

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the fictional and non-fictional literary works of two Taiwanese eco-environmental writers Liu Kexiang and Wu Mingyi in the context of the transformation of interpersonal sphere. Eco-environmental literature represents a significant literary trend that has been pursued in Taiwan at the end of the 20th century. It develops Taiwanese literary tradition in a new way through the reflection of Western and Eastern theories in the domestic context and Taiwanese cultural specifics from the perspective of natural history and scientific knowledge.

The first part of the thesis summarizes academic discussions on the topic of eco-environmental literature. This is characterized by the initial insufficient theoretical basis of Taiwanese environmental studies, the desire to maintain this trend beyond purely literary criticism, the assumption of Western environmental discourse theories, and the involvement of writers themselves in theoretical discussions and the gradual shift to ecocriticism. It also puts it in a historical context and explores its dominant topics.

The analytical part of the thesis is based on the theory of modernity of British sociologist Anthony Giddens. It analyzes works based on the sources of modernity, which are time-space distanciation, disembedding of social contacts and reflexivity, and interprets works from the perspective of intimacy and pure relationships. The relationship between human and nature is viewed from a wider perspective of the transformation of the interpersonal sphere and the individual's personal ties in the process of modernity. The active role that is attributed to nature by both writers shifts the relationship between human and nature into the sphere of pure relationship and thus into a newly defined intimacy. It takes place inside an incomparably wider biotic community unlike before, and under the influence of abstract systems such as science.

This transformation of relationships is pursued in the context of the personal, insular and natural narrative of both authors, and also in relation to the dominant themes of Taiwan's eco-environmental literature, such as return to nature, knowledge-based attitude, anthropocentrism, and eco-justice.

The analytical part of the thesis thus develops the opportunity to look at the work of selected authors not only as an environmentalist defense of nature, but also as a specific reflection of processes shaping modernity and the transformation of interpersonal relationships closely related to them.