Abstract

It is widely acknowledged by linguists and educators that literature and language are inseparable. Studies in recent decades strive to prove and strengthen the bond between literature and language through investigating ways of using literary texts in the language classrooms. With the ultimate goal of promoting the English proficiency of Macao students, the thesis intends to provide a preliminary study of the current practices of literature teaching in Macao high schools and to demonstrate creative uses of literary texts in the English language classrooms.

The thesis consists of three parts: a) a dissertation on the present use of English literature in Macao high schools; b) the candidate's own creative work; and c) an edited anthology of short stories prepared for Macao high schools, with guided pedagogic exercises. The dissertation provides crucial theoretical coordination for the creative and pedagogic parts. Major theories on literature and language teaching are reviewed along with a survey of literature teaching in Macao high schools. The creative work (a fantasy novel) and the book of stories with exercises attempt to bring theory into practice, and to provide examples of teaching and writing practice for teachers and students.

It is hoped that by investigating the present use of English literature in the Macao high school classroom, the thesis, as a whole, will bring insight into more effective and creative ways to promote English language proficiency through literature.