

Poetic Form and Literary Tradition: An Introduction

Luo Lianggong

School of Chinese Language and Literature, Central China Normal University

152 Luoyu Rd., Hongshan District, 430079, Wuhan, China

Email: luolianggong@163.com

Poetic form has been a focus of contemporary studies of poetry. This is not only because poetic form is largely and deeply connected with literary and cultural tradition, but also because it is widely believed to be part of the meaning generating mechanism of poetry and thus become a necessary step in the pursuit of poetry meaning.

The six articles in this thematic cluster demonstrate the scholarly endeavor from different perspective. Charles Bernstein's article "Pitch of Poetry" offers a philosophical exploration to the relationship between the ethic and the aesthetic of poetry. William Baker's paper applies cognitive poetics to a reading of Harold Pinter's poetry, and by focusing on "meaning, affect, perceived qualities, and versification," he discusses the difference between traditional scansion of metre, sound and rhythm, and different modes of hearing speech sounds and their thematic meaning. Ilwan Yoon's essay analyzes the strategy employed by Wordsworth of a community integrating the loss of the dead into the community's natural and social surroundings without reduction of their differences, and thus the ethical power of Wordsworth's poetic strategy. Seongho Yoon's article examines W. B. Yeats's "Easter 1916" through an interpretative lens of Yeatsian temporality and discusses how Yeats employs a poetics of temporality in writing history into his own times. Zeng Mei and Sonwabile Mswana's article, by exploring the poetic form of the Xhosa praise poetry that is deeply rooted in the Xhosa traditional culture, demonstrates its struggle for a cultural and aesthetical uniqueness in the context of high culture. Cao's article observes Milton's and Shelly's Poems from a perspective of ethical criticism and emphasizes the literary tradition of poetry's moral function.

The articles, whether re-reading classics or rediscovering contemporary works, offers an echo to Charles Bernstein's claim that "Poetics is the ethical refusal of morality in the name of aesthetics."