

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on three prose pieces *Qí wáng* (King of Chess, 1984), *Shù wáng* (King of Trees, 1985) and *Háizi wáng* (King of Children) written by A Chéng (阿城, born 1949), commonly referred as Three Kings (*Sān wáng*). These prose pieces, which were originally published in periodicals and received a wide recognition both from readers and critics, will be introduced in historical and literary context and analyzed in terms of meaning and genre. The thesis applies Forrest Ingram's methodological approach of analyzing "short story cycles" and asks to what extent are these three stories interconnected as a whole. Main focus of Ingram's method is analyzing the static and dynamic patterns in short story cycles. This thesis therefore considers various aspects ranging from characters, language, contemporary context as well as elements of traditional culture the works refer to. The aim of this thesis is find the dynamic patterns and thus to look at A Cheng's prose pieces as a possible short story cycle.