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Chinese theories and concepts of fiction and the issue of transcultural theories and concepts of fiction

In this paper I will discuss some influential Chinese theories of fiction and concepts of fiction in ancient times, as well as some contemporary trends in Chinese theories of literature, genre and fiction. This involves discussing several aspects, such as concepts of literature, genre, style and fiction, genre conventions, the role and status of fiction, certain developments in fiction and fiction theory, the impact of cultural values and political climate etc. It is of course impossible in a short paper like this to fully cover such a vast subject, but I will try to identify and discuss some important features of Chinese theories and concepts of fiction through the ages.

Finally, I will also briefly compare these features of Chinese theories of fiction and concepts of fiction with certain traits in influential theories and concepts of fiction in Western culture, in the past and present. Of special interest are of course the theories by Gregory Currie (*The Nature of Fiction*) and Kendall Walton (*Mimesis and Make-Believe*). Are they applicable to Chinese fiction, and reconcilable with Chinese theories and concepts of fiction? And is it possible to create transcultural theories and concepts of fiction?