

## Similarities and differences in the art of character building of the story "Luu woman general" with the popular Nom story of medieval Vietnam

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**ABSTRACT:** *The story of Luu's woman general is a Nom story that builds a rather special portrait of a woman. Although general Luu is a woman, she has the appearance of a man, resolute and proactive in all her actions. With such a difference, studying the story of Luu's woman general from the point of view of the art of character building in comparison to the popular Nom story will promise many interesting results.*

**Keywords** -Luu's woman general, character building art, the popular Nom story, medieval literature

### I. INTRODUCTION

Literary character is a conceptual art unit. The basic function of the literary character is to generalize the human character. Since personality is a historical social phenomenon, the characterization function of the character is also historical. Personality is the crystallization of different environments of life.

The story of Luu's woman general is a Nom story that builds a rather special portrait of a woman. Although general Luu is a woman, she has the appearance of a man, resolute and proactive in all her actions. With such a difference, studying the story of Luu's woman general from the point of view of the art of character building in comparison to the popular Nom story will promise many interesting results.

### II. CONTENTS

#### 1.Character system according to the model of "righteous - evil"

The popular Nom story builds a character system in the direction of idealization. With such an idealized tendency, the characters of Nom stories are often divided into two lines: the character line representing good and the character line representing evil. The character system is built with consistent characteristics from the beginning to the end of the work. The character that appears with any personality at the end of the work still exists with that personality. Characters of the same route have the same nature, follow a predetermined pattern and do not change routes. The character is built according to the author's intention, by the psychology of the times and not according to the normal development laws. The group of learned Nom stories, the main characters are actor-beautiful couples, the popular Nom stories are a poor, talented boy and a beautiful and kind girl. They are introduced by a formula and mainly use the concept: handsome, handsome boys.

In the work "Luu's woman general", when talking about the character Luu's woman general, the author described a highly talented student:

*Trôi sinh Luu tướng đánh danh nữ tài  
Công dung ngôn hạnh vẹn mười  
Văn dung chẳng kém, võ tài không thua  
Gia công luyện tập sớm trưa  
Chọn tài hương đồng moi đưa tin nhàn*

Although not the main character, the courtier at Xu Mat Institute was the one who created the central situation, which can be seen as the cause of other situations: the Xu Mat temple room told the king that the mandarin Luu Dinh:

*Rắp lòng tiếm đoạt ngôi trời  
Thiên binh, vạn mã dành nơi quê nhà  
Vây nên cáo bệnh chẳng ra  
Ngu thần mật tấu ngự qua xét tình*

It was this lie that led to the situation where Luu Bi was truant to the three tribes, causing a deep enmity with lady Luu, causing lady Luu to disguise herself as a man as Luu Cong to recruit generals:

*Trần này quyết khởi binh nhưng  
Tuyệt thù ngô được đền lòng thân sinh  
Lòng ta hiểu nghĩa chính thành  
Giờ tay núi lở, cắt mình trời long*

The character Xu Mat represents the evil character. However, unlike the popular Nom poem, in the story of "Luu's woman general", Xu Mat's character does not appear as the main character, but this is just a character that creates the situation. The main character in the story revolves around the character Luu Nu and Tu Ma. These are two characters that represent the type of good character.

The character system in the story of "Luu's woman generals" does not appear much. But with most of the characters in the story, Luu's woman generals are talented people and have a heart. They are righteous people like Luu Dinh who is considered a mandarin who is popular with the people, so they are harmed by crooks. Sima is a person who lives with meaning and is a person of integrity, public and private. And Miss Vuong is a beautiful, naive, understanding person. Truong Dung was a loyal and unyielding man, so he was spared by Luu woman general Vuong was also an honest mandarin, when he heard the reasonable words of general Luu, he left the army and sent envoys to the court to report to the king.

Building the image of a woman with a talent for strategy and strength as a martial general, the author of the story "Luu's woman general" pays attention to exploiting the different actions of Luu woman general. In the story, three actions highlight the image of a general: starting an army, kidnapping, avenging his father - killing the mandarin Xu Mat

From the beginning to the end of the work, many verses are describing the beginning of the army of Luu's woman general. The most prominent is the verse:

*Sai trăm quân kỵ trở về,  
Tiểu chu mười chiếc gân kê bên giang.  
Vào nhà đào mấy chum vàng,  
Đem đi dưỡng đục binh lương cõi ngoài*

Immediately after the unjust death of her father, Luu's woman general immediately gathered her servants, encouraging them to follow her to avenge her father and master. It was the confident words of encouragement and the decisive act of "digging for gold" to nurture the soldiers that convinced the servants and the mistress to raise the uprising flag. This is a job that not everyone dares to do and is unlikely to be able to do, but Luu's woman general is different. Only strong girls with a heart for their fathers can act so bravely and boldly.

The daring act is also shown through the kidnapping of Miss Vuong on the occasion of Luu's woman general visit to the temple:

*Giấu chơi để gạt sự lòng  
Còn thời lại phó niềm phong trả chàng*

Readers see mischievous features in the character's actions. Usually, only men kidnap women, so Luu's woman general dares to do it. However, this work is suitable for a female child pretending to be a male.

In addition to starting the army and kidnapping, the author of Nom also built an act of revenge on the person who caused disaster to the family and clan of Luu's woman general. Finally, the mandarin Xu Mat had to pay the penalty:

*Truyền quân dọn trước tây hiên,  
Đem người Xu mật ra bên ấy rầy...  
Khán thôi truyền tướng ra tay  
Quyết hình Xu mật, bỏ ngày mắc oan*

The decisive act of killing the mandarin Xu Mat has revealed a clear point of view of the character Luu's woman general: the wicked must be punished appropriately. Righteous actions express the dreams and beliefs of the majority of people about a just society.

Through the actions of the character Luu's woman general, the character's personality is revealed. It was a brave, daring save for the woman who dared to stand up against the most powerful force - the imperial power. For the sake of justice, she was encouraged by a large number of people to support a martial arts general to fight injustice in society.

It can be seen that the author has built a character system that represents the better than appears around the main character Luu's woman general to somewhat reduce the pressures and difficulties that this character

has to endure. Perhaps it is the special sympathy and affection that the author wants to send to his character. When building the woman general Luu is the main character and only one evil character appears, the author intends to emphasize the construction of an epic character more than the construction of a woman's image "red face and fate" in the old concept. This is also the highlight when the author wants to emphasize the deviant female character.

## 2. The female character "deviant"

The female characters in the popular Nom poems are usually talented girls who are ideal female role models in ancient society. In the story of the Luu's woman general, the character Luu's woman general or Vuong lady is also a talented and beautiful girl. This is Luu's woman general:

*Trối sinh Luu tướng đáng danh nữ tài  
Công dung ngôn hạnh vẹn mười  
Văn dung chẳng kém, võ tài không thua.*

And here is the lady Vương:

*Con quan đô đốc trọng thân  
Môn my thực đáng thiên chân khác vờ*

Luu's woman general was born into a family with a tradition of learning martial arts and this daughter chose the path of warriors, which was undertaken by men. When deciding to avenge her family and lineage, Luu's woman general chose to start an army:

*Người thiếu nữ, chí anh hùng  
Mở cờ, ra mặt tướng công tíc thì.  
Sai trăm quân kỵ trở về  
Tiểu chu mười chiếc gần kề bên giang  
Vào nhà đào máy chum vàng  
Đêm di dưỡng dục binh lương cõi ngoài.*

The author has built an image of a deviant woman that does not follow the old "Three obediences, four virtues" model. Luu's woman general is a courageous character, taking on the role of a man standing up to shoulder the feud for the family. The author's construction of a character deviating from the pattern of Nom poems showed the attitude of desire and desire of women at that time. It is the desire and desire to change moral standards in society. The ending of the story when the woman general Luu in her daughter's status was told everything to the king, avenged the family feud, and was granted a marriage by the king, showed that the standards of a woman were also acceptable. society at that time was recognized in a certain way.

The story of Luu's woman general has built an ideal woman image as Luu's woman general - talented, intelligent, and capable of commanding a powerful army against the imperial court. The way to build this character Luu's woman general is not the same as other characters in the six Nom stories. Although also talking about the beauty of lady Luu as:

*Công dung ngôn hạnh vẹn mười,  
Văn dung chẳng kém, võ tài không thua.  
Gia công luyện tập sớm trưa,  
Chọn tài lương đống mới đưa tin nhàn*

In a long stanza, the author introduces the Luu's woman general with meritoriousness associated with the strong beauty of a female general. The character seems to have all the beauty of a girl and a man's beauty in talent and courage. In particular, in this work, the author mainly praises the character Luu's woman general for her talent in commanding troops and generals, while the quality of a daughter with meritocracy, language, and happiness is not described. outstanding

The marriage between 3 characters Tu Ma, Miss Vuong and Luu's woman general is also a particularly interesting detail in the work of Luu's woman general. The author has let women have the freedom to decide their happiness and choose their love. This is the difference with female characters in popular Nom poems. Although there is love and longing in love, the female characters in Nom's poems face difficulties that make their love unable to have complete happiness, while the characters Luu's woman general, and Miss Vuong here are not. have the right to choose love and decide to sacrifice for that love. The love of the two female characters is based on a strong bond of friendship, always with mutual respect. This is reflected in the fact that Miss Vuong and Luu's woman general both have a fondness for each other and cede the throne to each other:

*Nàng Luu nghe trạng tâu thưa  
Gửi rằng: "Bèo bọt được nhờ bóng cao  
Phu thê là nghĩa tất giao  
Nường nang tiền định thơ đào nghĩa xưa  
Nỗi niềm bao quản muối dưa  
Hãy xin trạng nghĩa tóc mơ muôn đời".  
Tiểu thư nghe hết mọi lời*

Gửi rằng: “Sau trước xin thừa thấu tình  
 Tôi xin phận mọn tiểu tình  
 Nhường nàng danh giá triều đình đã thay”.

If the girls in the scholarly Nom story came to love with the vibration of sex, then Luu's woman general and Lady Vuong came to love with the vibration of morality. This is the basis of many loyal love relationships despite the contradictions of the old life.

Luu's woman general and Lady Vuong do not only dare to actively build happiness but also actively fight to protect their happiness and beautiful love, and dare to face conflicting opinions and old prejudices. of society. In that struggle, they have shown good qualities such as altruism, sacrifice, extraordinary energy, decisive intelligence... This makes the story's content expanded, and social meaning. The association of the story is enhanced.

It can be seen that the author has built a deviant female character to replace the wishes of women at that time: to be themselves, choose their path, and claim equal rights and freedoms. decide your fate and life. That is also the content of the message that the author wants to convey to the readers.

### III. CONCLUSION

The story of Luu's woman general highlights the image of a woman who actively decides her life's fate, and who knows how to fight against the forces that favor men and women in feudal times to reclaim equal rights. Still building the character system according to the model of main - evil, especially the image of a deviant woman named Luu's woman general, the story is one of the works of Nom poetry praising women who are not in the normal realm. life is to be general. The story resonated deeply and meaningfully in the peasant uprisings of the late Le and early Nguyen dynasties, although the subjective ideology of respecting the army as well as the feudal aristocratic view of the superhero was still deeply attached. heavily in the content of the stories of that time.

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