

INTRODUCTION

1. The reason for choosing this topic:

Nguyen Van Xuan is one of the prominent writers and scholars of Quang Nam in the 20th century. He had an early awareness and eagerness to explore and learn about the Quang the Dang Trong region. He diligently studied Western cultural and literary ideas, self-taught and proficient in Han-Nom, thus having a deep understanding of literature, culture, and history of the nation in the past. He preserved those cultural values and “brought them to life” through his works in various fields.

Nguyen Van Xuan had a profound experience of the significant changes in his homeland and the nation throughout the 20th century. In every period, he made continuous efforts to dedicate himself to the homeland and the country as a genuine intellectual who loves the nation and peace.

Nguyen Van Xuan wrote in various genres and fields. He wrote with strong intellectual power and extensive knowledge that had been pondered and contemplated by a “thought-provoking” mind, thus leaving his own unique and distinctive mark.

Although the works of Nguyen Van Xuan have attracted the attention of many researchers, there have not been truly in-depth and comprehensive studies. Therefore, researching to contribute to the introduction and dissemination of the values in his works is truly necessary.

By studying the works of Nguyen Van Xuan, this dissertation approaches the subject from a cultural perspective, aiming to analyze, explore, and evaluate in order to discover and summarize the cultural values in his works. This research also contributes to affirming the position and contributions of Nguyen Van Xuan in the literary and cultural life of the local region and the Vietnamese people in the 20th century. That is why we have chosen the topic “*The cultural value in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan*” for our study.

2. Research subjects and scope:

- *Research subjects:* The works of writer and scholar Nguyen Van Xuan. The thesis specifically focuses on studying a group of literary works and research on literature and culture.

- *Research scope:* The cultural values in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan are examined from various aspects such as content and ideas, cultural themes, scientific value, cultural values and counter-values, modes of expression, approaches, and research methods that reflect cultural values.

3. Research methods:

During the course of the study, the thesis employs the following basic research methods: cultural-historical method, cultural studies method, cultural semiotics method, systemic method, and classification method.

Additionally, in terms of practical application, the thesis utilizes analysis, synthesis, comparison, and statistical methods,...

4. Research objectives:

- *General objective:*

To discover and explore the values, imprints, nuances, and cultural expressions in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan. This serves as a basis for affirming his contributions, values, and position in the development of Vietnamese literature and culture in the 20th century.

- *Specific objectives:*

+ Collect and compile the complete works of Nguyen Van Xuan in the most comprehensive manner.

+ Understand and evaluate the cultural values in Nguyen Van Xuan's works in terms of cultural themes, cultural values, and cultural nuances. This contributes to affirming the cultural values in the works of a distinguished figure from Quang Nam in the flow of national literature and culture.

+ Investigate and assess the position and contributions of Nguyen Van Xuan in the development of local literature, urban

literature in Southern Vietnam during the 1954 - 1975 period, as well as in modern Vietnamese literature in the 20th century.

5. New contributions of the thesis:

- The thesis is the first comprehensive collection and compilation of the works of Nguyen Van Xuan, including many lesser-known works from the pre-1945 period and the 1954-1975 period in Southern Vietnam. In particular, we have collected and edited 22 short stories by Nguyen Van Xuan before 1945, making them available for contemporary readers for the first time.

- The thesis fully affirms the contributions of Nguyen Van Xuan in exploring and preserving the nuances, characteristics, and cultural values of the Quang region throughout history. It also delves into the cultural journey of the Vietnamese people in nation-building and preservation.

- The thesis helps fill the gaps and “restore” a more complete understanding of the contributions of Nguyen Van Xuan, a distinguished figure from Quang, and the Vietnamese people, whose position and full research attention have not yet been recognized.

- The thesis serves as a reference for students, teachers, researchers in their study, teaching, and research on literature from a cultural perspective, as well as when exploring the literature and culture of Quang region.

6. Thesis structure.

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, reference list, and appendices, the thesis consists of four chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Overview of the research situation.

Chapter 2: The origins of cultural values in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan.

Chapter 3: Cultural values in the short stories and novels of Nguyen Van Xuan.

Chapter 4: Cultural values in the research works of Nguyen Van Xuan.

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH SITUATION

1.1. Research situation on Nguyen Van Xuan

Nguyen Van Xuan's writing career began in the late 1930s of the 20th century and extended to the early 21st century. However, it was not until 2002, with the publication of the collection *Selected Works of Nguyen Van Xuan* and the novel *The Tong Family's Maiden*, that he was recognized widely as a writer, cultural figure, and scholar who made significant contributions and gained broad readership.

1.1.1. Research Process on Nguyen Van Xuan

* *Pre-1954 period:* According to the available sources, Nguyen Van Xuan's works were not mentioned in research papers or critiques.

* *1954-1975 period:* Some of Nguyen Van Xuan's works received attention and evaluations from researchers and critics. The novel *Storm in the Jungle* garnered significant attention and was highly praised by Luu Nghi and Tam Ich. The critical analysis of *Lament of the soldier's wife* in 1972 by Nguyen Van Xuan generated public interest and sparked complex debates in Saigon's magazines.

* *1975-2001 period:* Research papers and critiques on Nguyen Van Xuan's works appeared sporadically. There were occasional book introductions or newspaper articles by Mai Quoc Lien, Duong Trung Quoc, Tran Huu Ta, Nguyen Duoc, Nguyen Dinh Xe, and Vinh Quyen.

* *2002-2022 period:*

From 2002 until now, there has been an increasing number of research works on Nguyen Van Xuan's works, with rich and diverse content.

The publication of the *Nguyen Van Xuan collection* in 2002, with articles by writer Da Linh and historian Duong Trung

Quoc, provides a comprehensive introduction to Nguyen Van Xuan's life and career, with profound insights and recognition of his significant contributions.

Articles about Nguyen Van Xuan emerged like heartfelt tributes from those who loved him, written to commemorate the writer after his passing (July 4th, 2007). There were dozens of articles in newspapers both at the central and local levels, discussing memories and introducing Nguyen Van Xuan's contributions in various fields. They also acknowledged his perseverance, self-study efforts, and admirable personal qualities of integrity and straightforwardness.

From around 2008 to 2022, many authors have written and affirmed the value of Nguyen Van Xuan's works in magazines and newspapers, such as Pham Phu Phong, Tran Huu Ta, Truong Dien Thang, Nguyen Q. Thang, Van Thanh Le, Ngo Thi Kim Cuc, Le Van Nghe, Mai Thanh Dung, Tran Trung Sang, Le Minh Quoc, Do Lai Thuy, Vu Dinh Anh... These works have explored and affirmed the multifaceted, unique, and innovative contributions of Nguyen Van Xuan.

The books *Nguyen Van Xuan - a person from Quang Nam* (2010) and *Nguyen Van Xuan - the cultural vitality of Quang Nam* (2011) have collected and introduced Nguyen Van Xuan's works. In addition, these books also gather articles by Duong Trung Quoc, Nguyen Ngoc, Tran Trung Sang, Thai Ba Loi, Nguyen Huu Hong Minh, Chau Yen Loan, which discuss and analyze various aspects of Nguyen Van Xuan's life, literary career, and affirm the vitality of his works.

In 2020, the *comprehensive collection of Nguyen Van Xuan's* works was published, spanning over 3,700 large-sized pages. When approaching *the comprehensive collection of Nguyen Van Xuan's* works, many readers comprehend and admire his "profound" and "powerful" knowledge. The introduction to Nguyen Van Xuan's works in the *comprehensive collection* by

Phong Le and Lai Nguyen An is meticulous, comprehensive, and affirms numerous significant values.

In 2021, Vu Dinh Anh edited the book *Nguyen Van Xuan - Explorations and Historical Interpretations*. This is the first specialized research work on Nguyen Van Xuan, which has “contributed to reconstructing a relatively comprehensive picture of his works from a historical perspective”. In 2022, author Vu Dinh Anh collected, compiled, and introduced the book *Nguyen Van Xuan - 22 Short Stories before 1945*.

1.1.2. Cultural value research in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan

In the various research approaches to the works of Nguyen Van Xuan, the cultural perspective has attracted significant attention from researchers and critics. The works and articles of many authors such as Lai Nguyen An, Da Linh, Duong Trung Quoc, Bui Thi Thien Thai, Phan Thi Thu Hong, Nguyen Ngoc, Pham Phu Phong, Truong Thi Thuy, Tran Huu Ta, Phong Le, Do Lai Thuy... have affirmed various aspects of the fundamental cultural values in his works, including:

Firstly, Nguyen Van Xuan is a “Quang Nam scholar” who has contributed to preserving and exploring numerous cultural values of his homeland. This viewpoint is consistently expressed through the choice of themes in both his creative works and research.

Secondly, Nguyen Van Xuan embodies the distinct Quang characteristics, evident in his life, creative works, and research. The Quang essence is reflected in his strong and straightforward personality, writing style, and creative and research perspectives.

Thirdly, Nguyen Van Xuan is a scholar with broad and profound knowledge, a phenomenon of “many talents in one person”. Therefore, his career exhibits diversity with valuable

cultural contributions, discoveries, preservation, and creativity in various fields.

In general, studying the literary and cultural phenomenon of Nguyen Van Xuan from a cultural perspective is appropriate and has yielded certain results, although in-depth research works are yet to be developed. The works and articles mentioned above will be selectively approached and inherited by the thesis author, as they serve as valuable reference materials in the process of conducting this research topic.

1.2. Studying literature from a cultural perspective

1.2.1. Researching Literature from a cultural perspective abroad

When it comes to studying literature from a cultural perspective, the majority of researchers consider it as part of the Cultural-Historical school in France during the late 19th century, associated with the names of H. Taine, G. Lanson, and S. Beuve... This approach emphasizes literary norms, author biography, historical context, value, and linguistic context... I.U.M.Lotman established the Moscow-Tartu Semiotic School, which applies semiotic theory to the study of various fields such as language, culture, literature, and signs... The Psychoanalytic approach is also used to study literature from a cultural perspective, examining the role of collective symbols, archetypes, and ancient models in artistic creation...

In Asia, the study of literature from a cultural perspective has also received long-standing attention. Researchers are interested in exploring cultural manifestations in literary works, such as folklore, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism... In the modern era, Asian countries have also learned and applied Western theories in studying literature from a cultural standpoint.

1.2.2. Researching Literature from a Cultural Perspective in Vietnam

In Vietnam, the study of literature from a cultural perspective has been affirmed since the 1930s. This research and critical trend strongly influenced the Cultural-Historical school in France. During the renovation period, many theories and approaches to literary and artistic research from around the world were introduced to Vietnam, including cultural semiotics and psychoanalytic criticism.

In Vietnam, many authors have conducted research works associated with studying literature from a cultural perspective, such as Tran Dinh Hieu, Tran Ngoc Vuong, Le Chi Dung, Tran Nho Thin, Le Nguyen Can, Phan Ngoc, Tran Dinh Su, Huynh Nhu Phuong, Nguyen Van Dan, La Nguyen, Nguyen Dang Diep, Doan Le Giang, ... In recent years, many doctoral and master's theses, books, and articles in Vietnam have focused on studying literature from a cultural perspective.

In general, the cultural perspective approach is not a new method, but it is relevant and meaningful today. This method does not exclude other approaches but serves as a necessary supplement to explore the cultural aspects within literary phenomena.

1.3. Studying the cultural value in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan and the issues raised in the dissertation

1.3.1. Researching the cultural value as a feasible approach to Nguyen Van Xuan's works

The predominant theme throughout the entire works of Nguyen Van Xuan is the inspiration of cultivating moral values, affirming the cultural value of the nation, and capturing the nuances of his homeland, Quang region. This serves as the connecting thread that unifies and gives significance to his works. Therefore, studying the cultural value in his works is appropriate and will uncover numerous values within his works.

1.3.2. The issues raised in the dissertation

Based on the various approaches of studying literature from a cultural perspective, the dissertation will employ appropriate methods for specific target groups within Nguyen Van Xuan's "heritage", as follows:

Firstly, approaching Nguyen Van Xuan as a "culturally-writed author". This is an important aspect in studying literature from a cultural standpoint, as the author's personal qualities, homeland context, and era... greatly influence the creation of their works.

Secondly, exploring the sources of cultural value within the rich and diverse system of Nguyen Van Xuan's works. The dissertation will analyze the sources and fundamental cultural values, such as the cultural imprint of Quang region and the author's selection of cultural values.

Thirdly, when approaching Nguyen Van Xuan's collection of short stories and novels, the dissertation will focus on the cultural values within each genre in terms of content, ideology, and expressive techniques.

Fourthly, when examining Nguyen Van Xuan's research works, the dissertation will pay attention to the scientific contributions in research topics, research methods, and approaches to cultural value.

CHAPTER 2

THE SOURCE OF CULTURAL VALUES IN THE WORKS OF NGUYEN VAN XUAN

2.1. Nguyen Van Xuan - an exemplary cultural figure

2.1.1. Approaching Nguyen Van Xuan through the “culturally-writer author” model

Understanding the “culturally-writer author” model involves exploring the author as a subject, considering factors such as their biography, talent, personality, cultural choices and behavior, as well as the cultural and historical context of their homeland and country. The traditions and history of the homeland, the regional history, serve as important sources of “nourishment” that significantly influence Nguyen Van Xuan’s aspirations and career goals. He harbored early dreams of writing and always aspired to become a professional writer. Writing, for him, was not only a means of expressing passion, talent, and personality but also a source of income to support his family life.

2.1.2. Approaching Nguyen Van Xuan through the “cultural transmitter” model

Nguyen Van Xuan not only made efforts to preserve and create cultural values but also had a clear awareness of cultural transmission. His role as a teacher has been a successful field, leaving a distinct mark when referring to him. The writer always desired to pass on the consciousness of preserving culture, imparting life lessons, and transmitting the beautiful cultural knowledge of the nation and humanity to future generations.

2.2. Cultural values and expressions in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan

2.2.1. Cultural values and expressions in literature

Literature is an integral and significant component of culture. It has a distinct advantage over many other elements of

culture as it can interpret and preserve cultural imprints, human experiences, and the depths of history.

Value is one of the core elements of culture. Cultural value is “a subjective system of evaluations by individuals regarding what is necessary, good, beautiful, and right in nature, society, and thought; in other words, it is what humans perceive as true, virtuous, and aesthetic”. When studying literary works from a cultural perspective, many researchers also consider cultural value as the most common and important aspect.

In the works of Nguyen Van Xuan, we observe the writer’s concern for exploring and preserving the cultural values of Quang region, including the selection of cultural values (tradition and modernity, ethics and art, freedom and creativity, right and wrong...).

2.2.2. Cultural values of Quang region in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan

Nguyen Van Xuan has achieved significant success and made important contributions to the study of Quang region’s culture. This is evident through his extensive knowledge, literary works, and research on literature, culture, and history, including a vast collection of works about his homeland... Nguyen Van Xuan’s insightful thoughts and unique writing style have inspired new approaches and perspectives in understanding the development of literature, culture, and history of his homeland and his people.

2.2.3. Selection of cultural values in the works of Nguyen Van Xuan

** The combination of tradition and modernity in Nguyen Van Xuan’s works*

Throughout his life, Nguyen Van Xuan remained *deeply rooted* in the traditional cultural heritage of his homeland and people, but he balanced and harmonized the relationship between tradition and modernity. In his works, he did not

prioritize either tradition or modernity, but rather established criteria based on positive values that aim for a better life for the people and the development of the country.

** The combination of ethics and art in Nguyen Van Xuan's works*

For Nguyen Van Xuan, literature and art are the voices that reflect the artist's responsibility to society and embody ethical values. Of course, for the artistic voice to reach readers and touch their souls, the works must be excellent, appealing, creative, and unique.

** The combination of freedom and creativity in Nguyen Van Xuan's works*

Nguyen Van Xuan always yearned for personal freedom. He asserted his creative personality, maintained independent and astute thinking, and nurtured a spirit of creativity, striving to write works that are innovative and unique.

** Distinguishing right from wrong in Nguyen Van Xuan's works*

Nguyen Van Xuan was an open and sincere person, characterized by his straightforwardness and a clear distinction between right and wrong. This aspect of his personality is also clearly expressed in his works. He frequently engaged in debates to assert the truth, righteousness, criticize what is wrong, and point out things that are inappropriate in his works.

CHAPTER 3
CULTURAL VALUES IN THE SHORT STORIES AND
NOVELS OF NGUYEN VAN XUAN

3.1. Cultural values in the short stories of Nguyen Van Xuan

3.1.1. Cultural values in the short stories from the perspective of content and ideas

3.1.1.1. Personal ethics

Nguyen Van Xuan's literature reflects his dedication to nurturing personal ethics, which is particularly evident in his early short stories before 1945. The characters in the short stories often reminisce about memories filled with remorse and regret for the "evil deeds" they have done. This becomes the basis for their self-reflection on their mistakes and resistance against the corruption of their own selves.

3.1.1.2. Family values

The theme of family is a significant concern for Nguyen Van Xuan in many of his short stories before 1945. He finds inspiration in praising hardworking mothers, grandmothers, and sisters who possess love and sacrifice for their families. On the other hand, he often criticizes male characters such as husbands, fathers, uncles, brothers, sons... who exhibit traits of being authoritarian, neglectful, cold-hearted, and irresponsible towards their families...

3.1.1.3. Love for homeland and country

With a sense of responsibility towards the nation's destiny when the country was divided after 1954, Nguyen Van Xuan wrote passages that extolled love for the homeland and country. These works served as a foundation to awaken the patriotic spirit and instill a sense of responsibility in readers towards their nation in that particular historical context. Additionally, he expressed a critical attitude and abhorrence towards the cruelty and inhumanity of the invaders and their accomplices.

3.1.2. Cultural values in the short stories from the perspective of expressive methods

3.1.2.1. Folk cultural code and historical code

Nguyen Van Xuan frequently utilizes folk cultural code and historical code, leaving distinctive marks in many of his short stories. He encodes the folk sources in his pre-1945 short stories to evoke contemplation on ethics and the essence of life. The historical code is strongly present in the short stories during the period of 1954-1975, where he borrows from the historical context of the anti-French resistance to awaken a sense of responsibility in the present towards the nation and foster love for the homeland. Through this, the writer reveals his reflections on love for the homeland, the nation, the qualities of humanity, and noble human values.

3.1.2.2. The symbolism of darkness and death

In Nguyen Van Xuan's short stories, darkness and death serve as unique and significant symbols. The symbol of darkness is frequently employed in his pre-1945 short stories. The characters often find themselves in a state where they must confront their mistakes, pass through the darkness, and reach the light of reason and ethics.

Death becomes a symbol explored by the writer to convey messages in his short stories during the period of 1954-1975. The symbols of death express the desire to perpetuate meaning and revive the nationalistic tradition. The symbol of death also implies a collective accusation against symbols of authority, outdated ideals, and feudal institutions.

3.2. Cultural values in the novels of Nguyen Van Xuan

3.2.1. Cultural values in novels from the perspective of content and ideology

3.2.1.1. Political culture

Nguyen Van Xuan's novels address various aspects of political culture, such as ethics and the behavior of those in

power, as well as social actors in political relationships and political knowledge.

** Ethics and behavior of those in power and social actors in political relationships:*

Nguyen Van Xuan frequently references two fundamental social actors: the ruling class and the general population. When writing about the ruling class, the author's primary inspiration is to criticize and condemn their atrocities, vices, and corruption. Conversely, he empathizes and shares the sufferings of the working class.

** Political knowledge:*

Nguyen Van Xuan not only portrays historical events and figures but also employs characters to express ideologies, perspectives, and political knowledge. Through authoritative figures, the writer conveys reflections and contemplation on political culture, governance, people's welfare, and the nation's development. It is a voice that reflects the author's responsibility towards life, the people, and the country.

3.2.1.2. Gendered behavioral culture

Nguyen Van Xuan displays a compassionate view of the fate and beauty of women in the chaotic feudal society of Vietnam, which is particularly evident in the novel *The Tong Family's Maiden*. Their fate is akin to pawns, playing cards, and objects of manipulation for powerful and wealthy male characters. Through this, the novel voices accusations against the social injustices and inequalities prevalent at that time. This issue remains relevant today.

3.2.2. Cultural values in novels from the perspective of expressive methods

3.2.2.1. Historical code

Nguyen Van Xuan's novels primarily revolve around historical themes, most notably evident in "*The Tong Family's Maiden*." However, the historical events and figures in his

novels are merely settings, as the author's main concern lies in the ethical values, personalities, lifestyles, and emotions of the characters. The protagonist, Hai Bang, who narrates the story, aims to convey a message about losing faith in kings, officials during the Trinh-Nguyen feud. The majority of them are power-hungry, driven by self-interest, and overwhelmed by excessive desires, leading to war and suffering among the people. This can serve as a historical lesson drawn from the decline of the feudal regime in Vietnam, and a lesson applicable to all people and all times.

3.2.2.2. Symbolism of fire

Fire, combined with other artistic elements, is a multifaceted symbol frequently used by Nguyen Van Xuan in his novels. Its most prominent significance is to deeply impress readers with the fire of war, destruction, and brutality. Relentless and devastating battles stem from the fire of ambition, desire for fame, and sensual desires. Therefore, the writer also desires for fire to become a symbol of purification and cleansing, to eliminate vices, sins, and return to love, human compassion, and humanity.

CHAPTER 4
CULTURAL VALUES IN THE RESEARCH WORKS OF
NGUYEN VAN XUAN

4.1. Cultural values in the research works on culture and literature by Nguyen Van Xuan

4.1.1. Research works on the culture of Quang region

Nguyen Van Xuan's research works on the culture of Quảng region are rich in content, innovative explorations, profound analysis, and sophisticated thinking.

** Quang Nam - a representative land of cultural exchange in Vietnam*

According to Nguyen Van Xuan, Quang Nam is a representative land of cultural exchange in Vietnam. The author considers this from various perspectives, with Hoi An being the most comprehensive and profound manifestation. He analyzes aspects such as ethnicity, culture, professions, and business practices. Through this, he recognizes that Quang region has learned and developed cultural values in many fields.

** The personality of people in Quang region*

When discussing the personality of people in Quang Nam, Nguyen Van Xuan particularly emphasizes their inclination towards “debate” and love for theoretical discussions. He explores different aspects of this personality, such as its origin, manifestations, impact on daily life, and notable individuals... According to him, the “debate-loving” personality naturally has its drawbacks, but it also contributes significantly to the culture, politics, and economy of Vietnam throughout its historical development.

** Culinary culture of Quang region*

Nguyen Van Xuan writes about the food culture of Quang Nam to: discover distinctive features and differences compared to neighboring regions, trace the origins and sources of various

dishes, and place them within the historical development of the Southern region. The culinary culture of Quang Nam, with its richness and distinctiveness, has had a considerable impact on the overall culture and specifically on the culinary culture of present-day Dong Nai - Gia Dinh, which is the Southern region. People in Quang region have also embraced many dishes from other places, contributing to the diverse, abundant, and appealing culinary culture of the region today.

4.1.2. Research works on Lunar New Year and spring festivals

Nguyen Van Xuan believes that Lunar New Year is a major festival and the most important traditional custom in Vietnam, so he has a special interest in studying it. He offers multi-dimensional and unique explanations, covering the origins of Tet, the “Tet feast”, “Tet activities”, auspicious customs, as well as various aspects of life and customs related to debts, theft, gambling... While emphasizing the importance of traditional Tet, he also suggests the need for improvements and streamlining to avoid wastefulness and enhance productivity. He advocates paying more attention to Western holidays to integrate deeply with the world in the context of “industrialization and modernization”. This is a current issue that many researchers continue to address, making it relevant to the present time.

4.1.3. Research works on the Duy Tan movement

Nguyen Van Xuan’s explorations and contemplations on the Duy Tan movement hold significant value and leave a distinct mark. According to the author, the movement greatly emphasizes practical knowledge, vocational education, and industrial development. He believes that only through this path can people overcome “poverty”, the country escape “destitution”, and both the living standards of the people and the prosperity of the nation improve. When writing about the Duy Tan movement, he focuses on understanding its cultural value

and historical significance. However, he does not solely praise it but also examines its positive aspects, highlights its merits, and acknowledges its limitations. Many of the high ideals and enduring contributions of the movement still hold value today.

4.1.4. Research works on literature and art

** Early emphasis on ethnic identity and the unity and diversity of local characteristics in literature and art*

In his research on literature and art, Nguyen Van Xuan particularly emphasizes ethnic identity when analyzing and evaluating literary and artistic phenomena. He believes that local characteristics enhance the richness and depth of ethnic identity. Therefore, the author always intends to explore the distinctive local characteristics and regional uniqueness of the literary and artistic phenomena he addresses.

** Highlighting the relationship between cultural capital and the writing prowess of authors*

Nguyen Van Xuan places great importance on cultural capital, intellectual capacity, moral values, and ethics of writers. He believes that these factors significantly influence the writing skills and literary prowess of authors and form the foundation for asserting the value of their works. The experiences and cultural capital of writers have contributed to the formation of authors such as Phan Huy Ich, Nguyen Du, Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Nhat Linh... This approach to literature from a cultural perspective has many reasonable points.

** Early affirmation of the process of development and exchange in Vietnamese literature and art*

Nguyen Van Xuan's research works on the dynamics and development of national literature and art are unique and valuable. He provides insightful observations on literary and artistic phenomena and presents logical generalizations about the laws of movement and development in national literature and art... He thoroughly describes the reciprocal influences and

interactions between regional literature, different phenomena, and genres, exploring their origins and placing them within a systematic process.

4.2. Research methods and approaches to cultural value in Nguyen Van Xuan's research works

4.2.1. Modern and effective research methods

In many of his works, Nguyen Van Xuan's viewpoints display familiarity and proximity to modern theories and research methods, such as wave theory, literary reception theory, sociological investigation methods, and modern data collection techniques... Regarding this matter, the dissertation puts forward two hypotheses. Firstly, it suggests that Nguyen Van Xuan's approach, ideas, and contemplations in studying the historical development of Vietnamese literature and art coincidentally align with the principles and frameworks of modern theories. Secondly, it is possible that he applied the theories he encountered during his research and explored French-language materials from that time. These methods have scientific significance and have enabled him to apply them effectively in his research on Vietnamese literature, culture, arts, and history, yielding valuable insights.

4.2.2. Approaching and discovering new and daring issues

Nguyen Van Xuan is a researcher with an independent research mindset, approaching and uncovering new and unique issues. He made early efforts to "redefine the value of Southern literature" and emphasized the pioneering spirit of artists who dared to live and innovate... The approaches and the multitude of issues he pursued remain feasible and continue to be explored and addressed by many researchers. These contributions represent important values and insights from Nguyen Van Xuan, contributing to a better understanding of the overall process of development and movement in Vietnamese literature and culture.

CONCLUSION

1. Nguyen Van Xuan's works possess both artistic value and scientific rigor while demonstrating a clear sense of responsibility towards life. In any genre, his works are imbued with cultural significance. Therefore, the dissertation selects a cultural perspective as an appropriate and compatible approach to Nguyen Van Xuan's literary and cultural phenomena. His works leave profound lessons and embody high humanistic values. The writer's life contributes to affirming a significant cultural personality, a representative type of writer, intellectual, and scholar of Vietnam in the 20th century.

2. Driven by passion and faith in the vitality of spiritual offspring, Nguyen Van Xuan aspired to a professional and independent writing career. He underwent a dedicated process of research and skill development to acquire deep knowledge of literature, culture, and history. His persona and works harmoniously blend traditional and modern cultural elements, creating a precious "heritage of words and heritage of people". Alongside his role as a writer, Nguyen Van Xuan also sought to preserve and transmit knowledge, culture, national pride, love for the homeland and the nation. He made efforts through writing as well as through an educational approach emphasizing enlightenment. He made valuable contributions to the cultural foundation of his homeland and his people.

With an extensive body of work in various fields, Nguyen Van Xuan played a part in preserving many cultural values of his homeland. He strived to discover distinctive cultural traits, the individuality of people, and the contributions of the homeland on the nation's journey of exploration. His works reflect the integration of traditional and modern cultural values. He believed that art must be the voice of an artist's responsibility towards life, embodying ethical and human values. He always

yearned for freedom, engaged in contemplation, and pondered to create unique and innovative works. Particularly, Nguyen Van Xuan's works demonstrate a clear distinction between right and wrong. He aimed to use theory and evidence to seek truth, defend what is right, good, and criticize what is flawed and wrong. These are the sources of fundamental cultural values, deeply and uniquely expressed in many of his works.

3. Nguyen Van Xuan's writing career spanned from the late 1930s of the 20th century to the early years of the 21st century. His works reflect a strong connection with the literary history of the homeland. In his pre-1945 short stories, the characters always engage in contemplation, introspection, and moral self-examination to rectify mistakes and enhance their personalities. The author also pays attention to the themes of family and traditional customs of the homeland, with the inspiration to preserve good moral values, a meaningful way of life, and to criticize what is bad, evil, and backward. The use of dark symbolism and folklore helps him convey profound messages about ethics.

The period from 1954 to 1975 marked the peak of Nguyen Van Xuan's literary prowess. He produced numerous valuable works that were highly regarded in both creation and research. His short stories and novels during this period expanded their scope, focusing on the issues of the community and the nation with a deep love for the homeland and the country. He wholeheartedly praised the spirit of sacrifice of intellectuals and the people of Quang province in defending the nation, and he criticized the cruelty and inhumanity of the invaders and their collaborators. Historical symbols and the symbol of death deeply engraved the spirit of patriotism and determination in the hearts of readers.

In the period after 1975, Nguyen Van Xuan wrote fewer fictional prose works, but the novel "The Tong Family's

Maiden” truly left a distinct mark in his career. He drew inspiration from the historical theme of the early 17th century to create the backdrop for his work. According to the writer, fame and sexual desire are two fundamental desires that greatly influence the lives and actions of the characters. The majority of lords and officials are portrayed as power-seeking, greedy, lustful, or cruel individuals. The author borrows the words of historical figures to express reflections and insights on national governance and the well-being of the people. On another aspect, the writer depicts a compassionate view of the unfortunate fate of women during the period of North-South conflict, who had to endure a tragic destiny. With historical symbols and the symbol of fire in this novel, the writer reveals a critical attitude and condemns the lifestyle of power-seeking, greed, and lust of the ruling class in society.

4. Nguyen Van Xuan has made significant and valuable contributions through his cultural and literary research works. With extensive and multidimensional knowledge, he has studied the culture of Quang region, Lunar New Year, and the Duy Tan movement... Regarding the prominent aspects of Quang culture, he asserts that this region is a typical example of cultural exchange in Vietnam, with strong-willed individuals who enjoy debating to seek the truth. Quang cuisine is diverse and has played a part in showcasing the cultural evolution and transformation of the region. He offers multiple, multidimensional, and unique interpretations of the origins of Tet, the customs of “celebrating Tet”, and auspicious rituals... According to him, the Duy Tan movement paved the right path for the nation's development and its values should continue to be promoted in the new context.

In literary and artistic research, Nguyen Van Xuan early on highlighted the national identity and the unity and diversity of local characteristics in ethnic arts. He emphasized the important

role of literature in the Southern region, known as “Dang Trong”. He paid great attention to biographies, social contexts, and the factors contributing to the formation of the writer's cultural capital, thoughts, and emotions. He was deeply interested in exploring the ethical values in the subjects of his research. He outlined the entire process of the national literary and artistic movement through the dissemination, exchange, and multidirectional influence among the North, Central, and South regions.

Nguyen Van Xuan did not define his research method, but his approach predominantly revolved around cultural perspectives. His research method was quite modern, bearing similarities to wave theory, the theory of literary reception, sociological investigation methods, and modern data collection. He did not adhere to outdated approaches but rather adopted a bold, unique, and daring approach to approaching and discovering new and interesting issues.

5. With the values expressed in his works, Nguyen Van Xuan deserves to be considered a representative writer and cultural figure of Quang region and modern Central Vietnam. Placed within the flow of modern Vietnamese literature, he has made significant contributions that enriched the landscape of 20th century literature. Particularly, his works have affirmed many significant cultural values of the homeland and the nation, making important contributions to the literary and academic scene of the South from 1954 to 1975. Therefore, the literary and cultural legacy of Nguyen Van Xuan will continue to be studied and assert its strong vitality in the future./.