

DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

LA CẢNH VĂN. *Study on Phan Bội Châu and his Chinese novels**Specialty:**Code No.:*

Dissertation is the work assigned to the research student La Cảnh Văn by Institute of Chinese Literature Studies, National Cheng Kung University NCKU, Taiwan to conduct for three years, from the year 98 to 101 of the Republic of China in the form of a national doctoral dissertation. The dissertation includes 305 pages of large-sized papers.

The instruction of this work is professor Trần Ích Nguyễn, a well-known scholar of Taiwan, Republic of China who has good academic relationship with Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and a large number of Institutes of Han- Nom Studies, Literatures, Histories, Philosophies, etc. and with researchers of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

La Cảnh Văn used to visit Vietnam for a long time to collect and study many documents and Vietnamese culture to supplement this dissertation and came back Taiwan to defense this dissertation to the National Examinations and Assessment Council

on July 26, 2014. This dissertation is evaluated to be excellent and proposed to be nobly recognized and awarded by the social sciences and humane sector.

I was offered this Dissertation on July 31, 2014 by the author; however, I have not given any comments due to the contents of the dissertation as well as the author's request. Therefore, I would like to provide a brief overview of this dissertation.

The requirements and contents of the Dissertation were clearly stated in the *Acknowledgement* by the author: "We are conducting a Dissertation named the *Study on Phan Bội Châu and his Chinese novels* in which the major object of study is the newly discovered Chinese novel of Phan Bội Châu. Moreover, we also study his writing of political commentary to have deeper understanding of influences of the regional and political affairs changing contemporary East Asian history on Phan Bội Châu".

The Dissertation includes 7 chapters:

Chapter One is the Introduction. In this chapter, the author gives an overview of the study orientation of the Dissertation as well as mentions origin of related matters to clarify what should be further studied. Consequently, the author presents in

details the research methodology, research order and order of chapters available in the Dissertation.

Chapter Two introduces about the biography and the composition of Phan Bội Châu as well as the interaction between East Asian intellectuals and intellectuals in general by studying the relationship between Phan Bội Châu and Lương Khải Siêu along with differences in their thoughts.

Chapter Three clarifies the ownership and Chinese novels of Phan Bội Châu and studies some issues such as type of the novel and the situation in which his Chinese novel was composed. The clarification of these issues will be useful for the development of later arguments.

Chapter Four generally analyzes such topics as “national priority”, “national improvement” in the writings of Phan Bội Châu in general and his Chinese novel in particular, including possible invasion of colonial nations, depression in the body and nation and Vietnamese and Vietnam; developing and maintaining the national hero genealogy, future appearance of Vietnam; awareness and national union under the “national priority” and “national improvement”.

Chapter Five includes analysis of the changes and combination of thoughts in the Chinese novel and writings of political commentary of Phan Bội Châu; such as the selection between

peaceful action and armed actions; pursuit and suspect of civilization and evolution; the interference between two opinions of race and ethnicity or the combination between communist thoughts and non-governmental thoughts.

Chapter Six discusses the image of the character in the Chinese novel of Phan Bội Châu. It is the description of the hero, adventurous person or affectional animals that expresses his anxiety and expectations in the situation of colonialism. Through the writing style of Phan Bội Châu, describe animals have close relationships with social and national issues of his concerns.

Chapter Seven is the Conclusion that summarizes values and meaning in the study of Phan Bội Châu and his Chinese novels in terms of document study, document analysis and study of socio-cultural meanings and values, etc.

New discoveries in the Chinese novel of Phan Bội Châu of this work do not only provide new documents for the study of Chinese novels of Vietnam but provide us with a comprehensive overview of this writer’s spirit, life and activities, helping us have a deeper understanding of the exchange and dialog regarding the social, cultural and literature aspect of the East Asia to understand the unique socio-cultural meaning in the Chinese novel of Phan Bội Châu.

With more than 300 pages, 7 above-summarized chapters, the Dissertation is a good study about Phan Bội Châu and his writing under the perspective of a young scholar, a potential Vietnamese study of the Republic of China.

However, if there exists a broader comparison in terms of space and time of Chinese literature in Vietnam before and after Phan Bội Châu's period, we can have more issues to discuss with

La Cảnh Văn such as terms, concepts, type of literature to make this study clearer and more diversified.

I myself appreciate the study of La Cảnh Văn and hope that this Dissertation will be translated and popularized to bring readers and people studying about Phan Bội Châu a chance to refer to opinions of this young scholar □

Introduced by
Asso. Prof. and Dr. CHUÔNG THÂU