The Literary Landscape of Taiwan in the Early Postwar Period

A Quantitative Digital Humanities Perspective

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What is Early Post-war Literature and How to conceptualize it?

• Previous scholarship
• Aim: To introduce a model which would map the literary field and uncover underlying principles of its structures
  • To find out how the literary field worked
  • To understand prevailing literary style of the main positions
Research Objectives

1) to reconstruct and understand the dynamics of the post-war literary scene as a part of a larger discussion about literary history,

2) on the basis of the previous to identify and analyze the most relevant concepts of the time and identify their position on the political and literary spectrum,

3) to analyze literary style (linguistic or other patterns) in already identified clusters
Hypothesis

Based on Bourdieu’s theory of *literary field*, we may surmise that agents occupying similar positions in the field also share similar dispositions, which Bourdieu calls *habitus*.

An examination of agents associated with a particular journal or a cluster of journals allows one to describe not only the habitus of these agents, but also factors such as economic or political power or symbolic capital that gave the agents access to these positions.

In cases where the same agents published in different journals, we may assume that these journals shared characteristics, which indicates that their positions in the literary field were very close to each other – form clusters.
Data

- Sources: Dluhošová’s Ph.D. Thesis dataset
- Materials: 47 periodicals (Journals and Supplements)
- Period: 1945-1949
- Contributors: 3775
- Filtering of the contributors: Authors who have published in more than one periodical among our collected 47
- Final dataset: 563 Contributors x 47 Periodicals
- Features: whether AUTHOR X has published anything in PERIODICAL X (binary feature)
Methodology

- Principal Component Analysis: to uncover the underlying factors in determining the grouping of the data points in the data set (i.e. Bourdieu’s *habitus*)

- Dimensional reduction:
  - Aim: to find clustering patterns of 563 contributors based on their behaviors across 47 periodicals
  - PCA: to find sets of periodicals that may be correlated in determining the grouping of the contributors
  - Principal Components: the underlying factors that may explain the grouping of the contributors
Principal Component Analysis

- Periodicals with high-loadings in PC1 & PC2:
  - PC1: Jianguo yuekan, Taiwan shibao <-> Haifeng
  - PC2: Qiao <-> Haifeng

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PCA - Biplot Visualization

Principal Component 1: Literary Style

Principal Component 2: Power

Cluster 1
- Lin Shuguang
- Zhu Shi
- Huang Rongcan
- Long Yingzong
- Lin Henghai
- Han Pin
- Wu Zhouta
- Ke Biao
- Yang Kui
- Ye Shitao

Cluster 2
- Lei Shiyu
- Shi Min Wu Xinbing
- Li Kexin
- Li Heping
- Xie Bingting
- Su Xin
- Zhaixing Wei
- Song Jinhong
- Bai Peng
- Yang Naiwen
- Chen Dingguo
- Jiang Suiping

Cluster 3
- Gonglun kaoxiangedaoshengwu
- Shi Min Wu Xinbing
- Xie Bingting
- Su Xin
- Zhaixing Wei
- Song Jinhong
- Bai Peng
- Yang Naiwen
- Chen Dingguo
- Jiang Suiping
- Mao Wenchang
- Chen Chengyu
- Lin Ziqi
- Cai Beiyuan
- Mao Yibo Yin Ruo
- Luo Xibai
- Li Xingke
- Guo Feng
- He Zhongxian
- Shi Min Wu Xinbing

Cluster 4
- Taiwan.xinsheng.bao..Xindi
- Taiwan.xinsheng.bao..Qiao
- Taiwan.xinsheng.bao..Hyfeng
- Qian Kechuan
- Meng Zhou
- Chen Yil
- Meng Kechuan
- Xue Yiliang
- Chen Dingguo
- Zhonglingshi
- Xie Zunao
- Chen Fuyuan
- Zeng Jinke
- Zeng Jukun
- Zeng Zilin
- Zeng Jinke
- Zeng Jukun
- Zeng Zilin
Cluster 1: Taiwan Xinsheng bao Qiao disposition:

- Taiwanese in origin
- many were active already in the previous period or a new generation of intellectuals with rather radical opinions
- after the 100th issue of Qiao there was a strong tendency to publish contributions by Taiwanese agents
- genres of modern literature were preferred
Cluster 2: Zhonghua ri bao – Haifeng

Habitus

Less known agents, change in 1948

More in line with official cultural policy

after 1948 a slight change in their standpoint

closer ties with official line
Cluster 3: Taiwan wenhua
Taiwan Wenhua Xiejinhui
臺灣文化協進會
agents from different backgrounds
Many agents important in the 1950s

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Cluster 4: Taiwan shibao - Zhengqi yuekan - Jianguo yuekan

Members of political and social elites liking for traditional genres and literary style
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Thank you

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