

# Graduate School of International Culture and Communication Studies

## Examination Report on the Doctoral Dissertation

Applicant	
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	( Last Name / (Middle Name) / First Name )

Dissertation Title · Subtitle :  (English)	HIGUCHI ICHIYO IN MODERN JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN DRESS:
	MODERN JAPANESE VERSIONS ( <u>GENDAIGOYAKU</u> ) OF HIGUCHI ICHIYO'S <u>TAKEKURABE</u> AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ENGLISH, CASTILIAN SPANISH AND CATALAN TRANSLATIONS
Dissertation Title · Subtitle :  (Japanese)	「現代日本とヨーロッパにおける樋口一葉」
	「樋口一葉の『たけくらべ』の現在語訳とその英語、ス 페인語とカタルーニャ語の翻訳との関係性」

\*If the dissertation title is changed after the oral defense, please insert the changed title.

\*Even if the dissertation is written in English, a Japanese language translation of the title and subtitle must also be submitted.



4. The results of the dissertation examination and the oral defense

\*Please write down Pass or Fail in both categories.

Dissertation examination : Pass

Oral defense : Pass

5. Summary of the Dissertation

As per attached sheet

6. Table of Contents

As per attached sheet

7. The results of the dissertation examination and the oral defense

(About 3,000 characters in Japanese or 1,000 words in English)

(1) Evaluation and summary of the dissertation examination

(Including Summary of the Dissertation)

As per attached sheet

(2) Summary of the oral defense (including Comments and Questions)

As per attached sheet

## 7 The results of the dissertation examination and the oral defense (Including Summary of the Dissertation)

### (1) Evaluation and summary of the dissertation examination

The examiners agreed that the dissertation was of high quality and interesting, although there were some reservations about the organization of the work. The dissertation consists of an Introduction, Part I, Part II, Part III, and a Conclusion. The Introduction explained the motivation for the research, and introduced the life and work of Higuchi Ichiyo. The research was designed to carry out, within the field of Translation Studies, an investigation and comparison between modern Japanese translations ('gendaigoyaku') and English, Spanish and Catalan translations of a short story by Higuchi Ichiyo, 'Takekurabe'. Part I described the theoretical framework and methodology of the study. With the aim of placing modern Japanese translations of classical literary works within the framework of translation studies, the field and the main theories in translation studies, especially Descriptive Translation Studies, were introduced and discussed. Further, the state of translation studies in Japan was introduced. The overall conclusion was that, although modern Japanese translations could be seen as an example of 'intralingual translation' as defined by Jakobson, his definition was too hermetic and overlooked the important parallels, in terms of both approach and technique, with interlingual translation. The candidate then discussed the importance of paratexts, such as covers, introductions and footnotes, to ascertaining the degree of 'otherness' evidenced in both kinds of translation. These paratexts can in turn be related to the translation strategies adopted in the different translations. Part II then turned to an examination of six different modern Japanese translations of the text to measure the level of otherness, taking into account both paratexts and the text. The prefaces were examined to bring out the different approaches to translating the original text, with some adopting a more foreignising approach and others a more domesticating approach. In general, all the translators stressed the aim of bringing readers back to the original text, a concern not evident in the interlingual translations. A detailed analysis of the footnotes according to a typology based on earlier work in translation studies supported these claims, as did a close textual analysis of strategies adopted by the translators in their texts. In general, analysis showed that texts and paratexts supported each other in the degree of otherness evidenced in the translations. Part III then turned to consider the interlingual translations. Three English, three Spanish and two Catalan translations were analyzed and compared. In general, the

covers were foreignising, but not exoticising, and the prefaces and postfaces did not discuss translation techniques so much as the original context of the story. Examination also revealed that the Spanish translations in particular seemed to have relied to some degree on modern Japanese translations. Footnotes, too, were predominantly ethnographic, that is, devoted to explaining features of Japanese culture and lifestyle relevant to the texts. In terms of translation strategies, the slightly surprising result was that whereas the Catalan and Spanish texts were largely foreignising, the English versions were all domesticating in approach. In the Conclusion, these results were summarized and it was argued that the dissertation had succeeded in its aim of developing a theoretical framework that would allow for the analysis of modern Japanese translations of classical literary texts within translation studies.

## (2) Summary of the oral defense

The examiners agreed that the dissertation represented a thorough and impressive piece of research, although all examiners felt that some of the material in the thesis could have been relegated to appendices. In the end, it was agreed that, in the spirit of Descriptive Translation Studies, the candidate's approach was acceptable in a PhD thesis, but in a book much of the evidence could be moved to appendices or omitted. Professor Law prepared a list of typographical errors and also made some comments about the theory. He also pointed to some useful information concerning the first English translation, by Nobunaga Seizo, which the candidate was able to follow up and incorporate in the final version of the thesis. Professor Mato raised the issue of the notion of the 'other' in the thesis and made some suggestions for improving the discussion. Pinnington also took up this question and asked for clarification concerning the distinction between 'foreignising' and 'exoticising'. There was also a general discussion of the use of prescriptive and descriptive approaches in translation studies. The examiners concluded by congratulating the candidate on the generally high quality of the thesis.

Following the oral defense, the candidate made the revisions to the dissertation suggested by the examiners, and the resubmitted thesis was then checked and the revisions ascertained by the examiners.