

The Look from the Other: Ghost/Place in Contemporary Taiwanese Fiction

Ghost has been the most popular subject matter in the Chinese novel creation. From the Six-Dynasties ghost novels of two thousand years ago to the contemporary Taiwanese novels, ghost has appeared in various narration forms of different dynasties with diverse function in narrative literature. Not only for morality-teaching and religious doctrine, ghost is also used for highlighting the disadvantage in the social structure and convention. It projects people's unfulfilled desires in the real life onto the literary fabrication; also, it allows the writers explore new writing possibilities without the limitation of regular logicity or narrative aesthetic. Moreover, one ghost represents one departed life, witnessing some parts of the history. Therefore, in the expended meaning, ghost is the embodiment of history, which recalls personal or collective memories in the novels.

It's the twenty-first century, the Age of pursuing technologicalization and informationization, but we are still amazed at the population of ghost novels in contemporary literature. Ghost novels, not the preferred for serious literature in the passing decades, somehow appear highly frequently and become the subject matter of morality-teaching or story-telling. It is worth a close review. This paper is not to study the factors of this trend, but the newest function of ghost. That is, ghost novel is becoming a new type of local writing of the contemporary Taiwanese authors. Ghost, a product of temporality extended to a symbol of spatiality, witnesses the changes of the record or the smear of this land. With the contexts of Wang, Jia-Xiang and Lee Ang, this paper is to propose the relation between genders, history and locality in Taiwanese contemporary novels, and to explore the cultural society significance of this writing strategy.

Keywords : Ghost, Lee Ang, Spatiality, Wang Jia-Xiang, Local writing

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