

Thesis abstract

The aim of this thesis is to provide a detailed analysis of the chosen poems “on things” of natural origin written by Li Shangyin and their interpretation. Based on the analysis, I will make an attempt to find out how the author handles the conventions of the *yongwu* genre, to what extent his poems “on things” correspond to the previous poetic tradition and to what extent they are innovative from the point of view of the choice of topics, symbolism, language techniques and the overall message of the poem. The opening chapter of the thesis includes Li Shangyin’s biography, a short overview of his writings and basic approaches to their interpretation, as well as a brief introduction of the *yongwu* genre and the basic peculiarities of Li Shangyin’s poems, which belong to this genre. The next chapter is the essential part of the thesis, which provides the actual analysis of the chosen poems, supplemented with prosaic literal translations. This part of the thesis consists of a few sections, which are dedicated either to some particular type of Li Shangyin’s *yongwu* or to a precise aspect of his poems, which belong to this genre. The conclusion of this study is that Li Shangyin’s greatest contribution to the tradition of the *yongwu* genre is the transformation of poems “on things” into a kind of deeply personal lyrical poetry, which illustrates a combination of psychological depth, sophisticated imagery and language. Despite the obvious connection to the previous poetic tradition and the high level of intertextuality, Li Shangyin’s “poems on things” demonstrate his ability to experiment with the language, symbolism and the very conventions of the *yongwu* genre, which enabled him to combine tradition and innovative approach in his writings.