A. Rationale/purpose (500 Words)

*(What is the importance, to you, of the project?)*

As a practical project, “Picturing Poetry: Translating Chinese Classics into Art” (hereinafter called Picturing Poetry) has its importance on a technical level. Picturing Poetry is a project that uses a variety of machine learning methods and knowledge. Due to its technical feature, this project is a demonstration of learning outcomes for me as a Data Science major student. In this project, there will be NLP (Nature Language Processing), deep learning, artificial neural network, and other pieces of knowledge that are taught in statistics courses to be implemented to turn poems into pictures. Moreover, this project is also an opportunity to exercise and put knowledge into practice, which is vital for the data science major that is designed to be used in real life. In the process of achieving the project objectives, there will be not only the accumulation of experience but also the tests for personal skills since this is an individual project. With the comparison between different models of AI drawing, this project will also set a standard of judging the quality of the outcomes of different AI drawers and find out which is the most suitable for turning Chinese poem prompt into graphical outputs.

Besides the technical meaning, Picturing Poetry also has its practical and educational meaning as an applicational project. By the end of this project, we will get the tools that can visualize Chinese poems, which can explore the diversification of understanding Chinese ancient poems. As a traditional Chinese cultural classic, the Chinese poem is known for its beautiful artistic conception (意境). However, it is also the difficulty for people who do not speak Chinese to understand the atmosphere created by a work of Chinese literature or sense the feeling that is designed to evoke in the viewer or reader. Having a graphical representation of Chinese poems can make people, who are interested in Chinese poems a detailed, more acceptable understanding instead of being confused by the language gaps. In another word, Picturing Poetry is positive for the propagation and inheritance of Chinese culture, which is highly related to its practical meaning and educational meaning. According to Qiu and Bai, the key for traditional culture to attract young people is experience and participation[[1]](#footnote-1). Thus, the outcome of this project can provide a tool for young people to customize the visualization of Chinese poems by themselves, which provides sufficient amount of experience and participation that can support the development of Chinese poetry culture among young people. Nevertheless, this project can also be used as the educational tool in the process of teaching Chinese poem literature and other Chinese courses.

For myself, Picturing Poetry is a personal reflection on the process of learning Chinese. When I was in high school, I did very poorly in Chinese class, especially in classical prose and poetry. At that time, the barren knowledge of ancient Chinese and my poor imagination makes me suffer. This provides me the motivation to create Picturing Poetry to help people understand Chinese poems better and make up for my regrets at high school.

B. Project Objectives (500 Words)

*(What are the key goals of the project?)*

Picturing Poetry’s goals are separated into two parts, implementation, and products. The implementation part is all about codes and implementations of the whole process to visualize Chinese poems. For the product's part, it is about the application of this tool. In this way, the key goals are separated into several phased goals for this project: 1. build a machine learning model that turns Chinese poem into text prompts that fits the standard of AI drawers; 2. compare the outcomes of different AI drawers; 3. sum everything up to build a usable tool for the visualization of Chinese poems; 4. generate an image based Chinese poetry graphic novel.

To be more specific, in Phase 1, the key goal is training a machine learning model using a Chinese poem database and other resources that can take Chinese poem as input and change it through neuro network and other models to make a text-based prompt in English, which can be read in popular AI drawers or self-trained AI drawers. For Phase 1, the condition of success is to have a majority of Chinese poems successfully and fully “understand” by the AI drawer, that is to say, most of the imagery object (意象) shows up in the prompts. For Phase 2, we need to compare different outcomes of different AI drawers, which means that for the same Chinese poem prompt we input, there will be a standard to distinguish the qualities of image outputs. As an example, we can use questionnaires to implement double-blind tests for people on the Internet to grade different outputs for the same poem. In Phase 3, which is basically the combination of the result of Phase 1 and 2, the key goal is to have a graphical user interface that can take Chinese poems as input and directly output the image to the user. In this Phase, the importance is to connect the machine learning model and AI drawer by a front-end machine, which will be the last phase related to codes. In Phase 4, which is the phase about the application of this tool, we can get an image-based Chinese poetry graphic. In this novel, there will be selected outputs from the previous phase and presented in the form of a combination of texts and images.

In sum, the goals of Picturing Poetry combine machine learning knowledge implementation, the practice of building software, Chinese poem analysis, and visual products. The goals will present the purpose of this project, which is the examination of machine learning techniques and practical influences on Chinese poems’ inheritance and development.

C. Project outcomes? (300 Words)

*(Describe what information or knowledge you expect to generate from the project. Include any non-written deliverables such as codes, exhibitions, etc).*

Like the importance of Picturing Poetry, this project has diversified outcomes. The outcomes of this project can be divided into two parts: analysis and products. The Analysis part focuses on the discussion of the process of implementation and project results, which will be shown in the comparison between different AI drawing models and the research paper. In the comparison between different AI drawing models, we hope to build a grading standard for the image outputs which can help to quantify the quality of the image output. This grading standard is not limited to judging Chinese poem input, however, the various AI drawing in the form of input text and output image. In the research paper, the detailed methodology and machine model training process will be involved in the discussion. During the process of this project, there will be difficulties and problems with statistics, computer science, machine learning, and Chinese literacy, which will also be recorded and analyzed in a research paper. In the part of the product, there will be two major outcomes: the Chinese poetry analysis model, the software of Picturing Poetry, and an image-based Chinese poetry graphic novel. As the by-product of this program, the Chinese poetry analysis model can turn Chinese poems into English prompts, which provide an interface for other applications related to Chinese poems. This by-product has strong scalability that can be used in Chinese poems’ translation and other statistical analysis and computer science or data science application. The software of Picturing Poetry as one of the major products of this project will be a mature tool for visualizing Chinese poems and can be customized with the output via adjustable settings. This tool can be used in education, cultural creation, and other perspectives. As an exhibition of the result of the project, the Chinese poetry graphic novel will include several Chinese poems and its image generated by AI.

D. Methodology (750 Words – 1000 Words)

*(How do you intend to accomplish the project?)*

Plan to introduce it phase by phase.

1. 龚丹韵 (Danyun Qiu), and 白清怡 (Qingyi Bai)."传统文化,怎样让年轻人“玩”起来." 决策探索(上) .01(2018):55-56. DOI:CNKI:SUN:JCTS.0.2018-01-029. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)