Boarder Crossing and Fiction:
Social Phenomena of Postwar Taiwan in Tao Jing-sun's "Double Suicide at Tamsui River"

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the work: "Double Suicide at Tamsui River." "Double Suicide at Tamsui River" written in Japanese by the well-known modern Chinese writer Tao Jing-sun. Tao Jing-sun (1897-1952) graduated from the medical School of Kyūshū University and was an active member of literary groups such as The Creative Society and The Alliance of Chinese Left Wing Writers. During the Sino-Japanese War, he served as the head of the Research Center for Natural Science in Shanghai. In 1946, one year after Japan's defeat, he assumed the Professorship at the Center for Tropical Medicine at Taiwan University in Taipei but later defected to Japan in 1950. In April 1951, he became an instructor at the University of Tokyo, teaching Chinese literary history at the School of Literature. At the same time, he began his writing career and gradually gained public attention in Japan. Unfortunately, his literary career was cut short by his sudden death in February 1952. Most of his writings are non-fictional essays with only one short novel "Double Suicide at Tamsui River." His works were collected in a volume titled: Final Words to Japan, which was published in October 1952 (Tokyo: Sōgensha). The second print was issued in December, and a third print was added in March 1953, all receiving rave review in Japan.

Tao Jing-sun's life reflects the cross-cultural experience of many intellectuals of his time. With reference to his only short novel, which has not yet been translated into Chinese, this paper examines issues that were pertinent to the postwar Taiwanese society, such as colonial memory, cultural imagination and identity, and the crossing of linguistic boundaries.

Keywords: Tao Jing-sun, "Double Suicide at Tamsui River," Postwar Taiwan, Boundary Crossing, Fiction, Colonial Memory