

## **Contemporary Chinese poetic form innovation: A Study on Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry)**

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Yongjian Huang<sup>1</sup>

Institute of cultural industry,  
Shenzhen University, China  
Email: hjhk@163.com

### **Abstract:**

In recent years, a variety of "new poetry" and "poets" came into being, poem of the "pear", "lamb", "black body" and "roaring style" and so on in the mass caused great repercussions. The evolution of poetry in modern society under the cultural transmission has attracted more and more attention. Relying on mobile phone platform, the new Chinese poetry -- Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) has established its name with communication, interaction, diffusion, it has attracted Chinese poetry circles and aesthetic circles with discussions. Its strong Chinese poetry's characteristics and open features, provide a possible way to get rid of the Western poetry's homogenization to Chinese poetry. At the same time, its Internet and cross-border integration and innovation provides a considerable prospect for the cultural creation and development of Chinese poetry.

**Key Words:** Contemporary poetry, Poetic Form Innovation, Pistol Poem, Thirteen Line Poetry

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<sup>1</sup> Yongjian Huang is professor of Chinese studies at Research Institute of Cultural Industry, Shen Zhen University, China.

## 1. CONTEMPORARY CHINESE POETRY CALLS FOR A RECONSTRUCTION OF POETRY FORMATION

Over the past hundred years, China poetry experienced a number of academic controversies, up to today the academic circles again have to discuss the "second revolution" and "three reconstruction" of the Chinese new poetry—the reconstruction of the spirit of Chinese new poetry, the reconstruction of Chinese new poetry form and the reconstruction of the Chinese new poetry's communication. As professor Lu Jin points out, the first revolution of Chinese new poetry is a kind of poetry blasting, the second revolution is the reconstruction of fixed form -- the reconstruction of Chinese poetry form, Chinese poetry aesthetic style reconstruction, the reconstruction of Chinese poetry's communication.<sup>2</sup> The crisis of modern Chinese new poetry in the past hundred years, mainly from the poetic style, is the crisis of free verse --too free, which is also the biggest problem of contemporary Chinese poetry, such as the Lihua(梨花) style and the Yanggao(羊羔) style. Too westernized to be is the selling point of the pear flower style(Lihua style), but this is also a blind spot. Too philosophical as to make jokes out of crowds. No matter which nation's poetry, metrical verse is always the mainstream, such as Anglo American sonnets, Japanese Waka(和歌) and Haiku(俳句), Vietnam's 68 style and 7768 style , traditional Chinese poetry mainly in three words, four words , five words and seven words, six words a line were widely used in Fu, China poetry -- the metrical form, has been handed down from age to age . Only to the modern times in the process of assimilation from strong Western discourse, through the intellectual elite top-down "Enlightenment" and "indoctrination", free verse came up on the stage of history. Strictly speaking, the Chinese free verse in the history was only a tributary, this tributary mixed China and the West, today it is too westernized as to almost dry up its water source, it must once again plunges into the mainstream of Chinese poetry history, adjust the direction with the strong fluid, back to life. All the signs indicate that the modern metrical poetry is the main possibility of today's Chinese new poetry.

In recent years, a variety of "new poetry" and "poets" came into being, poem of the "pear", "lamb", "black body" and "roaring style" and so on in the mass caused great repercussions . The evolution of poetry in modern society under the cultural transmission has attracted more and more attention. Relying on mobile phone platform, the new Chinese poetry -- Songzhu poetry (net pistol poetry) has established its name with communication, interaction, diffusion, it has attracted Chinese poetry circles and aesthetic circles with discussion.

Some traditional poetry scholars on the line belonged to the "aesthetic group" said that Songzhu poetry (net pistol poetry) was a kind of deconstruction of Chinese traditional culture and it should be stopped. Some scholars believed that it may have been controlled by the devil, with a

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<sup>2</sup> Lu Jin: "three reconstruction: new poetry, two revolutions and its Renaissance," *Journal of Southwestern Normal University*, no.1, 2005.

world of monster, but more and more scholars agree that this Songzhu poetry (net pistol poetry) is inheritance and innovation of traditional culture. The South Korean sinologist, poet, Professor Xu Shixu (许世旭) pointed out: "China poet, must be based on China!", "a person facing astray, only in retrospect the way, can he correctly explore the way to go, that is the future; Chinese itself has a long glorious poetic history and heritage, and even more so."<sup>3</sup>

## 2. THE INNOVATIVE WAY OF PISTOL POEM (THIRTEEN LINE POETRY)

Reflecting on the path China modern poetry evolved, we think professor Lujin's second revolution and three reconstructions are crucial and effective medicine for the contemporary Chinese poem, although it is radical. Chinese new poetry has evolved for 100 years. In the horizon of human history of poetry and Chinese literary history, it can be regarded as a variant of the mainstream of Chinese poetry in the process of strong assimilation by western culture and Western poetry in modern times. Now in the new century Chinese culture continues to strengthen its environmental discourse and its logic of evolution. This variant, carrying too much western concepts, too free, too intellectuals, even in the west, but also a dishonored "potted plant" or "false flowers", it is so far away from the main vein of its mother culture, that it suffered a double embarrassment at home and aboard.

For example, a famous contemporary poetry author Yu Jian (于坚) even named his poem "works 111", which is a complete abstract name like the western tune. Cheyangao (车延高) another famous poet who won "the fifth Lu Xun literature award" is regarded as a non-stop-press-enter-writing poet, his works were called "the lamb style" (羊羔体). In recent years the hot topic "pear flower style" (梨花体), is nothing but Chinese poem extremely westernized or Americanized. The representative poem of the "Pear flower style" reads as

an ant  
a bunch of ants  
and perhaps more ants

This is but the Chinese version of American imagism poetry, which has been deeply influenced by Chinese classical poetry and the New Oriental Zen. Abstract enough, how can this fresh stuff exported to the west then imported back puzzle the mass forever, not to say it will integrate with the daily life. "Lamb style" (羊羔体) is nothing else but modern Chinese free verse which is further colloquial and slobbered, and further westernized.

In the history of the development of China poetry, "music following poem" (The Three Dynasty), "adopting poem with music" (Han Dynasty to the Six Dynasty), and "filling in lyrics in accordance with music" (after Sui and Tang Dynasty) together, constituted a development landscape. Later, poetry and music gradually separated.

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<sup>3</sup> Luo Siling, "Controversy over the second revolution of new poetry,"  
<http://www.people.com.cn/GB/wenhua/27296/2952445.html>. Accessed July 25, 2017.

This separation took the emergence of new poetry as the ultimate. However, new poetry left the music and brought great limitations to itself. So the recovery and development of the association of poem and music, is an important mission to reconstruct its mode of transmission.<sup>4</sup>

Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) uses rhyme, tonal adjustment, antithesis, literary quotation, adhesion, tortuous, reversal, interjective, query, exaggeration, parallelism, jesting, collage, montage, ambiguity, etc. as its effective writing techniques, transferring of rhyme is also allowed. The main body form (with various different transformations) begins with double three, four, five, six, then seven Chinese characters, then double three, lastly single line of seven Chinese characters, the whole poem together has thirteen lines.

On the mobile phone screen 3344556677337 a total of 13 lines flow downward, like an old pine tree or mountain waterfalls--Momentum, beautiful and elegant in appearance, even children can remember the formation, writing with finger and soon delivering, as fast as a bullet shooting out. Like the meteor lightning, described as "below the brow and heart swiftly hits out all directions", which certifies a truth that traditional Chinese poetry and modern high-tech WeChat platform once integrate together, then it becomes as powerful as possible.

Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) uses rhyme and tonal adjustment, restores and develops the important link between poetry and music, this is the key point. The Chinese modern new poetry gradually deteriorated mainly because it's difficult to recite. Modern Chinese poetry masterpieces like "zaibie kangqiao," (Saying Goodbye to Cambridge again), "Gathering Lotus Seeds", "Rain Lane", "Stagnant Water", "Nostalgic", etc. succeeded in rhyme, the classic poetry review "No rhyme and no poetry" is not a groundless statement.

In the premise of rhyme the Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) decomposes then composes together the mainstream style of Chinese poetry in the thousands of years - three words, four words, five words, six words, seven words poem, while allowing the use of various poetic techniques and the use of elegant themes, with visual and aural aesthetic forms, reflecting real life, adhering to the times, witnessing the various passions of human kinds, it expresses oneself as freely as possible.

Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) is not identical to the formalistic poems both at home and abroad, such as stairs poem, pagodas poem, waves poem, palindrome poem, etc. The form contains Chinese wisdom, Chinese poetry rhythm and the active intervention of foreign culture, its cultural heritage, cultural transformation and cultural innovation, cannot be mentioned in the same breath with those wordplay. It is the arrival of soul awakening of cultural China, poetry's encountering, as well as the fruit of integration by WeChat mobile phone together with Interactive creativities.

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<sup>4</sup> Lu Jin: "three reconstruction: new poetry, two revolutions and its Renaissance", *Journal of Southwestern Normal University*, no.1, 2005.

### 3. THE INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCE OF PISTOL POEM (THIRTEEN LINE POETRY)

(1), Exquisite design. By integration and creative transformation ,Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) combines three words ,four words, five words, six words, seven words poem together, which were the mainstream style of Chinese poetry in the thousands of years . It contains totally thirteen lines, shapes ups and downs, stresses transforms, circles back and forth, just fills in the mobile phone screen, one pistol, double pistols ,three pistols, five pistols, seven pistols and even nine pistols ‘poem connected, all can be published in the WeChat mobile phone screen at once.

(2), Simple and swiftness. Stairs poem, pagodas poem, waves poem and other forms of Chinese and foreign shapes, need to spend time and energy on the mobile phone screen for repeated editing. Input words as 33,44, 55, 66, 77, 33, 7 in the form of poetry lines ,or as 22, 33, 44, 55, 66, 22, 6 in the form of poetry lines ,returning line by line repeatedly on the mobile phone screen ,it can be rapidly edited and published right away.

(3), Interactive unlimited. Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) appeals to both the more and the less cultured, and it can instantly send and receive feedback shortly. During the public holidays, freely created on mobile phone screen, ingeniously constructed, mutually communicated. Now some transboundary publishing forms like “map-with-poetry”, “poem-and-picture”, “poetry-mobile phone screen” and “poetry- with-the-film and television ”, etc. have come true.

(4), Cross-border Innovation: Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) possesses the properties of popularity, entertainment , Carnival qualities and profound cultural connotations, therefore, equipped with the WeChat platform, it can quickly become soft advertising, brand promotion tool. Cooperation with the "Porcelain Love Valley", "Hua Zhi Cui" , "China Tea" , "Blue Whale" and other brands witnessed that Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) can produce its own brand and the brand efficiency , further on it becomes the Internet content products, and possibly will develops into a business platform.

### 4. THE REFLECTION OF CULTURAL INDUSTRY CREATION OF PISTOL POEM (THIRTEEN LINE POETRY)

The game version of the network literature auction prices continue to soar, held during “Cloudary Shanda” 2014 auction of literature network game edition, the auction prices of 6 network literature Mobile Games adaption accumulated up to 28 million, the average price up to 4 million and 67 thousand yuan. At present, the well-known network novel game authorization is more than 5 million, some well-known network writer's work authorization even up to 10 million yuan, the income could reach 5%-10% from the journal account.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Song Shuangjin: “IP authorized card battle,” *New economy*, no.27, 2015.

According to the above materials, the current network literature--novels, poetries and so on, especially those possessing higher popularity, their IP licensing and creative product has a good momentum of development. Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) has its independent intellectual property, a wide range of visibility both at home and aboard. Under the background in which the original network literature is especially favored by cultural creative businessmen, Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) has good value of IP development.

There are three basic principles and safeguards that cultural and creative industry possesses,--“I have something nobody has”, “I have better thing nobody has”, “I have best thing nobody has”, from the aspects of brand casting, individuality and potential development of cultural creativities, Pistol poem (thirteen line poetry) fully complies with and conforms to the new cultural creative industry’s development trend of the current "Internet plus" and " Internet of things plus ".

The industrial chain of Pistol Poem (thirteen line poetry) is not limited to the simple production of Pistol Poetry - Sales - derivative product development model. With the rapid development of Internet and the era of smart phone popularization, Pistol Poem (thirteen line poetry) will be closely linked with new media and Internet, and further develop into interactive software platform, new media platform and so on. The upper and lower reaches of the Pistol Poem (thirteen line poetry) have strong integration ability. It has a favorable condition for the development of the cultural industry and a promising prospect of sustainable growth.