Thuyet

by

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Abstract

In the exegetical essay, Thuyet explores the odyssey of a number of real persons. It is a journey towards existential completeness of the main character Thuyet, her brother Vinh and her Australian lover Gary. In my novel, Troy and Dat, were my 'firm friends' acting as 'Threshold Guardians' and mentors to me and to others in Vietnam.

As a metaphor of and a commentary on this pilgrimage, the narrative juxtaposes the rival mythologies of America, Australia and Vietnam. This provides motivation to engage on the battlefield then a growing understanding between combatants on both sides of the Vietnam Conflict. Its main focus is on Gary and Thuyet's efforts to discover a sense of peace and self-fulfillment in the midst of the chaos of that war.

The exegetical essay examines writing issues in my novel, the formation of each character and their historical reality and plot and structure. In its thematic concerns Thuyet analyses the notion of cultural mythology, the development of the modern war novel and Authenticity, with a specific focus on one outcome of war on soldiers, that of Existential 'loneliness' and 'alienation'. The exegetical essay is also concerned with the role of myth, the genre of Thuyet and the evolution of a 'special breed of heroes, the Heroic Warrior'.

The final part of this four-part process is a 'Reflection' upon the novel Thuyet. Its concern is to introduce the reader to a synopsis of each Chapter and to identify some of the complex issues that arose between the demands of creativity and research in the writing.
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