

Book Review

Sun Guirong, *Studies on Youth Literature of "the Post-80s Generation" in the New Century*, China : The People's Publishing House, 2016.

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This is a book of comprehensive and profound studies on China's youth literature by the so-called "post-80s generation".....the first generation in China's New Period after the Great Cultural Revolution. It is published by the People's Publishing House, China. The author is professor Sun Guirong, and it is the result of her completed project "studies on germination, dissemination, differentiation and deformation of youth literature by the post-80s generation" subsidized by Ministry of Education, China (2014JXZ2818). It has won the Sixteen Outstanding Achievement Award directed by Chinese Contemporary Literature Association, and has been considered as a "specialized research on youth literature of post-80s generation" to improve study standard of Chinese youth literature by Wu Jun, a famous Scholar and professor of Nan Jing University. All those indicate it has good social influences and deserves more introductions to the world.

The book contains eleven chapters and one appendix, which studies youth literature of Chinese post-80s generation entirely and meticulously. It comprises both comprehensive explanation of youth literature, and its particular sub-fields as well, such as resistant narratives, sentimental or narcissist novels, and Time-travel fiction in Chinese youth literature, etc. What's more, it has elaborate research on the famous representative writers of Chinese post-80s generation among youth literature, including Han Han, Guo Jingming, Zhang Yueran and Chun Shu. Its publication displays that Chinese literary study begins to pay close attention to youth literature, which is usually despised and marginalized in research circle, because many scholars have been considering youth literature is not so touching and meaningful as classic works.

The book also proposes several valuable viewpoints. For example, "commercialism and materialism in Chinese youth literature point to China's transition from moralism to desire", "women's Chinese youth literature reflect women's new identities.....more open, free and confidential", "youth literary works suggest a shift in Chinese society,

with an unprecedented set of new values based on a new kind of individual, while nonetheless intricately connected to Chinese history and culture". All those highly reflect the new features of youth literature and deserve more concerns of current literary circle.

In China, youth literature is a highly controversial topic. Many young readers, especially the young, crazily love it. Nevertheless, lots of researchers criticize it violently, because it is not so thoughtful and informative as the main stream of literature. This book considers, as a kind of popular literary tide, youth literature can not be just valued by their literary texts themselves as the classic works. Instead, we can carry out new evaluation criteria to appraise them, which can be cultural studies or synthetical studies "engaging in varies aspects of youth literature----propagating mechanism, cultural system, capital operation, or even fans behaviour" (P. 325). This is a new study method to look into youth literature of Chinese post-80s generation, and the book actually carry out its study by the new method. For example, its interpretations on Han Han (an author of young cynic) in chapters 9 contains not only his works, but also his heated debates with the main literary circle, his blog on social problems, differences between him and other young cynics, etc. Some of its chapters have been published in *Literature Review*, *Contends of Literature and Art*, *Southern Literary World*, or other famous academic journal of China. All those display the pioneering value of the book.

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