

## **The Assessment of Art on Japanese Short Stories**

Lae Lae Swe<sup>1</sup>

### **Abstract**

This paper is the study of the Japanese short stories which was prescribed for Japanese language students of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages. The aim of this paper is to assess the writing techniques of the selected Japanese short stories, namely, “The Disappeared Husband”, “Little Bokko”, “My Valentine’s Day”. These three stories were chosen for the writers’ good writing techniques, excellent creation of the stories and characters. This research was based on different ways of creating short stories collected from Myanmar dictionary, Japanese dictionary and English dictionary. In addition, some data were collected from the interview with some Japanese people. Findings show that of these three short stories, the story creation of “The Disappeared Husband” is very clear and simple and readers have the strong feeling for the main character. The story “Little Bokko” have also give the heartiest creation for the readers. In the third story “My Valentine’s day”, the strong creations of characters and background situations which support the characters can be found. In conclusion, the authors of these stories use different ways of thinking and writing styles for the learners of Japanese language to learn Japanese story writing techniques and literature writing style.

Key words: assessment, creation, background, character.

### **Introduction**

Japanese stories have been very famous since many years ago. They are very popular because of Japanese stories’ writing style and techniques. This paper was mainly based on Myanmar dictionary and Japanese dictionary. Most of the translation words were found from the meaning and definition of English dictionary, Myanmar dictionary and Japanese dictionary. The objectives, evaluation, data collection and conclusion of the research were mentioned in this research paper. These three short stories were written with colorful painting for the interest of the readers. These stories were written about human behavior, human life, human action, human feeling and so on. Therefore, these stories were chosen for this study as they represents human characters.

### **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this paper is to study the standard of literature and background of Japanese language. In addition, students can observe the thinking ways of creating short stories and evaluate the relationship of writing style, thinking and plot of short stories in Japanese Literature.

### **Research Questions**

- (1) Why do the students need to study these three Japanese short stories?
- (2) How do the creation of short stories affects the standard of Japanese literature?

### **Data Collection**

The data for this research paper were collected from three Japanese short stories : “The Disappeared Husband”, “Little Bokko” and “My Valentine’s Day”. All these three stories were collected from Japanese proplr. Other reference data were collected from Japanese Literature and Dictionary.

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<sup>1</sup> Lecturer, Department of Japanese, Mandalay University of Foreign Languages

## The Assessment of the Art on Selected Japanese Short Stories

### 1. The Writing Style of “The Disappeared Husband”

#### 1.1 Creation of the story

“The Disappeared Husband” is not strange. But the writer, Satou Teiko, tried to describe the story of a woman who fully believed her husband and preserved the value of her family.

This story started with a baby and a 21-year-old pregnant lady who was waiting for his husband, who was away on business. One month later, she received a letter saying that he would take her and her children when he got stable for living and business. The letter was stamped with Man Shuu City Stamp. They kept waiting with strong hope but he did not appear. The Author's creation activated with these key points to the readers. The story reached to its climax when she met Mr. Suzuki, her husband's friend, and asked him the reason for receiving the letter with Man Shuu City Stamp. The falling of the story was well depicted by describing the lady asking for help the friend to find a job for her because she lost the hope that her husband would come back. The author ended the story by describing the lady living joyfully together with her sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, yet she was still praying for her husband to live happily until 60 years later.

#### 1.2 Story style

The lady talked to her husband through letters in the whole story. The story was ended by describing the sympathy and consideration for her.

#### Character

The main character of the story is a 21-year-old girl who trusted and adored her husband too much and even thought him as a god without knowing that she was betrayed and abandoned. Her character was clearly stated in the story.

The middle part of the story clearly described how she revealed that she had been betrayed by her trusted husband, became hopeless and was in great sorrow.

Then the author stated how she tried to become a mentally strong woman after being abandoned by her husband.

Even after she got old and had many grandchildren, she still thought her husband as a god ignoring his disloyalty. The final part stated tolerance of the woman.

e.g (1) Sorrow makes the hope lost and it is impossible to get it again  
あのと時の悲しみは絶望のどん底につき落とされたように、再び立ち上がれないほどでした。

e.g (2) Disappointment begins to disappear as I think him as a God  
神様をあなたと思い、うらむこともなくなりました。

e.g (3) I secretly wish that you live happily  
あなたが幸せに暮らしておられることを陰ながら祈っております。

In other words, the story “The Disappeared Husband” put its focus on the main character. The author's inner feeling had been described through the protagonist's physical, mental and verbal behaviours. The character of the deuteragonist, the husband, had been described through his friend's grapevine.

#### 1.3 Creation of Background

##### 1.3.1 Temporal Background

“The Disappeared Husband” is a simple story, yet temporal background of the story is clearly described by presenting how the woman spends her middle age and late age.

e.g (4) I am 21 and so naive  
何もわからない私は二十一歳。

e.g (5) After passing 60 years, my grandchildren have got married and I have got great grandchildren, and my family have 26 members...  
あらか六〇年の歳月が流れ、子供、孫も結婚し二六人の大家族に恵まれて ...

### 1.3.2 Regional Background

The springs of Kyoto and Manshuu are stated as the background. The background is presented by the clause “when we are welcoming the spring after passing freezing winter”.

### 1.3.3 Social Background

After Second World War, people had to leave their family and go to other cities to earn a living and, sometimes, they lost their moral. The social background is described through these sentences.

e.g (6) I want to go to Man Shuu City to work.

満州に行ってお金もうけをしてみたい。

e.g (7) Can you send this letter when you get to Man Shuu.

満州に着いたらこの手紙をポストに入れてくれないか。

## 2. Creation of “Little Bokko”

### 2.1 Creation of story

The author of this story is Hoshi Shinichi, the king of short stories. He wrote “Bokko Chan” to remind people of the unfavorable consequences of overusing technology for the development of the Economy of Japan.

At the beginning of the story, Bokko Chan was a female robot and, being artificial, she was designed to be the perfect beauty. She was created by a bar-master.

The robotic girl was programmed to have the drink and repeat the words of other people. Sometimes, the bar-master crouched at the foot of Bokko Chan in which a plastic spout had been installed. From this spout he would drain the cocktails that she had drunk and he served them again to customers. The author skillful creation can be found at the peak of the story when a handsome youth had become infatuated with Bokko and he tried to kill her by putting some poison into Bokko’s drink. Then, the youth quickly settled his bill with the bar-master and left the bar. After that, the owner drained the liquor from Bokko and treated everyone in the bar with it. The falling part of the story was presented by illustrating turning on lights of the bar till late night and the radio keeping on playing music. As the station signed off the air, the time came when the radio said “Good night”. Then, “Good night”, said Bokko Chan, with proud face for her beauty, waiting for the next man to call her.

### 2.2 Story Style

Hoshi Shinichi, who was regarded as the king of short story, wrote “The Little Bokko”. Although the story was a fiction, imaginative presentation of the writer, tightly constructed and compacted story, unpredictable ending, and touching story that makes the readers think and smile could be found.

In the whole story was written in simple and clear grammar using simple vocabularies and short paragraphs. This may be the reason for prescribing the story in Japanese text books.

#### Character (1)

The main character of Little Bokko is Robotic girl. Her physical and verbal behaviors were described vividly. Conflicts between humans and artificial robot were described well, and finally the way that Bokko won human beings was presented in a natural and lovely style.

According to Sayar Mya Than Tint, “A good writer should be able to describe different emotions” and “A good novel is based on imagination which can support the real life and it has social background”.

#### Character (2)

The bar owner was described as an innovative man, but a greedy and inconsiderate one.

### Character (3)

The author created the third character who was infatuated with Bokko without noticing that she was just a robot. The author skillfully described the drunk youth's craziness in love. Although he appeared in a few scenes, he was the one who created the turning.

Hoshi Shinichi's "Bokko" is a good descriptive story. The author's description of human's nature can be seen in the following sentences.

e.g (8) Bokko Chan's beauty is perfect since all the beautiful features of a girl was taken into consideration while creating it.

あらゆる美人の要素をとり入れたので完全な美人ができあがった。

e.g (9) Bokko Chan was covered with a skin so smooth that it could hardly be disguised from that of a real girl since she was designed with passion.

趣味だったからこそ、巧妙な美人ができあがったのだ。本物そっくりの肌ざわりで、見分けがつかなかった。見たところでは、そのへんの本物以上どころか。

e.g (10) Bokko Chan whispered "Good Night" and waited for the next customer with the proud on her beautiful face.

ボッコちゃん「おやすみなさい」とつぶやいた。つぎは誰か話しかけてくるかとつんとした顔で待っていた。

## 2.3 Creation of Background

### 2.3.1 Temporal Background

Although the story is just a fiction, it's background well described the industrial development of a top developed country.

### 2.3.2 Regional Background

The author did not mentioned the name of the city but it was based on a bar of a modern developed city where the upper class Japanese people used to go and have a drink.

### 2.3.3 Social Background

The social background of the story reflects a society trying to get self interest by using all means.

## 3. Creation of " My Valentine's day"

### 3.1 Creation of the story

The author, Atooda Takashi. Wrote this story to highlight lovely manners of Japanese youths who dedicated to do the things they believed

The story started with the sentence "Tomorrow is Valentines' Day" shouted by a staff of a Chocolate shop while Kyo Ko was rushing towards home under neon lights in freezing weather. She just knew that February 14 is regarded as Valentines' Day only when one of her friends "unlike other girls, she had only one person to give chocolate".

The story reached to its climax when the girl refused to buy chocolate by saying "she does not have crush on anyone", and ran into a strange fancy shop decorated with glass bottles and a beautiful bicycle at the end of the small lane, and met an old female foreigner. After meeting the lady, the girl went home with mysterious feeling and finally made up her mind to give chocolate to TV star.

After some years, "Kyo Ko" thought about the past when her sons and daughters asked her pocket money to buy chocolate on Valentines' Day. The ending of the story was created by presenting a TV star who was single and still waiting for the girl who sent him chocolate.

### 3.2 Story Style

In the whole story, it is impossible to know what kind of feelings do the author want to emphasize. Yet, its background and descriptive writing style left the readers with something to think .

### Character

The author descriptively created only one character, Kyo Ko. She knew about the Valentines' day because of her friend "Natsue" and she thought that she should not give

chocolate to every boy. These facts described the nature of an innocent girl who had sympathy and helped others. As she was a young girl, she wanted to find new experiences, yet she thought deeply for her life.

### **3.3 Creation of Background**

#### **3.3.1 Temporal Background**

The main purpose of the story matched with its background season.

#### **3.3.2 Regional Background**

Background sites were based on back streets, paths, pavements, change of stores and mountain climbing path and so on. The activities of the girl was described with the changing backgrounds.

#### **3.3.3 Social Background**

While describing social background, the author used the background which matched the interests of Japanese youths.

### **Findings**

1. Since Japan is a developed country with advanced technology, its literature is of high standard, and the essence of literature can be found. New creations of Japanese authors' can be seen in these three story. In the first story "The Disappeared Husband", although the story is simple and has few plots, the writer can make the reader sympathize for the woman. "Bokko Chan" is a fiction which shows how an artificial robot wins human beings. At the end of the story, the writer left the readers with something to think. The story can attain the readers' interests from the start to the end. The third story "My Valentine's Day" describes the nature of youths who follow their hearts, and makes the readers think beyond the story.

Japanese language learners should study not only Japanese speaking skills but also the creation of short story or the nature of short stories.

Moreover, it is believed that skillful creation of short stories can give new insight or feeling in a short time. Therefore, it is important for Japanese learners to study the creation of short stories and their natures.

2. Among these three short stories, "The Disappeared husband" is simple but it can leave the readers with sympathy or new thought. "Bokko Chan" is just an imagination of the author, yet it can draw the readers' attention. "My Valentine's Day" can make the readers think beyond the story.

These three short stories have all the characteristics of a good story proposed by Sayar Mya Than Tint.. And they prove that the standard of Japanese literature is high and Japanese authors are skillful creators of literature.

### **Discussion**

From the study of Japanese short floors, it is observed that both Japanese short stories and Myanmar short stories are aesthetically created on love detective, humor, history and the characters of people. In the short stories, most are mainly focused on the main characters to have a sense of literature or to give some kind of sense and knowledge. Besides, it is suggested that Japanese short stories should be a model to share new knowledge and feeling.

In this study, the authors and the plots of these three stories are different. Therefore, different styles of creating short stories of individual author can be found

In Satoo Teiks' s work "The Disappeared Husband", it is more different to describe the feeling of the protagonist than the plot. Since it is not a novel, the creation of the story focuses on few plots but it can give more thoughts and show the author's sympathy for the character.

Furthermore, in Hoshi Shinichi's "Little Bokko", the character is a just a fictional character for Myanmar readers. But the author's creation can draw the readers' attention from the start of the story to its end.

In Atooda Takashi's story "My Valentine's Day", the creation of the story differs from that of ordinary love story. It focuses on the girl's Valentine gift and her interesting ideas, which hooks the readers' attention. After making the readers follow the imagination of the girl, the story shows the girl's decision, then the readers are left with a lot of thoughts in their minds.

### Conclusion

This paper aims to make Japanese learners be able to analyse the creation of short story or to understand the nature of short stories. Three stories of three different authors are used in this study. According to the results. It is found out that Japanese short stories are created with good imaginations and the authors use suitable backgrounds for each plot. These facts reveal that all the writers have high imagination power. Therefore, students can study Japanese literature and the skillful creations of authors in these three short stories

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