

世界文学紀行

シェイクスピアの作品から

Date and Time: Saturday, April 23rd, from 2:00 pm. 4月23日(土)午後2時～

Venue: AKISHIMAENSIS School Building 201

アキシマエンシス校舎棟 201号室

Romeo and Juliet

「ロミオとジュリエット」

Love letters to Verona from the world

ベローナの舞台へ世界からラブレター

Juliet's tweets on the balcony

ジュリエットのバルコニーでのつぶやき

Oh, What a tragedy!

ああ、なんという悲劇！

Romeo took poison and Juliet a dagger.

ロミオは毒薬、ジュリエットは短剣で



Hamlet

「ハムレット」

Kronborg Castle in Helsingor

ヘルシンゴーのクロンボー城

How would you translate "To be or not to be"?

「To be or not to be ～」をどう訳す？

What's the best translation in the Osaka dialect?

大阪弁による名(迷)訳？

Beautiful Danish Street corners

美しいデンマークの街角から



20220423 Lecture's manuscript of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Hamlet"

(The red letters are the explanations of the pictures projected by Power Point)

Title: "Romeo and Juliet & Hamlet"

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule. After I retired, I studied abroad for one year in Spain, at Malaga University. During that period, I visited the setting of the novel "Don Quixote" and wrote an article about them. It was printed in a newspaper, Shinano-Mainichi-Shimbun, in Nagano prefecture where I was born.

That triggered me to visit the stage of worldly noted novels, beginning with "Gone with the wind", "Anne of Green Gables", "War and Peace", "Under the wheels", "Les miserable" and so on. There are 15 works in total I visited.

Today, I would like to focus on Shakespeare's works which are said to be the origin of English literature and have left an overwhelming influence on the history of literature in the world.

Among them, "Romeo and Juliet", which are the most read and interfered in Japanese movies, and "Hamlet", the most famous of Shakespeare's four major tragedies, will be taken up here today.

A map of Italy

The first work I'm going to talk about is "Romeo and Juliet".

The setting of the novel is Verona, a local city in Italy.

Venezia that you can see to the east of Verona on this map is also the setting of "The Merchants of Venice" by Shakespeare. And Rome, the capital city of Italy, is also the setting for the classic movie, "Roman Holiday's", though the work is not written by Shakespeare. I visited these cities, too, but today I will leave them due to time constraints.

Meanwhile, the setting of Hamlet is Kronborg Castle at Helsingo in Denmark. I heard some surprising things from the guards and guides of the castle which I will tell you about later.

So, let's start with "Romeo and Juliet".

This is a very famous tragical and stimulating romance! Don't you think so? I think most of you here have read the novel or watched the movie.

May I ask you who has read the novel, could you raise your hand?

(Oh, quite a few! Thank you)

Then who has seen the movie, please raise your hand?

(Oh many more! Thank you.)

I can see, so many of you have read it or watched the movie. But I think it was probably a long time ago, yes? And of course, there are many here today who are new to it, too. So, I will very briefly review the story.

Portrait of Shakespeare

It was the 14th century in the Italian city of Verona. The Montague family and the Capulet family had been in conflict for generations.

Romeo, the only son of the Montague family, sneaked into a party of the Capulet family with his friends for distraction. He meets Juliet, the only daughter of the house. Soon they fell in love. The two were secretly married by the monk Lawrence. He hoped that the marriage of the two would help put an end to the conflict between the two families.

Immediately afterwards, however, Romeo gets caught up in a street battle and kills one of the Capulet family. This causes Romeo to be banished by the mayor of Verona.

Asked for help by Juliet, Lawrence created a tactic for dying temporarily by using a special potion. But this plan wasn't communicated too well to Romeo who had been banished. Therefore, when Romeo thought Juliet had died, he duelled with Paris who came to visit her grave and killed him and took some deadly poison at her grave and died.

Immediately after that, Juliet, who awoke from asphyxia, saw his beloved husband dead, she then also committed suicide stabbing her breast with Romeo's dagger. The two families who heard of the truth of the matter mourned their losses and are finally reconciled.

Picture of Verona

Since the entire city of Verona is designated as a World Heritage Site, large buses cannot enter because they would damage the cobblestone roads. Tourists are expected to now tour on foot.

Unfortunately, it was raining the day we visited, and we walked on the wet cobblestones holding umbrellas. First, we went to the House of the Capulet's, the stage of the story. When we passed through the gate of the house from the street about 4 meters wide, we were absolutely amazed.

"What are those?"

The walls on both sides of the aisle were about 3 M high and 10 M long, and were decorated with small pieces of paper like memos and something like a

letter overlapping them without any gaps.

According to the guide, they were love letters, words of love, of lovers from all over the world. The number of these seemed to be some thousands or even tens of thousands.

In the back, through a passage-way, there was a courtyard with pebbles about 10 metres wide and 15 metres long. Even though it was 5 pm, on a rainy day and getting dark when we visited here, still many tourists were coming and going.

There appeared a big house in front of us, and a balcony was protruding at a height of about 5 meters on the wall of the house. This is the very balcony where Juliet made a confession of love to Romeo. I thought it was surprisingly small and basic.

It was raining a little as dusk fell. The white spots in the photo are the rain.

Juliet's monologue on the balcony is one of the most famous scenes in this story. Various translators have translated it, but here, I will take up the translation of the Shueisha version.

I asked some of the attendants here today to read the conversation between Juliet and Romeo with the intention of performing this on the stage.

When they arrived, totally out of the blue, without any real preparation I asked them to perform it. Some of them may be slightly put out and a little nervous. But thankfully they have taken it on. I would be grateful if everyone here could understand their situation and you could give them your support.

The first one is Juliet's muttering on the balcony. It is a very noted scene in the work. But it's medieval English, so it's pretty difficult to read and understand.

Then, Ms. Sumitani, please.

Juliet

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name!

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ジュリエット：

おお、ロミオ、ロミオ！なぜあなたはロミオなの？お父上に背き、その名を捨てておくれ、さもなければ、それができないなら、せめて愛の誓いを、そうしてくれさえしたらもうこの身はキャプレットではない。

Romeo, who sneaked into the garden of the house, heard Juliet's monologue, and said the following.

Mr. Maejima, please.

Romeo

With love's light wings did I overperched these walls,

For stony limits cannot hold love out,

ロミオ：

恋の軽い翼を借り、その石垣を飛び越えたまでのこと、石の衝立で恋は遮れぬ。

It's also, as many of you know, a famous scene in the movie.

In the back of the courtyard, a golden Juliet statue about 2M high was wet with rain. With the passage of time, the slightly darkened statue only shows the part touched by the visitors in gold.

When I tried to take a picture, many young ladies were posing in front of the statue one after another. Some of them were touching Juliet's hand or her plump chest. There seems to be a legend that if you touch Juliet, you can make your love come true.

By the way, both, the balcony, and the statue, are said to have been made after the novel was published and then subsequently became popular. Furthermore, it is said that the author Shakespeare himself did not actually go to Verona to write the work but wrote the work based on the origin of this story that had been in this historical town for many years before Shakespeare wrote his play.

The book cover of the novel

This is the 6th Shakespeare's work. Probably, the most read work in Japan. The two youngsters in love are also connected to each other due to the bad relationship between Juliet's family the Capulets and Romeo's family the Montague' and this bad relation led to the tragedy. Laurence's attempt to marry them secretly and rescue them obviously didn't work very well due to a slight "misunderstanding."

Romeo took the medicine laying nearby Juliet's sleeping grave and committed suicide and Juliet, who awoke from a temporary dead state, stabbed her chest with Romeo's dagger and fell over Romeo's dead body.

The two families who then subsequently found out the truth of the matter and suffered the great grief of losing two young people, finally settled their disagreements and lived in harmony.

There is so much imagination involved and constant reinterpretations/translations of Shakespeare's words. Right from the start of those most famous words, **O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?**

Every one of the words between Romeo and Juliet is poetic. This was indeed the very world of Shakespeare.

Here, let me introduce the last part of the story, the scene when Juliet calls on Romeo falling down by her side. Her words are most exciting and very moving.

This part is long and in very difficult medieval English, so I would like to make it look like a stage full of emotion, only in Japanese.

When Romeo came to the grave, Juliet was dead (actually, she was temporarily dead.) There was a small bottle of poison at her side. Romeo talks to her.

Then, Mr. Maejima, Romeo's words in Japanese, please.

ロミオ：

アア、愛しいジュリエット、なぜまだそんなに美しい？

この世に疲れた肉体を、不幸な星の首から解き放とう。

見よ、見納めだ。腕よ、最後の抱擁だ。そして唇よ。正当な夫婦の口づけで調印するのだ。我が恋人のために乾杯！

(He drinks the poison. 彼は毒薬を盃から毒を飲み込む)

おお、嘘はつかなかったな、薬屋。おまえの薬はよく効くぞ。薬がもう効いてきた。死ぬ前に最後の口づけを！こう口づけをして死ぬのだ。

Romeo kisses Juliet and dies beside her.

Soon after, Juliet wakes up.

Now, Ms. Sumitani, would you please read the talk of Juliet in Japanese?

ジュリエット：

あ、これは？恋しい方の手に握りしめられた盃ではないのか？

では毒薬で自分のお命を無情にも絶たれたのか！

ああ、意地悪なお方、みんな飲み干してしまうなんて。

少しは残すぐらいの親切があつて良さそうなものを！ さ、接吻を！

もしかしたら、この唇にまだ毒薬がいくらか残っていて、それが回生薬となって私を

死なせてくれるかもしれぬ。

(She kisses Romeo)

この唇はまだ温かい！

(A guard man appears from the back) 奥の方から夜警が顕われる。

Guide me, page. Please show me where to go? 小姓殿。どっちの方だ？

ジュリエット：

あ、あの人声は？では急がなくては・・・

ありがたいことにここに短剣が！

(She takes up Romeo's waist dagger and stabs her chest.) 彼女はロミオの腰の短剣を取り上げ自分の胸を刺す。

おまえの鞆はここに。さ、ここで錆び付き、私を死なせておくれ。

(She falls on the dead body of Romeo and dies.) (彼女は死んでいるロミオの身体の上に倒れ死ぬ)

Thank you, Mr. Maejima and Ms. Sumitani for reading the long sentences with such emotion. Everyone, please a big round of applause for their performances.

Thank you so much.

It's an exciting and moving scene whenever we read the story.

I think that each reader must feel quite differently, but there is something that touches our hearts with such a most basic thing... **love**.

Three pictures

The work has been made into a movie many times, but up until now it has best appraised when the very cute Olivia Hussey, who played Juliet in the movie performed in the 1968 version.

By the way, not only "Romeo and Juliet" but also numerous other cases where the stage performance has been made according to the content of a work after the movie, drama, etc. had become famous.

It is said that the balcony introduced earlier was likewise made according to the movie set, after it had become famous.

"The creation of a new attraction for sightseeing". Nowadays, a town's revitalization has been often synchronized with sightseeing, but I think it's good because it does create dreams for people.

It is said that tourists from all over the world visit the ancient amphitheater in the corner of the city, where outdoor operas are performed in the summer.

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Map of Denmark

From here, the story flies from Italy to Denmark in Northern Europe. I'm going to refer to the setting of "Hamlet". I think many of you know the story, but I will review the synopsis just in case.

The king of Denmark dies. The king's young brother Claudius marries the queen and takes the throne of the Danish king. Prince Hamlet, who is depressed by the early remarriage of his mother, hears about the ghost of his father on the wall of Kronborg Castle at night. Hamlet meets the ghost and is told that his father's death was due to being poisoned by Claudius.

Hamlet who vows revenge pretends to be mad. The king and the queen worry about the sudden change in Hamlet. The minister Polonius thinks that the cause is due to a fruitless love with his daughter Ophelia. She monitors Hamlet's movements by the command of her father.

One day, Hamlet accidentally kills Polonius, who was hiding and eavesdropping while Hamlet was talking with his mother the queen.

Ophelia drowns owing to her repeated sorrows. Laertes, son of Polonius, burns with anger and tries to take the enemy of his father and sister.

The new king feels danger about Hamlet's existence and tries to kill him secretly in a sword match with Laertes, preparing the match with poisoned swords and drink.

However, during the match, the queen accidentally dies due to taking the provided drink without knowing of its poison and both Hamlet and Laertes are hurt by the poisoned swords.

As Hamlet hears the truth from Laertes who was dying, he kills the king and takes revenge. Then he asks his best friend Horatio to tell the story of the matter to the people and thereafter dies.

Map of Denmark

In June 2010, I went northward by train for about 50 minutes from the Central Station of Copenhagen. The yellow of the rape fields and the blue of the wheat fields could be seen for miles on both sides of the train. It seemed to reflect the rich Danish agricultural situation where 60% of the land is cultivatable.

Seats in the train for four people faced each other. In front of me sat a nice and slightly fat gentleman. You can enjoy your travels better going with companions. So, I introduced myself saying "I'm a photographer from Tokyo."

And said that I was going to visit the castle that has become the setting of the novel “Hamlet” to which he replied.

“Shakespeare? That’s good. But I wonder if you know that Shakespeare didn’t actually come here, though 80% of Danish people think that Shakespeare did visit Denmark.”

It was a surprising comment for me to hear.

While researching the background of the novel before my visit, I did in fact find some books which mentioned that indeed Shakespeare didn’t visit Denmark. But I had never dreamt that I would hear the same comments in the very place of the setting of the novel!

Book of “Hamlet”

About 40 years ago, The Asahi Newspaper was serializing a masterpiece trip to the stage of literary works around the world. The series was put together in two books. I borrowed them from the library of Akishima City and read about “Hamlet” again.

According to Mr. Kensaku Shirai, a noted writer at that time, concluded that Shakespeare did not come after all, but Shakespeare still had the amazing ability to vividly create a new world in his works.

First and foremost, I felt I needed to check it with my own eyes. I walked on foot for about 10 minutes from Helsingo station and got to the Kronborg Castle towering on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

Kronborg castle walls

The Danish flag is high and fluttering in the wind near the entrance. (one more photo)

The castle is just like the shape of a square with a courtyard in the middle. They say that the outdoor drama “Hamlet” is performed on the cobblestones in summer seasons

I first stood on the tower that is mentioned in Hamlet where he meets the ghost of his father in the novel.

I stood on the left side tower of the two.

In the novel, the castle is depicted with cold, dark, moody, rough images. However, the Scandinavian sky in early summer was so blue and clear and the wind felt most comfortable.

When I came down from the tower, I walked from the showroom to the castle church and then to the dim underground pits.

Showroom

Statue of Shakespeare

But it was impossible for me to know by my own exploration, in what room the conversation between Hamlet and his mother took place or where the stabbed incident of Polonius occurred.

So, I asked a cool looking officer with a beard who was in charge that day. Then, he spread his arms wide and said some quite unexpected words, with an abundantly big gesture.

“Nobody knows!”

From his way of answering, I suppose it would be more appropriate to translate his surprisingly informal words as, “Don’t ask me such a foolish question! It is totally impossible to give you the correct answer!”

I could understand his words because you can’t really say anything about a fictional story’s setting.

Even so, I have found some descriptions in some articles that say “This is the spot where the dialogue between Ophelia and Hamlet was exchanged”.

Is it because it’s not possible to meet the expectations of visitors without providing such services at a tourist’s destination?

Shakespeare wrote “Hamlet” based on the Danish national history and has eternally made known to the world the name of Kronborg Castle.

“Hamlet” is probably the most well-known of the four major tragedies combined with the other three: Lear, Macbeth, and Othello. And the protagonist, Hamlet, could be one of the most controversial and most fascinating figures in the long literary history of the world.

In particular, the words that are overwhelmingly famous to the world population “To be or not to be, that is the question!” that appears in Act 3, No. 1.

To be or not to be, that is the question!

I think the phrase itself is not so difficult for those who have studied English. But it’s a deep world literary work. In particular, it seems that many Japanese have agonized over how to translate the first half of the phrase since the Meiji era.

I think that the most accepted translation has been 「生きるべきか、死ぬべきか（あるいは、「生か、死か」）それが問題だ」。

Honestly speaking I don’t have such ability to translate medieval English. But still, I have read the novel again and have visited the setting of the play, so I will dare to translate this part as follows.

「何が真実なのか、何が真実でないのか、それを究めるのが最重要課題である」

This is the cry from the life of Hamlet in search of justice and truth in times of human conflict. And I feel that these words are asking us, who live in the present age, the fundamental question of what life should be, and what is true justice.

I have made such a serious interpretation, but while I was looking at the internet to get some references for today's speech, I ran into a translation among several translations. It could be "Meiyaku", the best translation or could be a misled translation. Actually, the word "Mei" of "Meiyaku" is usually interpreted as "superb" but the word "Mei" is also written in another kanji that means "to mislead" or "get lost".

Anyway, it is a Japanese translation in the Osaka dialect.

” To be or not to be, that is the question!”

— やったるか～、あかんか～、ほな～、どないしょ～。 —

I think this is obviously a rather superb translation. It expresses very well, I feel, Hamlet's deep worries about revenging his father's death. I checked the background of this translation on the Internet and summarized it as follows:

It doesn't matter what words you apply to the first words "to be", as many people have suffered. It just happens to have fallen to the Osaka dialect.

The next words, "or not to be" is translated "Akanka". This Osaka dialect fits perfectly regardless of how the following words are normally translated. And the reason why this Osaka dialect is superb is in the latter half.

Almost in every case, "that is the question" is translated "Sorega mondaida" or similar words.

But in the Osaka dialect, it is translated as "Donaisho". This is because the translator has captured Hamlet's feelings and interprets "that is the question" into "I'm at a loss as to what to do." (一体どうすればよいのか途方にくれている).

That is why it is said to be a superb translation among so many others.

How would you translate this? It might be fun to become a temporary translator for a day and do your homework on today's class.

In any case, I think these words can be said to be synonymous with the bard - Shakespeare.

Please keep it in mind as a souvenir of today and take it back home. And try to say these words somewhere on some occasion among some people. “To be or not to be.....” or “Ikirubekika, shinubekika.....”. Then, someone around you will surely be surprised or impressed and say, “Wow! Do you know the works of Shakespeare, the most difficult in literature?” or “You’re familiar with Hamlet, aren’t you?”

No doubt your ratings will surely go up a lot. It might go up by 500-yen, 1000 yen or even 5000..... Even if my talk may have been boring, if you could memorize this phrase and take it back home with you, it would be my great pleasure.

It seems that studying English is becoming popular due to the influence of NHK’s morning drama “Come come everybody”. So, I would like to quickly study this phrase with you.

In the English conversation class for seniors I teach, people in their 60s, 70s, and even 80s are studying hard.

Let’s remember our English classes of junior high and high school, 50 years or 60 years ago, and try to speak English with courage.

Then, let’s practice this phrase together. Please repeat after me. First, we are going to practice by dividing the phrase into two, and after that we’ll practice the whole sentence.

Ok? Here we go, “To be or not to be.” And “That is the question.” And put them together “To be or not to be that is the question!”

To be or not to be, GO!

One more time please,

Ok, then next phrase. **That is the question!** One more time.

Then the whole sentence, please

To be or not to be, that is the question! (two times)

Wow! Great! Your English is very good.

Thank you very much for studying a little English with me.

As for the Japanese of this phrase, it depends on you.

You may translate it by yourself, or you may use the one that we studied today.

“To be or not to be, that is the question!”. This drama of revenge - “Hamlet”

could be said to be the symbol of those who are suffering from many kinds of problems. “Why people are worrying”, “How to deal with a loved one”, “How to make a decision without hesitation”. These are all familiar to the themes of modern-day people who are in trouble.

I hope these words from “Hamlet” will help you to find something that will open up your life and give you direction.

The literature works I picked out today have a very heavy theme, but Denmark, the stage of Hamlet, is a very beautiful and comfortable country with a well-equipped welfare system.

Finally, let me share some of the photos that symbolize the bright side Denmark.

There was a seaside park near the castle and children were playing there. The other side is Sweden.

The port city of Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark

There was a time when pirate ships docked here, but now, it is a calm and lively port town.

A man and a woman are pleasantly chatting on a seaside road.

Denmark is the country of bicycles. Some parts of Danish streets are specified exclusively for bicycles and people use them for commuting.

A ship that maintains the atmosphere of the aristocrats

I went to take a picture of the mermaid sitting on a stone by the seashore, but she was hiding behind a curtain while she was being taken care of. The shadow of the mermaid can be seen through it though.

Denmark is also a country where Hans Christian Andersen, the fairy tale writer, was born. I visited the museum in Odense. This is a statue of Andersen and some children at the entrance to the museum.

When I was walking around the court, a girl with a pink colored dress came up to me and said, “Please can you take a photo of our group!”. They were high school girls. Everyone of them was very cute. The picture was later on published in a monthly magazine. I would like to share it with you, too. The red brick building behind the girls is The Andersen Museum.

With these pictures, let me end my talk.

Thank you for listening to me for so long.