

Abstract

This thesis will focus on *The Story of the White Snake* (Baishe zhuan) written by the modern playwright Tian Han for a production in the genre of Peking Opera in the 1950s. We can understand this adaptation as the implementation of the cultural policy of the PRC of this period, which, among other things, turned to local traditions and pursued to reinterpret them in the spirit of the ideology of the new society. Reinterpretation of the local traditions in the perspective of new values was common even in earlier times, as we have documented in Chinese literary heritage of several centuries. The author will focus on the concept of the topic of love as a social relationship, which came to the center of attention of Chinese intellectuals during the process of modernization and which was followed by the ideology of the Communist Party of China. Based on the analysis of Tian Han's adaptation the author will present the concept of the main characters and the approach to the love theme and religious motifs, she will also confront Tian Han's adaptation with older versions of the story and observe enforced values and attitudes. The author combines the analysis of the libretto with the period reflection of the story and its promotion in the press.

Keywords

Tian Han, Baishe zhuan, Peking Opera, 1950s China, theatre

