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Author Fang-chun Chen
Author's Email Address No Public.
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Abstract
This thesis starts with an introduction of John Steinbeck and the play-novelette, Burning Bright, and then gives a close look at the text in terms of its theme, setting, plot, characterization and its symbolic imagery of color, time, weather and love. This thesis argues that "universal fatherhood" is the central theme of Burning Bright. The setting is framed by poetic diction and allegorical illusions to form the plot and characters as it could happen any time or any place for everyman with every occupation. The "black" and "white" colors portray the "fearful symmetry" which interprets the contradictory forces of love and hatred, life and death, and immortality and extinction in this play-novelette. The time and weather indicate the change in the plot and at the final scene the Child is due during the snowy Christmas as the scenes shift from conception through gestation to birth. Burning Bright is recognizably a high morality play-novelette which teaches people to know that " everyman is father to all children and every child must have all men as father".
The second part of the thesis is a Chinese translation of the play-novelette in discussion: Burning Bright.
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