

The Influence of Asian Poets to World of Culture and the Literature

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Abstract

Poetry, in Asia, is not just language but encompasses elements of the world, history, culture, and ethnicity. The poetry of Asia has been contributed by legendary poets such as the Indian Kalidasa, the Chinese Li Bai and Du Fu, the Persians Firdowsi, Omar Khayyam, the Mongolians Tsogt Taiji or Danzanravjaa, the Japanese Matso Basho and Takuboku Ishikawa, the Sixth Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tsangyang Gyamtso, the Turkmen Magtymguly Pyragy, the Kazakh Abai Kunanbayev, and the Indian Rabindranath Tagore (Chen, 2020). However, the contemporary influence of Asian poetry in world literature has been slow and focused mainly on the global publishing industry rather than on its readers. With technological advancements, industrialization, urbanization, and globalization, materialism and commercialization have taken over cultural values, language, and wisdom. Despite all these challenges, Asian poetry continues to express the essence of Asian philosophy and can be used to highlight the unique features of Asian culture (Barrera, 2017). As such, there is a need to renew our focus on Asian poetry and collaborate with Asian countries to publish an anthology of Asian poetry, with translations and other forms of literature. It can help preserve and highlight the literary works of several Asian poets.

Keywords: Asian Poetry, Culture, Literature, History, Power of Wisdom, Translation

Introduction

As an artistic and philosophical expression, Asiatic literature sheds light on many aspects of human life, including our origins, mortality, resilience, nationalism, love, and other pertinent issues (Tanakpur, 2021). A striking characteristic that permeates much of Asiatic literature is a focus on religiosity and spirituality, which serve as recurring themes throughout this vast and culturally diverse continent. Additionally, behavior is a crucial theme in many texts (Li, 2020).

Several literary styles define Asiatic literature, including lyric poetry, odes, and narrative storytelling. The emotive writing style of lyrical poetry utilizes colorful prose to generate strong feelings and emotions in the reader, while narrative storytelling, often found in epics, follows a verse-by-verse approach to recount the story. Historical experiences are a part of the region's tapestry, weaving the customs, traditions, struggles, and philosophies of Asian nations into their literary styles (Chang, 2021).

In summary, Asiatic literature showcases the cultural abundance and diversity of Asia's many communities. Its unique features include the expression of religiosity, spirituality, and philosophical views on life, captured through a range of literary styles such as lyrical poetry and narrative storytelling. These features emphasize the distinctiveness of different Asian cultures and their literary expressions.

Literature Review

In the past, many Western individuals lacked knowledge about Asia and its people's ways of life due to geographical and cultural differences, a knowledge gap that persists to this day (Wu, 2012). Despite this, Asiatic literature has succeeded in bringing the lives of its people to the forefront and in connecting them with the rest of the world. By sharing their experiences and stories, it has become evident that we all share a common ground of similar experiences and emotions (Yu, 2015). In these shared experiences, Asiatic literature highlights the strength and perseverance of the human spirit despite cultural and linguistic differences (Gao, 2018).

Asiatic literature serves not only to display unique experiences but also to educate readers about the beliefs and philosophies of its people. One Thousand and One Nights, a collection of Arabian tales, is an excellent example of the ethical values that Asiatic literature emphasizes. Through its stories, readers can learn the importance of identity, loyalty, honest communication, generosity, and the persistence of truth (Tao, 2013). Literary pieces, therefore, do not only display a culture's history but also promote mindfulness and wisdom. Ultimately, Asiatic literature contributes greatly to the literary world by providing insights into the values, morals, and philosophies of its people.

Asiatic literature has played an essential role in spreading knowledge about Asiatic spirituality and the fundamental religions of the region's many communities. These religions, which include Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, have evolved and developed over time, and examples of literary texts, such as the Tao Te Ching of Taoism and the Analects of Confucianism, offer insight into their respective belief systems. The Sanskrit epics Ramayana and Mahabharata similarly offer valuable contexts for understanding Hinduism, while at the same time demonstrating the religious diversity present across Asia (Cheng, 2016).

Asian literature has influenced our lives significantly, whether or not we realize it. Its content concerns and reflects upon our life's ultimate elements, including struggles, injustices, and mortality, while also exploring themes of success and desire and their place in our existence. Throughout history and continuing today, Asian literature has helped shape our beliefs and lifestyles, developing a sense of origin and identity while also providing insight into the nature of reality (Cheng, 2016).

In addition to religious texts, some of the earliest known written content in human history comes from Asia. The Epic of Gilgamesh, for example, originated in historic Mesopotamia, which is part of modern Western Asia. The Kesh Temple Hymn and the Instructions of Shuruppak are other examples of early written literature whose development was influenced by the region's prominent features, including its settlement history, which dates back as far as 3400 BC (Cheng, 2016).

Early writings from Asia offer significant insights into the origins and defining characteristics of Asiatic literature. The Epic of Gilgamesh, for example, explores the themes of life and death, love and loss, and other universal human struggles that continue to play important roles in Asiatic literature. The Kesh Temple Hymn highlights the lyrical nature of early Asiatic literature in its religious devotion to the deities of the Kesh Temple. The Instructions of Shuruppak, on the other hand, are representative of Asiatic literature's dictatorial nature, providing guidelines for how leaders should govern their people. Literature has grown and evolved alongside the civilizations that spawned it, and its influence continues to shape Asian society (Cheng, 2016).

Asia's literary traditions are deeply rooted in the cultures of its many regions and individual states, each with unique styles and narratives that reflect local histories, values, and aesthetics. Researchers typically group Asian literary works into three categories—Chinese, Japanese, and Indian—including those that represent the breadth of Asiatic literature's expression, thought, and influence (Cheng, 2016).

Asiatic literature not only provides us with knowledge of its people's experiences, but also contributes to our understanding of the human condition and the values that underpin it. East Asian literature, in particular, draws on a wide range of sources from mostly West and East Asia, connecting readers to multiple perspectives and worldviews beyond their own (Cheng, 2016).

Asian American literature often delves into topics such as race, culture, and identity. However, while many of these themes are subjective, there are some common ideas that revolve around gender, sexuality, age, and the interaction between familiar and adaptive cultures. One of the prevalent issues in Asian American literature is Western racism against Asians. (Cheng, 2016).

Central Asia has a rich tradition of prose and writing that spans across multiple languages. This region, which encompasses countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and parts of Russia and China, has historically been influenced by Turkic and Iranian populations and cultures. However, it can be challenging to define the region's literature due to the interaction between these different cultures. (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.).

In the past, urban cultures in the Tarim Basin have been influenced by Transoxania, which covers parts of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, while the nomadic cultures in the north and west have retained their own unique traditions. Over time, various literatures developed in Central Asia, including Kazakh, Mongolian, Turkmen, and Uzbek literature. Chagatai literature, a historical literature, has also been studied separately. This summary provides a brief overview of the literature of the region. (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.).

China is home to one of the world's oldest literary traditions, with texts that date back over 3,000 years. The country's reverence for its literary heritage has influenced the development of cultural resources, such as the woodblock printing technique in the ninth century and the use of movable type in the twelfth century. The preservation and reproduction of these literary works within libraries have also played a crucial role in the transmission of Chinese literary tradition. (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.).

Of particular importance is China's unique cultural dependence on the written word, rather than spoken dialects. This has led to the growth and evolution of a literary language that is distinct from everyday speech. As the literary language evolved, there was a shift towards a more imitative style, with literary works imitating and varying from established models. This trend began during the early periods of Chinese history when Confucius was emerging as a prominent cultural figure.

Over time, Chinese literature became increasingly elitist, as the analysis and interpretation of texts often required a deep understanding of the literary references and allusions within them. Despite this, Chinese literature has continued to evolve and flourish, with a rich legacy that endures to this day. (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.).

Poetry is a crucial aspect of Chinese governance, with the shi (shih) structure being particularly prominent for over 1,200 years. Originally, this structure was utilized in peoples' songs, which expressed their simple complaints and desires through rhymed couplets. However, over time, this structure grew in complexity and became increasingly regulated, eventually evolving into a form that was highly disciplined and standardized to convey complex ideas and concepts.

The short story is an important aspect of Chinese literature and has evolved throughout history. During the Tang dynasty, it focused on historical and supernatural elements, which were not present in earlier works. Despite this, dialogue remained prevalent, but it became more imaginative and mystical, leading to the creation of China's largest novel, "The Dream of the Red Chamber." (Wan, 2014).

Drama, on the other hand, had humble origins as popular entertainment but rose to prominence during the Yuan dynasty. Intellectuals used drama as a means to criticize foreign governments and convey important messages to the masses. Overall, Chinese literature and its various forms have a rich and complex history, which has evolved over time while retaining the core elements of the literary tradition. (Dai, 2018).

Chinese literature comprises a diverse range of writing styles, including poetry, historical and instructional writing, drama, and various forms of fiction. Its rich tradition dates back over 3,000 years, with the Chinese language remaining largely unchanged despite numerous attempts by conquerors to modify it. The Chinese language is unique from other languages, comprised of both spoken and written components, and featuring non-phonetic characters that are difficult to reproduce in non-Chinese languages. As a result, creating a direct alphabetic-phonetic written language is a challenge for Chinese literature. Despite these challenges, Chinese literature continues to evolve and flourish, contributing to the country's rich cultural heritage. (DeFrancis, 2003).

The influence of religion has been a significant factor in the development of literature in Southeast Asia. During the Christian era, India had a profound impact on the writing in the region. Buddhism later reached mainland Southeast Asia and influenced Buddhist literature. China and India also have influenced literature in Southeast Asia. Vietnam was influenced by Chinese and Indian literature during Chinese rule. Indonesia was influenced by Islam and its literary tradition. Colonialism left a lasting impact on Southeast Asian countries, including their language and literature. Foreign literature also played a vital role in shaping their modern forms of literary expression. (Hountondji, 2017).

Before the emergence of written books, oral traditions such as riddles, puns, proverbs, legends, and cosmologies were passed down through generations in Southeast Asia. Memories were etched in the minds of listeners. The earliest forms of written literature in the region were inscriptions and bas-reliefs, with the verses of historical charters often included at the beginnings of writing. While poetry has been popular in the region for centuries, Western poetry has also influenced poets in Southeast Asia, leading them to explore different poetic forms. Overall, Southeast Asian literature draws from a wide variety of cultural and religious influences, contributing to the region's rich cultural heritage. (Ward, 2013).

Genres; (1) Traditional Oral Literature- Folktales, Proverbs, Riddles, legends; (2) Religious Narratives and Literature- Buddhist Codes and verses, Jataka Tales; (3) Narrative Poetry – Epic Stories; (1) Essential Works of Southeast Asian Literature.

(1) The Ramayana (especially into everybody touching its Southeast Asiatic incarnations); (2) The Tale regarding Khun Chang Khun Phaen. Translated yet edited with the aid of Chris Baker yet Pasuk Phongpaichit. Chiang Mai: Silkworm, 2010; (3) The Malay Annals (c.15th–16th centuries), Sejarah Melayu; (4) The Tale concerning Lady Kieu (early 19th century), Nguyen Du; (5) This world respecting Mankind (1980), Pramoedya Ananta Toer; (6) The historic experiences over ethnic beings into Asia bear been interwoven because centuries postulate no longer millennia, weird afterwards theirs shut but massive geography so as properly namely years on trade then conquests; (7) Each Asian country has a unique literary style that reflects its distinct culture, but commonalities can be seen in their customs, traditions, struggles, successes, and philosophies. Together, these elements showcase the richness and diversity of Asian culture, offering the world a greater appreciation of this vibrant part of the globe. This is exceptionally necessary in particular in imitation along Western humans into the previous then you think about as to that amount did no longer keep conscious concerning a cluster about Asia, a good deal plenty less its people's methods concerning living, due according after both their geographic yet cultural distances; (8) The variations inside Western afterward Eastern lifestyle manifests even until today. However, Asiatic arrangement brings their people's lives outdoors past fact after the pages as like under receive theirs stories in the hearts regarding others worldwide, where such via some skill hit upon a frequent ground as regards shared experiences. Asiatic literature goes between pursuance along show on according to expectation no count number the reach then differences, we are every associated thru the stories over according to desire we endure amongst frequent along each other; (9) The importance of Asian literature extends far beyond merely providing us with accurate and vivid depictions of people's experiences. It also contributes to our broader understanding of life through the moral values and philosophies reflected in their literary works. One Thousand and One Nights, a collection of Arabian folk tales, represents a key example of such value-based literature. Among its many stories, numerous important ethical lessons can be gleaned. For example, Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp teaches us the importance of personal merit over wealth in achieving success, while Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves emphasize the virtues of loyalty, honesty, and generosity. Similarly, The Tale of the Hunchback highlights the significance of maintaining a strong sense of truth and personal integrity in our lives; (10) Asian composition has moreover aided the spread on Asiatic spirituality, dap upon the foremost religions hence a whole lot we recognize and are a extent about till today—all regarding as much started out out within the continent itself: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam lowlife originated oversea concerning West Asia, Hinduism but Buddhism beside the South, or Confucianism yet Taoism out of the East. Examples related to literary texts as like aid religions measurement beside the Tao Te Ching so much exemplifies Taoism, the Analects above in accordance with expectation epitomizes Confucianism, into imitation on the Sanskrit epics on Ramayana afterward Mahabharata then are fundamental since Hinduism, amongst awful others hence knit the patchwork on Asiatic religions; (11) Asian composition has impacted our lives, whether and not we apprehend such yet not. It is so in the path so we consider secure factors upstairs life—such as much struggles, injustices, death—, yet it is at to that amount vicinity into the way namely we treat with existence itself. Throughout the years and till today, each regarding the world, Asiatic writing has helped form our ideals or lifestyles. It is entirely accurate on in accordance with hope we tackle the origins involving certain a muscular common so has multiplied our minds.

The idea that Western literary principles have influenced Asian literature while Asian composition has impacted the world is not a new concept, as noted by Kim (2010). Despite

originating from diverse cultures with different religions, perspectives, and histories, Asian literature classics have had a significant impact on people's lives, whether knowingly or unknowingly (Kim, 2010). Although recent years have seen a rise in popularity for the dynamic of Asian composition, Asian literary works and classics continue to maintain their relevance today (Kim, 2010).

Kim's *Urban Modernities* employs a relational approach to reexamine Japanese colonialism in Korea and Taiwan, exploring how modernist writing and town aesthetics evolved from this period (Kim, 2010). The book illustrates how Asian modernity has disrupted the traditional metropole-colony power relationships and brought the colonies closer together, contributing to the wider worldwide modernism movement (Kim, 2010).

Cross-cultural Studies: China and the World, A Festschrift in Honor of Professor Zhang Longxi, is a compilation of essays by scholars from diverse disciplines, reflecting on cross-cultural research in China to commemorate the contributions of Zhang Longxi (Zhang, Suoqiao, & Longxi, 2020). The book contains essays from distinguished scholars, including Ronald Egan, Torbjörn Lodén, and Hwa Yol Jung, among others, all of whom have made significant contributions to Sinological and cross-cultural research (Zhang et al., 2020).

The authors of *Modern China and the West: Translation and Cultural Mediation* explore how translators and mediators navigate through various institutional powers that coexist in cross-cultural interactions (Kreissler et al., 2014). The authors argue that translators are not just groundless intermediaries, but rather a "shaping force" able to influence and reshape reliable standards through the translating act (Kreissler et al., 2014).

The book features contributions from several scholars, including Shan Te-hsing and Zhang Yinde, who analyze the impact of cultural mediation in cross-cultural interactions (Kreissler et al., 2014). Other contributors such as Xiaomei Chen and Nicolai Volland explore the strategies used by translators to navigate institutional powers and how these tactics affect the translation process (Kreissler et al., 2014).

Patchwork

The book *Seven Essays concerning Art and Literature*, written by Chinese literary scholar and novelist Qian Zhongshu (1910-1998), is a collection of essays that explores the artistic and literary traditions of China (Qian, 2005). In his essays, Qian provides readers with an in-depth understanding of the connections between diverse literary, historical, and cultural traditions from China and the West, ranging from ancient to modern times (Qian, 2005). The essays, written between 1948 and 1983 and revised over time, showcase Qian's extensive knowledge, wit, and artistry (Qian, 2005).

Qian is a well-known literary scholar, renowned for his magisterial work *Limited Views: Essays concerning Ideas & Letters* (*Guanzhui bian*) (1979-80), as well as his famous novel *Fortress Besieged* (*Weicheng*) (1947) (Qian, 2005). *Seven Essays concerning Art and Literature* provides readers with an opportunity to delve deeper into Qian's vast literary and cultural knowledge, allowing them to gain a better understanding of the rich literary and cultural traditions of China (Qian, 2005).

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