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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Chinese Disaster Poetry: Exploring Resilience through Social Media and Reader Response

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	The present study aims to provide a thorough investigation into the reception of Chinese disaster poetry via new media platforms. By employing a combination of qualitative and quantitative analyses, this research endeavors to delve into the levels of audience engagement and the perceptions surrounding this particular form of poetry. By conducting a thorough examination of a curated collection of poems, we are able to discern the profound themes of loss, resilience, and the indomitable human spirit that are vividly portrayed in Chinese disaster poetry. This analysis serves to emphasize the enduring cultural significance and remarkable literary depth of this genre. Building upon the qualitative findings, an analysis of survey data collected from a sample of 50 online users offers valuable empirical insights into the behaviors, preferences, and perceptions of audiences in relation to Chinese disaster poetry within the digital realm. The survey findings provide valuable insights into the changing landscape of literary consumption and cultural expression in the digital age, covering various aspects such as frequency of access, platform preferences, and engagement with online communities. Through the integration of qualitative and quantitative methodologies, the present study enhances our comprehension of the reception of Chinese disaster poetry. This research makes a valuable contribution to the existing body of knowledge in the fields of Chinese literature, digital culture, and disaster studies.

INTRODUCTION

The historical record indicates that throughout the course of human civilization, both natural disasters and human-made crises have consistently served as sources of inspiration for poets. These individuals have sought to express and convey the remarkable resilience exhibited by the human spirit in the face of such formidable challenges. Within the realm of Chinese literature, there exists a notable and extensive tradition of disaster poetry. Throughout the ages, poets have utilized this form of expression to convey deep and contemplative insights into the nature of calamity, the resilience of the human spirit, and the remarkable ability of individuals to find hope even in the face of widespread destruction. With the emergence of recent media technologies, there has been a notable transformation in the way poetry is consumed and engaged with. This shift has brought forth novel opportunities for the dissemination and immersion in literary works (Sarma & Mourphy, 2023; Mohammed et al., 2024).

The present study aims to make a valuable contribution to the existing body of knowledge by exploring the intricate dynamics between Chinese disaster poetry and the modern digital platforms. By delving into this subject matter, we seek to enhance the theoretical understanding of the ways in

which these two domains intersect and influence each other. This study delves into the intricate relationship between literature, technology, and resilience, shedding light on the profound impact of digital media on conventional modes of literary representation and the way readers engage with literary works. Through a comprehensive analysis of the widespread presence of COVID-19 poetry across various social media platforms, our research contributes to the existing body of knowledge on disaster poetry and digital humanities. By delving into this phenomenon, we aim to shed light on the dynamic and evolving landscape of poetic expression in the contemporary digital era.

From a practical standpoint, this research highlights the significance of new media platforms in the distribution and active involvement with disaster poetry, especially in times of crises. The present analysis highlights the manner in which online platforms effectively enable the instantaneous exchange of information and the formation of communities, thereby augmenting the scope and influence of literary compositions. The comprehension of this concept can provide valuable insights for developing approaches to utilize digital media as a means to enhance literary and cultural resilience in the face of disasters.

Prior research has delved into the impact of social media in times of crises (Jam et al., 2010; Shahbaznezhad et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2022). However, a significant void exists in the investigation of how these platforms specifically shape the dissemination and reception of poetry related to disasters. Moreover, the current body of scholarly work pertaining to Chinese disaster poetry frequently neglects to address the influence of the modern digital environment and its effect on reader participation (Tashtoush et al., 2023; Xie et al., 2017; Kang, 2022). This research endeavor aims to bridge a significant knowledge gap by combining an examination of emerging media technologies with a thematic investigation into the concept of resilience as depicted in Chinese disaster poetry, with a specific focus on the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been observed to have a significant impact on the proliferation of poetic expression, which has been coined as the 'COVID-19 poetic tide' (Kang, 2022; Tashtoush et al., 2022). The aforementioned phenomenon highlights the imperative to comprehend the impact of emerging media platforms on the availability, dissemination, and reception of poetry related to disasters. Furthermore, it is of utmost importance to thoroughly investigate the thematic motifs and literary strategies utilized by poets in order to portray the concepts of resilience and survival. It is also essential to examine how these depictions resonate with readers in the present era, characterized by the prevalence of digital technology.

The origins of Chinese disaster poetry can be traced back to ancient times, where it emerged within a specific historical and cultural context. This form of poetry primarily revolves around thematic concerns related to resilience and survival. During the transition to discussing new media platforms, it is imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of the ways in which digital technologies have broadened the scope and importance of poetry in times of crises. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and WeChat play a crucial role in enabling real-time communication and fostering community development (Gningue et al., 2022; Jarrah et al., 2022; Shahbaznezhad et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2022). This becomes especially significant in times of disasters, where conventional communication channels may prove ineffective. This research delves into the intricate interplay between Chinese disaster poetry, new media, and the reception of readers, with the objective of illuminating the evolving attributes of this literary legacy in the contemporary era (Jam et al., 2013; Wardat et al., 2021; Xie et al., 2017).

Our research methodology is distinct in that it focuses on a detailed analysis of the impact of digital platforms on the way individuals engage with and interpret Chinese disaster poetry. Through a comprehensive examination of the COVID-19 poetic tide, this study delves into the intricate ways in which contemporary poets employ language, imagery, and symbolism to effectively encapsulate the

multifaceted human experience of confronting adversities and exhibiting resilience. This study further explores the manner in which contemporary readers engage with these poetic articulations, thereby offering a thorough comprehension of the enduring influence of the written language amidst difficult circumstances.

The objective of this study is to establish a connection between conventional literary analysis and the field of digital media studies. By doing so, it aims to provide a novel viewpoint on the significance of poetry in expressing resilience within the context of a globalized society. By conducting a comprehensive investigation into the realm of Chinese disaster poetry and its interplay with emerging media platforms, our objective is to reveal profound understandings that surpass the confines of specific academic fields and enrich the wider conversation surrounding literature, technology, and the indomitable spirit of humanity.

Research objectives

- To investigate the impact of new media platforms on the dissemination and reception of Chinese disaster poetry, specifically analyzing how digital technologies shape audience engagement and interpretation.

- To explore the thematic representations of resilience and survival within Chinese disaster poetry, examining the literary techniques employed by poets to convey the human experience of adversity and endurance.

Research questions

RQ$_1$: How do new media platforms influence the accessibility, circulation, and reception of Chinese disaster poetry, and what role do online communities play in shaping audience engagement and interpretation?

RQ$_2$: What thematic motifs and literary strategies are commonly employed by Chinese poets to depict resilience and survival in the face of disaster, and how do these representations resonate with contemporary readers in the digital age?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The profound cultural and historical significance of Chinese disaster poetry cannot be overstated. This unique form of expression provides a valuable lens through which to examine the collective resilience and coping mechanisms that have been employed by Chinese society over the course of history. By delving into the themes, motifs, and techniques employed in Chinese disaster poetry, researchers gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which individuals and communities have grappled with and responded to various calamities and adversities (Hou, 2023). Through the exploration of this rich literary tradition, scholars are able to shed light on the complex interplay between art, culture, and the human experience in the face of disaster. Chinese poets have demonstrated their adeptness in portraying tumultuous occurrences, including armed conflicts, environmental disasters, and societal upheavals, effectively encapsulating the fundamental nature of human anguish and resilience through their literary expressions. The aforementioned poetic expressions not only fulfill the role of serving as valuable historical records, but they also shed light on the various methods employed by individuals and communities to confront and triumph over adversity throughout the course of history (Zhang, 2018).

Within the framework of China's extensive literary heritage, disaster poetry occupies a significant position, serving as a testament to the lasting influence of floods, famines, earthquakes, and invasions on the collective consciousness of the Chinese populace. It has been observed that poets possess a remarkable ability to effectively express the emotional distress, fortitude, and determination exhibited by individuals belonging to their respective nations. Through their literary works, they

provide thought-provoking insights into the indomitable nature of the human psyche when confronted with overwhelming adversity (Zhao et al., 2022).

The emergence of digital platforms has brought about a notable transformation in the dissemination and reception of Chinese disaster poetry. Online communities have been observed to serve as dynamic environments wherein poets and individuals with a keen interest in literature converge to actively partake in dialogues, exchange their literary creations, and contribute to joint endeavors ("Proceedings of the 2023 2nd International Conference on Public Culture and Social Services (PCSS 2023)," 2023). The advent of digital technologies has significantly enhanced the accessibility and expediency of engaging with poetry. This has resulted in a democratization of access to poetry, enabling poets to effortlessly connect with a vast global audience in real-time (Schäfer et al., 2020). Consequently, this has facilitated the emergence of dynamic interactions between poets and readers, thereby fostering a more vibrant and interactive poetry community.

By means of interactive dialogues and active involvement, individuals have been granted the ability to actively analyze and make contributions to the continuous discussion pertaining to Chinese disaster poetry. The advent of digital platforms has revolutionized the reading experience by providing a vast array of poetry collections, translations, and critical evaluations to individuals from diverse backgrounds and geographical locations. Through the establishment of virtual networks and platforms, online communities have facilitated the connection between individuals who share similar interests and have created avenues for collaborative endeavors. This has resulted in a significant enhancement in the reception and comprehension of Chinese disaster poetry within the context of the digital era (Cai, 2018).

The analysis of Chinese disaster poetry through a thematic lens provides valuable insights into the profound nature of the human experience when faced with adversity and the ability to endure and overcome challenging circumstances. The poetic works are characterized by the presence of themes related to resilience, survival, and hope (Hongsheng, 2023; Sarayrah et al., 2024). These themes provide readers with an insight into the unwavering nature of the human spirit and the profound ability of adversity to bring about transformation. By employing vivid imagery, symbolism, and narrative techniques, poets are able to elicit a wide array of emotions and stimulate deep reflection on the cyclical patterns inherent in life. Furthermore, they prompt contemplation on the potential for personal development and transformation in the wake of catastrophic events (Han, 2023; Wang et al., 2023).

Conclusively, the body of Chinese disaster poetry serves as a remarkable testament to the unwavering fortitude of the human spirit and the profound capacity of poetry to shed light on the most obscure aspects of human existence. As one traverses the intricate intricacies of the contemporary world, these eloquent verses function as enduring reminders of the fortitude, bravery, and empathy that delineate the human condition. By means of persistent involvement and investigation, novel revelations and a heightened sense of admiration for the extensive literary legacy of Chinese poetry can be attained. This, in turn, has the potential to motivate individuals to confront challenges with a positive outlook, benevolence, and courage.

METHODOLOGY

Data collection

Online Survey

A comprehensive online survey was executed with the primary objective of gathering both quantitative and qualitative data pertaining to the utilization of new media platforms by participants, their level of involvement with Chinese disaster poetry, and their interactions within online communities. The survey encompassed inquiries regarding the frequency at which individuals

accessed Chinese disaster poetry through online means, their preferred platforms for discovering and sharing said poetry, as well as their perceptions regarding the influence of online communities in shaping audience engagement and interpretation. The survey was disseminated via various social media platforms to target a specific audience of individuals who possess a keen interest in Chinese poetry.

Textual Analysis

A representative sample of Chinese disaster poetry was carefully chosen to encompass a range of historical periods and thematic emphases. The selection process involved the identification of poems that were readily accessible on the internet and had gained significant attention and engagement within various online communities. The analysis involved the examination of textual data extracted from a collection of poems. This encompassed a comprehensive exploration of various elements such as poetic language, imagery, narrative techniques, and user-generated content sourced from online platforms.

The criteria for selecting the sample in this study were carefully defined to ensure relevance and representativeness. For the online survey participants, the primary criterion was an expressed interest in Chinese poetry, particularly disaster poetry. Additionally, participants needed to be regular users of social media platforms where poetry is frequently shared, such as WeChat, Twitter, and Facebook. To ensure a representative sample, participants were selected to include a diverse mix of demographics, encompassing various ages, genders, and locations.

For the poetry selection, accessibility was a key criterion; the poems chosen had to be readily available on the internet and easily accessible to the general public. Engagement was another important factor, with a focus on poems that had gained significant attention and interaction on social media platforms. Finally, the selected poems needed to represent a range of historical periods and thematic focuses, providing a comprehensive overview of Chinese disaster poetry.

Population
- Online survey was conducted with 50 social media users.
- A sample of 5 different Chinese disaster poetry available online including poems shared on social media platforms was used was for it.

The sample size of 50 social media users for the online survey is justified based on several factors. First, given the exploratory nature of the study, a smaller sample size is sufficient to identify general trends and patterns in engagement with Chinese disaster poetry. The survey targets a specific group of individuals who are interested in Chinese poetry, which helps in gathering relevant and meaningful data. Additionally, resource constraints necessitate balancing comprehensive data collection with the available resources and time constraints, making a sample size of 50 appropriate.

For the textual analysis, the selection of 5 poems is similarly justified. A smaller sample allows for a more in-depth and detailed analysis of each poem, focusing on the nuances of language, imagery, and thematic elements. The chosen poems cover a range of historical periods and thematic focuses, providing a representative overview of Chinese disaster poetry. This ensures that the analysis is manageable within the scope of the study, allowing for thorough and meticulous examination of each poem.

Data analysis

Online survey

Quantitative analysis: It involves the calculation of descriptive statistics to examine trends and patterns in survey responses.

Textual analysis

***Thematic analysis*:** By engaging in a meticulous analysis of selected poems, this study aims to discern and elucidate the recurring themes, motifs, and literary strategies employed by Chinese poets. Through a process of close reading, the research endeavors to identify the underlying patterns and techniques utilized by these poets in their works. By shedding light on these artistic elements, this investigation seeks to deepen our understanding of the rich and diverse tradition of Chinese poetry.

Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations were rigorously upheld throughout the study. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, who were thoroughly informed about the purpose of the survey, the nature of the questions, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequence. Anonymity was ensured to protect the privacy of the survey respondents, with no personal identifying information collected. Robust data security measures were implemented to safeguard the collected data from unauthorized access or breaches.

In conducting the textual analysis, respect for intellectual property was paramount. All poems analyzed were properly attributed, ensuring that any use of these works complied with copyright laws and respected the intellectual property of the poets. Additionally, cultural sensitivity was maintained in the interpretation and presentation of the findings, with a deep respect for the historical and cultural context of Chinese disaster poetry.

Analysis and Discussion

The analysis section of the present study explores the extensive range of findings obtained through the utilization of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, thereby providing a comprehensive comprehension of the reception of Chinese disaster poetry through new media platforms. Commencing with a qualitative analysis, an exploration was conducted on the thematic depths and emotional resonances found within a specific selection of poems. This investigation aimed to unravel the intricate narratives of loss, resilience, and the human spirit that are embedded within the poetic verses. The qualitative insights obtained from this study offer a comprehensive and detailed examination of the cultural significance and literary nuances inherent in Chinese disaster poetry. By delving into the intricacies of this genre, this research sheds light on the enduring relevance of Chinese disaster poetry in the face of adversity.

Qualitative Analysis

Isolation, despair and cure

The COVID-19 pandemic has significant effects on various aspects of our lives. It has brought about widespread health implications, including increased morbidity and mortality rates, as well as overwhelmed healthcare systems. Additionally, the pandemic has resulted in significant socioeconomic consequences, such as job losses, business closures, and economic downturns. Furthermore, the pandemic has disrupted education systems, leading to school China implemented stringent and comprehensive control measures upon the discovery of virus transmissibility. Specifically, on 23 January 2020, China took the decisive step of imposing a lockdown in Wuhan, followed by the imposition of mobility restrictions on the 60 million residents of Hubei province two days later. The topic of isolation has been a prominent focus in discussions surrounding the COVID-

19 pandemic. According to Wuhan poet Yu Xiaozhong, humans have become vulnerable to the invisible and omnipresent virus. In his work, he describes how we have developed a sense of caution and a desire to protect ourselves, likening it to the behavior of a mollusk seeking armor for defense (CW 76). Huang Lihai employs the use of locusts as a visual representation to illustrate the element of surprise induced by the virus among individuals (CW 81). According to Zhang Zhihao, a poet hailing from the city of Wuhan, which has been subjected to strict lockdown measures, the luminosity of the surroundings is progressively intensifying, resembling the concentrated presence of ants within a heated vessel. In light of this situation, the poet expresses a steadfast determination to remain in the current location without any intention of relocating. However, the available information provided thus far is limited and does not extend beyond the current scope of knowledge. Xi Chuan, in his poetic composition titled 'Ode to Facemasks', vividly portrays the plight of the Wuhan populace during their confinement within their residences. Through the employment of evocative imagery, he likens the people of Wuhan to maggots, desperately struggling and gasping for breath, while simultaneously expressing their desires and aspirations through the act of gazing out of their windows. According to the research conducted by Carl Jung, the term "CW 8" refers to the eighth volume of his collected works. This volume covers various topics related to the maggot is often interpreted as a representation of individuals who are perceived as insignificant, and their struggles are seen as devoid of hope. The term 'maggot crawling' gained widespread usage during the period of China's crackdown. According to Matt Jenkins, the concept he is referring to embodies a Chinese cultural practice characterized by a self-deprecating approach to life, wherein individuals strive to find joy and happiness even in the face of sorrow and adversity (Jenkins, 2021). The individuals who were incarcerated exhibited a lack of purposeful direction in their movements, yet exerted effort to optimize their daily experiences.

The impetus to reexamine history was catalyzed by the global pandemic. Researchers have expressed curiosity regarding the potential advancements in pandemic management in comparison to the SARS outbreak that occurred approximately 17 years ago. Huang Jinhu characterizes the year 2020 as a metaphorical vessel adrift in the vast ocean, lacking direction and encountering numerous conflicts and instances of verbal mistreatment. The poet's reinterpretation of a traditional Chinese proverb pertaining to the unceasing current of the Changjiang River, characterized by its ironic undertones, serves as a means to express his profound sense of indignation and disappointment resulting from the apparent disregard for the lessons imparted by history, as the relentless cycle of events persists unabated, akin to the perpetual succession of waves, with the old wave relentlessly clashing against the new wave. The endeavor to mitigate the impact of epidemics, which manifest as seemingly unavoidable, recurrent, and even cyclical phenomena akin to the ebb and flow of the sea, may be deemed futile. The speaker's analysis suggests that the presence of the new corona virus can be likened to an iceberg, implying that it is pervasive and not easily detectable. In order to avoid the potential dangers associated with this metaphorical reef, the speaker emphasizes the importance of relinquishing pride and ignorance. This implies that individuals must be willing to acknowledge and address their own shortcomings and biases in order to effectively navigate the challenges posed by the virus (CW 99). In the poem titled 'Wuhan's Closure' by Yi Miyi, the speaker expresses deep sorrow for the suffering endured by the people of Wuhan. The speaker also offers a critical perspective on the tendency to forget historical events, stating that the process of learning from suffering is often followed by a collective amnesia. This sentiment is captured in the following lines: 'I suppose that's learning from suffering / in truth, the agony is followed by forgetting' (CW 101). The phenomenon of communal forgetfulness and its repetitive nature is a subject of great concern among poets. They express deep anguish and distress over this issue.

Retrospection entails the act of establishing connections with artists from different eras and geographical locations in order to delve into the exploration of the human condition and its ultimate fate. Shu Dandan's ekphrastic poetry titled 'Seclusion' involves a speaker who vividly portrays the

experience of solitude within the confines of their own home. The speaker engages in various domestic activities such as mopping the floor using a diluted disinfectant, scrubbing furniture, and finding solace on the balcony. It is during this period of seclusion that the speaker contemplates and closely examines Edvard Munch's renowned artwork, 'Self-Portrait after Spanish Influenza'. The individual's state of being was characterized by the presence of various ailments and a persistent sense of unease: akin to a vessel lacking proper guidance, yet finding solace in the act of creation, which served as a stabilizing force in the tumultuous journey of existence (CW 96). The aforementioned observations serve as a manifestation of the poet's introspective analysis and profound appreciation for art as an essential component of her existence. The individual in question identifies a sense of "hope of life" in the presence of comforting elements such as furniture, carpet, and books. This individual refers to a specific visual element, namely a "small white spot" located at the top of the image, as a form of "artistic therapy." This therapeutic aspect aids in the process of overcoming the various challenges that life presents, rather than succumbing to them (CW 96–97).

Resisting glorification

The master narrative, which is widely propagated by mainstream media, is characterised by its emphasis on collectivism, instrumental rationality, and the portrayal of humanity triumphing over the virus in a heroic manner. However, the individuals in question undertake a critical deconstruction of this narrative. Within the framework of societal anguish and bereavement, various forms of vocal manifestation, such as singing, laughter, and even verbal communication, may be interpreted as a manifestation of disregard towards the deceased individuals. The ubiquitous nature of mortality is readily apparent in all facets of human existence, imbuing a solemn ambiance to even the most magnificent exhibitions of courage. As per the observations made by Wang Yan, it has been concluded that the act of singing carnivalesque songs in public spaces during a period when numerous families are undergoing grief is regarded as inappropriate. This is primarily due to the fact that such an action creates a stark contrast that may be perceived as cruel.

The poem titled 'In Sad Days, I Don't Want to Sing' by Ai Meili showcases a notable display of self-restraint and temperance. The speaker's decision to abstain from participating in singing can be ascribed to their conviction that engaging in eulogizing during a calamity can potentially lead to misinformation. One can observe clear evidence of this phenomenon in the following line from the text: 'a voice says don't lie / we have paid the price of lying' (CW 104). The act of resisting glorification can be seen as an indication of both an aversion to political slogans and a refusal to reduce the suffering of others to a mere political manoeuvre. 'Extinction and Songs' by Liu Jiemin delves into the intricate and enigmatic connection that exists between the concept of extinction and the act of singing. This thought-provoking work aims to unravel the paradoxical nature of this relationship, shedding light on the profound implications it holds within the realms of human existence and expression. The concluding lines of the poem serve to underscore the inherent absurdity that arises when one attempts to commemorate victory in the midst of an all-encompassing catastrophe. The aforementioned statement implies that individuals may experience external pressure to demonstrate gratitude, particularly from authoritative figures. However, it is noteworthy that the visible scars resulting from the removal of masks serve as a tangible representation of the genuine consequences of the disaster on the affected individuals (CW 102). The concluding lines of the literary work 'Sealed Winter' by Jin Du serve the purpose of contextualizing the disaster within the cyclical nature of history, thereby providing a framework for understanding the events described in the text. Furthermore, it is important to note that these statements explicitly challenge the dominant narrative that emphasizes victory and accomplishment, as they highlight the irreversible and significant losses that have been suffered.

The phenomenon of opposing the exaltation of specific individuals can be observed in the diverse forms of tributes and acknowledgments that are specifically dedicated to healthcare practitioners. Within the framework of the ongoing struggle against the epidemic, a widely observed narrative draws a parallel between medical personnel and soldiers, thereby commending their valiant endeavors. The present analysis is predicated upon the utilization of the discourse pertaining to revolutionary martyrs as observed within contemporary Chinese literary works. Within this narrative framework, the protagonists are portrayed as possessing resolute courage, an absence of gender delineation, altruism, and unflagging commitment, consistently prepared to undertake the ultimate act of self-sacrifice in the relentless pursuit of the socialist agenda. One instance showcasing the depiction of valiant and determined soldiers can be witnessed in the poem 'The countermarch is moving mountains' (SCC 125) authored by Wu Ziran.

Remembering lives

When considering poetry as a means of providing solace and encouragement to individuals who confront imminent peril in their lives, endure suffering, or labor under hazardous conditions, poets acknowledge the importance of prioritizing the ethical dimension of writing about calamities. This entails focusing on the experiences and perspectives of the individual victims or workers who find themselves at the heart of the disaster. It is believed that the primary emphasis of poetic exploration should be directed towards the personal experiences of individuals, particularly those who have endured hardship. This approach aims to depict the challenges faced by marginalized individuals within the vast and ever-changing landscape of human existence. It is imperative for poets to elucidate the profound impact of the epidemic on the most vulnerable segments of society. The poets in question demonstrate a steadfast commitment to ensuring that individuals who have endured hardship or perished are not consigned to obscurity. By portraying the anguish, hopelessness, and mortality of common individuals, including healthcare professionals, the authors implore readers to commemorate each person and to restore the significance of those who have been unjustly overlooked, marginalized, or dismissed amidst the harrowing and unimaginable epidemic that has plunged countless lives into darkness.

The plight of the residents of Wuhan garnered significant attention at the national level. According to the works of Yi Miyi, Liu Jiemin, and Jin Du, among other researchers, it is evident that the residents of Wuhan, who were subjected to a strict lockdown, were consistently exposed to the looming danger of the virus. Moreover, they were unfortunate witnesses to the frequent and abrupt demise of their acquaintances and coworkers, often in close proximity. The scarcity of hospital beds and the resulting inability to provide adequate treatment further exacerbated their anxiety and despair. As per Nan Ou's statement, 'Wuhan, being an innocent city, has found itself at the epicenter of a calamitous situation, bearing the consequences of widespread ignorance and greed on a global scale' (SCC 26). Wang Jiaxin's poem titled 'Leap Year' brings attention to the widespread suffering and indignation experienced by the Chinese population as a whole, as symbolized by the presence of smog in Beijing. Additionally, the poem highlights the specific plight of the inhabitants of Wuhan, as mentioned in the context of CW 17. Some individuals in Wuhan exhibited a strong emotional response to the virus, characterized by a sense of shock and horror due to its elusive nature and relentless spread. In an attempt to escape the city, which had been placed under strict quarantine measures, these individuals succumbed to a state of panic and hysteria. Within the context of the literary work titled 'Run, Rabbit,' Wang demonstrates a notable display of empathy towards individuals who made the decision to flee their circumstances. The correlation between the residents of Wuhan and rabbits highlights their vulnerable state in relation to the virus; the lethal impact of the epidemic is metaphorically likened to a butcher who indiscriminately causes harm (CW 17).

Exile and displacement

"Within the expansive expanse of the desert, the auditory vibrations of the nomadic flute reverberate, resonating with the profound void that surrounds." The individual expresses a profound emotional state characterized by a sensation of heartache and a strong desire for their homeland, which is geographically remote from their current location. The poem authored by Li Bai effectively communicates the thematic elements of exile and displacement by employing vivid imagery depicting aimless wandering in the vast expanse of the desert and a profound yearning for the native land. The nomad flute is widely regarded as a symbol that embodies the transient existence of the poet and evokes a profound sense of alienation from familiar surroundings. This symbolic representation serves to emphasize the poet's nomadic lifestyle and the inherent disconnect experienced in their journey through various landscapes and cultures.

Destruction and renewal

"In the midst of the desolate landscape, one can observe the presence of shattered remnants of homes and fields, which are in a state of ruin." However, in the midst of the widespread destruction, there are signs of hope as delicate sprouts begin to emerge, symbolizing the potential for regeneration and rejuvenation. The poem authored by Du Fu delves into the thematic exploration of destruction and subsequent rejuvenation, employing vivid imagery of ravaged landscapes juxtaposed with emerging indications of nascent existence. The cyclical nature of existence and the resilience of nature in the face of adversity are highlighted by the juxtaposition of destruction and renewal.

Grief and solidarity

"Within the debris, individuals express their distress, lamenting the departure of their cherished ones." However, in the midst of the sorrow, individuals come together in a unified manner, symbolizing a collective sense of optimism in the face of adversity. The present collection of poems exhibits a manifestation of prevailing themes of grief and solidarity as a direct response to the catastrophic Wenchuan earthquake. The utilization of auditory and tactile symbolism, specifically the depiction of voices expressing distress and hands uniting in a show of support, serves to underscore the shared ordeal of grieving and the potency of interpersonal bonds during periods of adversity.

Resilience and survival

As floodwaters continue to rise, it is observed that numerous villages are being submerged, leading to the destruction of crops in the affected areas. However, in the midst of the widespread destruction, it is evident that the resilient nature of the individuals prevails, as they come together in solidarity to reconstruct and regain possession of their territory. When examining the corpus of poems centered around floods along the Yangtze River, a recurring motif that emerges is the portrayal of resilience and survival. These poems employ vivid imagery of destruction caused by the floods, juxtaposed with the indomitable spirit of the affected populace. The thematic focus on resilience and survival serves as a testament to the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity. The depiction of communities mobilizing collectively to reconstruct and retake possession of their territory highlights the persistent fortitude exhibited in response to ecological catastrophes.

Quantitative Analysis

<p align="center">**Table 1: Q1. How often do you try to read Chinese poetry online?**</p>

Categories	Responses
Daily	13
Weekly	17
Monthly	9
Occasionally	8
Rarely	3
Never	0

**Figure 1: Frequency of reader access**
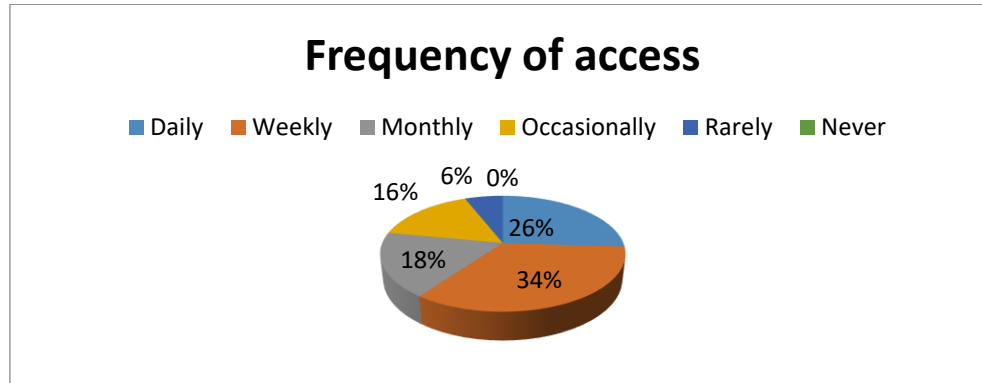
This data shows the frequency of access by the readers. The respondents used to access this poetry more often.

Table 2: Q2. In Comparison to More Conventional Forms of Print Media, How Do You Think Chinese Catastrophe Poetry is Accessible on Digital Platforms?

Categories	Responses
Much more accessible on digital platforms	22
Somewhat more accessible on digital platforms	18
About the same on digital platforms and print media	6
Somewhat more accessible in print media	2
Much more accessible in print media	2
Not sure	0

**Figure 2: Access of digital media**
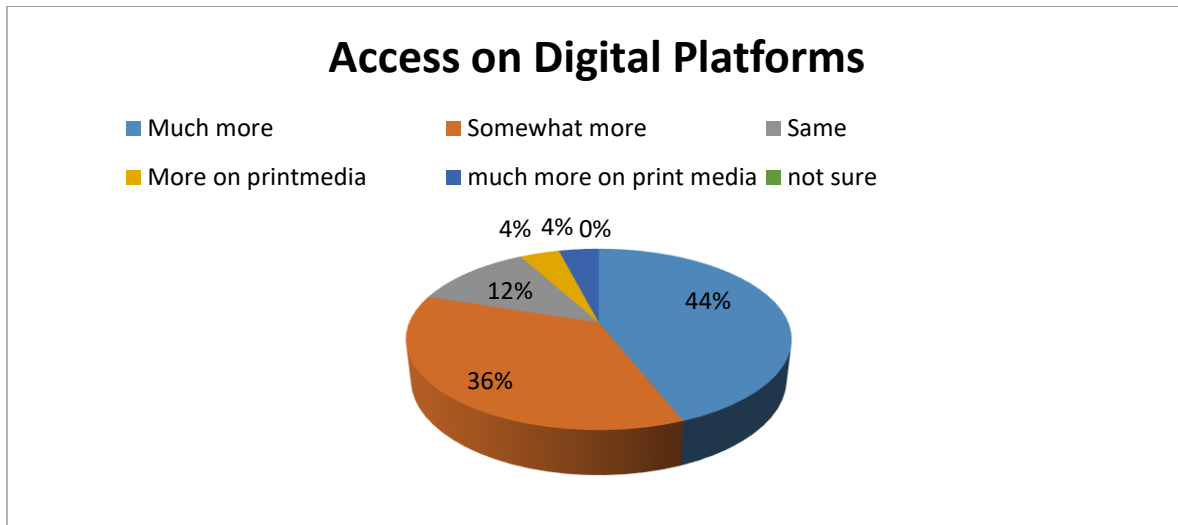
Question 2 was based on the easy access of digital media or print media. The respondents showed their responses in the favor of digital media.

Table 3: Q3. How likely are you to engage in discussions or conversations about Chinese disaster poetry within online communities?

Categories	Responses
Very likely	20
Likely	15
Neutral	8
Unlikely	5
Very unlikely	2

**Figure 3: User engagement in discussion**
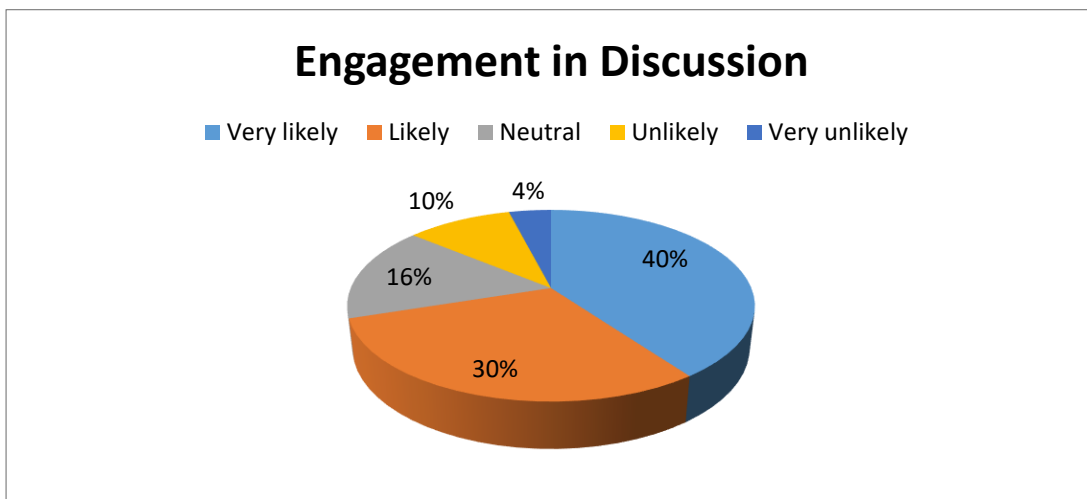
Question 3 discussed the engagement of the users in discussion held online for this type of poetry. 40 percent users said that they do discuss it online and this mainly cause an impact on the mindsets.

Table 4: Q4. What factors do you consider most important when selecting Chinese disaster poetry to read or share online? (select up to three)

Categories	Responses
Poetic style and language	30
Themes or topics addressed	25
Author reputation or credentials	12
Recommendations from online communities	18
Poem length or format	5

Figure 4: Factors of selecting Chinese poetry

Factors

Poetic Style ■ Themes ■ Reputation ■ Recommendation ■ Format

20% 6% 33%

28%

13%
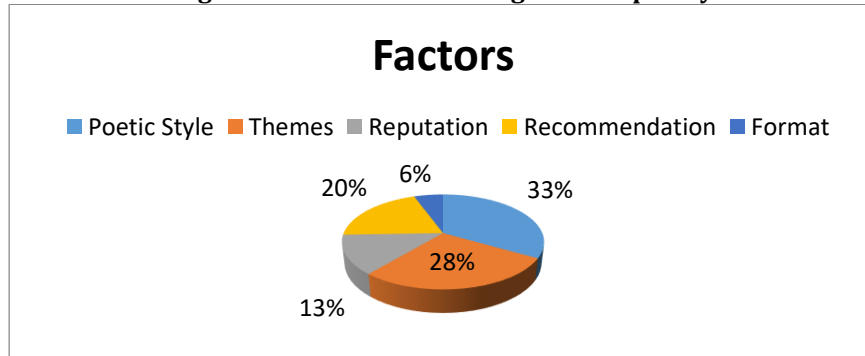
Question 4 discussed the factors that the respondents considered important while selecting the Chinese poetry. They mainly focused the poetic style, themes were also given importance while the reputation of the author, online recommendations and the format of the poem were also considered during the selection process.

Table 5: Q5. Overall, how satisfied are you with the digital platforms for accessing and engaging with Chinese disaster poetry?

Categories	Responses
Very satisfied	18
Satisfied	20
Neutral	6
Dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	2

Figure 5: Level of satisfaction to use digital platform

Satisfaction

■ Very Satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ Neutral
■ Dissatisfied ■ Very dissatisfied

8% 4%

12%

36%

40%
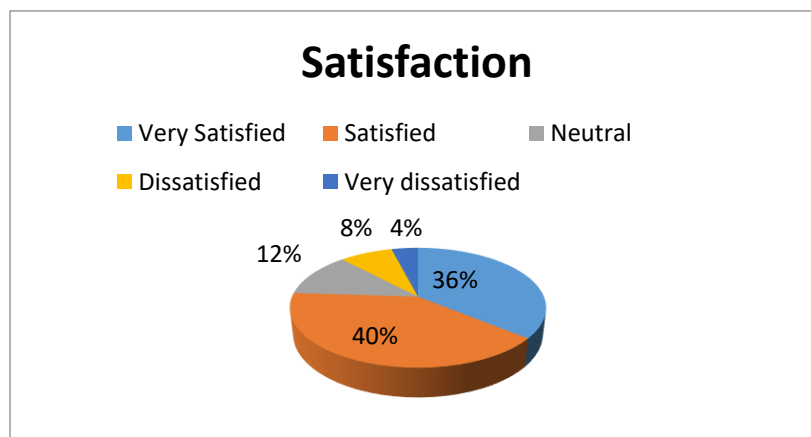
Question 5 focused the level of satisfaction with the digital platforms.

The online survey's quantitative data provide a thorough picture of the digital audience's engagement with Chinese catastrophe poetry. 30 people said they read Chinese poetry online at least once a week, indicating that many people do so. Digital platforms are successfully catering to the demands of poetry aficionados, as evidenced by the high frequency of engagement, which reflects the continuous interest in Chinese catastrophe poetry. The accessibility and convenience of digital platforms probably play a role in this consistent engagement, as they enable readers to access poetry whenever and wherever they prefer.

When asked about Chinese catastrophe poetry, the vast majority of people said they found it easier to get online than in paper. With 40 people saying that internet platforms make this poetry somewhat or lot more accessible, it's obvious that online media offer a huge benefit in terms of convenience and reach. Due to digital channels, there are no longer any geographical or physical limitations on accessing a vast array of poetry works. This is in line with current worldwide tendencies, where digital media are taking over the way people consume literature.

Digital engagement is inherently participatory, as shown by respondents' eagerness to discuss Chinese catastrophe poetry in online groups. We can see that these platforms allow lively and dynamic interactions because 35 people said they are likely to participate in online conversations or very likely to do so. In online forums, readers can talk about what they've read, find people who share their interests, and offer their own perspectives. Participation like this improves the reading experience while also bringing people together and helping them understand one other better.

Poetic form and language are respondents' top priorities when choosing Chinese catastrophe poetry, with themes or subjects addressed coming in a close second. The author's reputation and recommendations from internet forums also have a big impact. This shows that the poetry's aesthetic qualities and thematic depth are highly esteemed by its audience. Peer recommendations and community debates can have a big impact on what people read, as shown by the influence of online recommendations, which emphasizes the importance of digital communities in molding readers' selections.

With 38 respondents indicating satisfaction or great satisfaction, digital venues for accessing Chinese catastrophe poetry had a high level of overall satisfaction. This encouraging response indicates that the digital platforms available today are meeting the expectations of poetry readers by offering a satisfying and easy-to-use experience. Still, it's encouraging to see some respondents who were neither satisfied nor neutral, since it means there's room for growth. Users could be even more satisfied if the user interface was better designed, more accessible material was available, and community elements were improved.

According to the results of the poll, the audience for digital catastrophe poetry in China is quite active and content. When it comes to promoting and disseminating literary works, digital media shines thanks to the widespread availability of poetry, favorable views of digital accessibility, participation in online conversations, and careful selection criteria. The results demonstrate how digital platforms have increased the accessibility and engagement with poetry and how contemporary literary consumption is participatory and driven by communities.

These findings point the way towards promising avenues for further study and advancement of digital literary platforms. Digital media's impact on literature can be amplified by improving the user experience, encouraging community interaction, and increasing access to various poetic works. In order to keep up with the demands of poetry readers and preserve the rich history of Chinese catastrophe poetry, this study lays the groundwork for future research into how digital platforms can adapt.

CONCLUSION

The present study offers a comprehensive analysis of the reception of Chinese disaster poetry on new media platforms, encompassing both qualitative and quantitative aspects of audience engagement. By means of employing qualitative analysis, an in-depth exploration was conducted to delve into the thematic complexities and emotional resonances of a carefully chosen collection of poems. This rigorous examination revealed the profound insights that Chinese disaster poetry offers in terms of understanding the experiences of loss, the resilience of individuals, and the indomitable nature of the human spirit. The thematic analysis conducted in this study has provided valuable insights into the enduring relevance and cultural significance of the literary genre under investigation. The findings have shed light on the genre's remarkable ability to effectively convey the intricate and multifaceted aspects of the human experience, particularly in the face of challenging circumstances.

Building upon the qualitative findings, the quantitative examination of survey data provided empirical observations regarding audience behaviors, preferences, and perceptions pertaining to Chinese disaster poetry in the digital domain. The survey findings yielded valuable insights into the changing landscape of literary consumption and cultural expression in the digital age, encompassing factors such as frequency of access, platform preferences, and engagement with online communities.

The integration of qualitative and quantitative methodologies in this study has contributed to the advancement of our comprehension regarding the reception of Chinese disaster poetry in the digital era. This research has provided valuable insights into the profound themes explored within the poetry, as well as the intricate dynamics of audience participation and interaction in online platforms. The present interdisciplinary investigation serves as a valuable addition to the existing body of knowledge on Chinese literature, digital culture, and disaster studies. It not only expands the scope of research in these fields, but also provides new opportunities for further exploration and inquiry in this dynamic and thriving area of study.

Despite the comprehensive approach of this study, several limitations must be acknowledged. First, the sample size for both the online survey and the textual analysis was relatively small, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. Future research could benefit from a larger and more diverse sample to enhance the robustness of the conclusions. Second, the study focused primarily on the digital reception of Chinese disaster poetry, potentially overlooking other significant forms of engagement, such as offline readings and academic discussions.

Additionally, the study's reliance on self-reported data from survey participants may introduce biases related to social desirability or inaccurate self-assessment. To mitigate these limitations, future studies could incorporate a mixed-methods approach that combines self-reported data with observational or experimental data to validate the findings.

Future research directions could include a longitudinal study to track changes in audience engagement with Chinese disaster poetry over time, especially as new media technologies continue to evolve. Investigating the impact of specific social media campaigns or events on the popularity and reception of disaster poetry could also provide valuable insights. Moreover, comparative studies involving disaster poetry from different cultural contexts could highlight universal themes and distinct cultural responses to crises.

Overall, the study underscores the significant role of new media platforms in shaping the reception and engagement with Chinese disaster poetry, offering a foundation for further research that can deepen our understanding of the interplay between literature, technology, and resilience in a globalized world.

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