

This paper focuses on the literary view advocated by the Taiwanese writer Yeh Shih-tao (1925-2008) and tries to clarify how he practiced it in his works. By doing so, the paper aims to grasp a clear picture of the literary representation of his novels and rediscover their significance. Yeh's literary view is said to have been strongly influenced by the French philosopher Hippolyte Taine (1828-1893). Thus, he argues that the three basic rules that produce literary works are race, climate (the natural environment and the social structure), and history. It is no exaggeration to say that the three main factors mentioned above are the key to understand his literature. That is because Yeh proactively depicted race, climate, and history during his literary activity that spans over half a century and put the literary view he advocates at the foundation of his works.

The summary of each chapter is as follows. Chapter 1 takes a general look at his writing activities as an introduction and discusses how Yeh accepted Taine's theory. Although his literary view generally pointed in much the same direction as Taine's theory, this paper points out that there are some differences between them regarding their interpretations of race and history. Chapter 2 analyses the novel *The Taiwanese Man, Jian Atao* written against the backdrop of the February 28 Incident and the era of the White Terror and which reflects the actual experience of the author. The novel depicts two types of experience of loss and also highlights the irrationality and uncertainty of the human world. This novel tells a personal tale that also reflects the memory of generation and has universal appeal. Chapter 3 takes up *The Prison Diary* which depicts the Japanese colonial era, and examines the novel while focusing on the way it represents Japan. The chapter pays particular attention to the names of the places in Japan and the Japanese classical *waka* poems. The novel represents Japan in a multifaceted way, providing a multi-layered vision of the historical memory of the colonial era. I pointed out that attention should be paid to the formation of the main character. This is because it describes the true state of the people of Taiwan living under the history, social structure, and control of colonial administration. It is a composition in which the three basic rules are brought into relief through his formation. Chapter 4 examines *Pan Yinhua, a Descendant of the Siraya Tribe* which revolves around the issue of ethnicity. Previously, this novel was often discussed from the perspective of the polarity between the indigenous people who lived in a matriarchal society and the Han Chinese who lived in a patriarchal society. This paper suggests a possible way to recapture the novel from a perspective, other than the dichotomy between the two peoples, by re-examining the values the Sirayan main character has and the masculinity of the five Han Chinese men who become involved with her. One distinguishing feature is the way its depiction focuses on the social form of an ethnic group in particular, since it presents both individuality and diversity of Taiwan society. Chapter 5 takes up *The Clear Sky and the Cloudy Sky* which has been positioned as a novel of black humor. However, the

chapter clarifies not only the writer's technique to create laughter that is revealed throughout the novel but also the aspect of sadness. While this is a work rich in local color, it depicts not only external natural features but also the internal spirit of the Taiwanese people built up by those features.

In sum, first of all the ethnic group is described as a unique culture, and second the natural features are described more with regard to social structure than to the natural environment. Third, a method is employed of reflecting history in individual experiences. Yeh Shih-tao sought the material for his works in the history and social situation that were unique to Taiwan and depicted the joys and sorrows of the people living in the streets of Taiwan through his careful observation. This is proof that he continued to bring up issues concerning Taiwan and the Taiwanese people as the undercurrent of his literary world. We can consider his literary works that dealt with various figures of Taiwanese society to be an activity that embodies and consolidates the writer's view of literature. On the other hand, although the stage and setting of his novels are limited to Taiwan, they also bring up the issues such as the irrationality of life and human society, the loss of an identity derived from existence, and the universal and fundamental anxieties and the sense of crisis in humankind. Therefore, we should interpret his works from more than one perspective. Furthermore, his proposal for a society that respects diversity while different ethnic groups coexist may provide some insight for today's highly divided world.