China studies is not Chinese, so translations become necessary, and text studies have always been the focus of overseas China studies (sinology).

4.2 Multicultural and multidisciplinary perspective research

From the perspective of academic norms, overseas Chinese literature research methods follow the rules that should be followed in the writing of modern academic papers, and practice the scientific research methods advocated and emphasized by the Western Humanities and Social Sciences Institute. The overseas Chinese literature doctoral research group has two characteristics: one is the diversity of ethnic identities and educational backgrounds, and the other is the diversity of scholarly methods. They are accustomed to using Western literature research methods and theories to examine Chinese literature. They are deeply influenced by anthropology, ethnography or ethnography, and sociological research. The characteristics of interdisciplinary research are very obvious. Researchers are accustomed to using comparative literature perspectives to explore Chinese literature, and there have been a lot of methods of using and even copying Western literary criticism terms. After systematically analyzing 37 doctoral dissertations on Yuan Zaju in the English-speaking world, Professor Li Anguang came to the conclusion: Generally speaking, domestic doctoral dissertations emphasize document basis, historical facts or descriptions of phenomena, in order to collect and sort out, examine and dispel doubts, and make comprehensive conclusions. Interpretation in the sense of traditional culture is the main focus; while doctoral dissertations in the English world focus more on textual close reading and theoretical speculation., Semiotics, Feminism, New Criticism, New Historicism, Postcolonialism, etc., and many other Western literary criticism methods, and are deeply influenced by modern Chinese studies in the United States., Ethnology, Social Religious Studies, Communication Studies, Comparative Literature, and many other disciplines, revealing the aesthetic and cultural connotations in the text from multiple angles and levels. [2] Overseas scholars have demonstrated the unique power of their research methods in their interpretation of Chinese literary materials.

4.3 History, culture and region lead to the limitations of research

Proficiency in Chinese language and mastery of a large number of literary and historical materials are indispensable prerequisites for Chinese literary research. However, because researchers lack a deep understanding of Chinese culture, especially early researchers did not even have the opportunity to come to China for field investigation and experience, overseas doctoral dissertations in Chinese literature are only based on desk research, which inevitably deviates from Chinese history and geography to some extent. The phenomenon of politics has drawn some specious conclusions, and individual papers sometimes play with terminology and make falsehoods.

On the whole, due to differences in history, politics, ideology, and cultural environment, overseas Chinese literature research has been influenced by Western culture and academic thoughts in terms of argumentation, methods, and perspectives. As a result, some lessons can be drawn from domestic academic circles. Different opinions and conclusions. Especially the Chinese authors who went to study in Europe and the United States after the 1980s. Their research horizon spans China and the West, through the past and the present. They pay more attention to the use of comparative research methods to expand the connotation and extension of Chinese literature research. Their research results are of great significance to domestic researchers. Great academic reference value.

5. Conclusion

Due to the different research paths, the doctoral dissertation in the English-speaking world explains

and interprets the phenomenon of Chinese literature with its unique research perspectives and research methods. Generally speaking, the quality of doctoral dissertations in European and American countries is relatively high. Taking the United States as an example, PhD students in the humanities and social sciences need to pass the elimination doctoral qualification examination. The elimination rate is generally about 30%, and the study time is longer than that of Chinese doctoral students. -2 years. [6] Looking back at the development of modern Chinese humanities and social sciences in the 20th century, it is precisely because a large number of overseas scholars such as Hu Shi, Feng Youlan, Fei Xiaotong and others who have returned from overseas introduced the methods of modern Western humanities and social science research, which created, innovated and developed my country's humanities and social science research system. After the 1980s, my country introduced a large number of European and American humanities and social science research results, which promoted the prosperity of academic research in my country. Currently, due to the lack of catalog information for overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations and other reasons, overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations have not been well utilized by domestic researchers, (Mr Maybe: Fei Ming as a pastoral fiction writer. University of London, 1993, 425 p.) Appeared as early as 1993, However, the five doctoral dissertations published in China since 2008 have not mentioned this doctoral dissertation, [7] indicating that the domestic academic circles lack understanding and use of overseas Chinese literature doctoral dissertations. The bibliography of doctoral dissertations on overseas Chinese literature in the 20th century compiled by this research will play a positive role in making better use of the results of overseas Chinese literature research by Chinese literary circles.

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