

Support Program for Improving Graduate School Education
The Center for Comparative Japanese Studies
Education for Women As Leaders Program
THE 2nd PUBLIC LECTURE in 2009

Speaker	Hiromi TSUCHIYA DOLLASE (Assistant Professor, Vassar College)
Topic	Shyōfujin(Little Women): the Emergence of a Tomboy Heroine in Meiji Japan
Time	June 26 th (Friday), 2009 17:00~18:30
Place	Faculty of Letters & Education, Building 1, 1 st Floor, Large Conference Room
Moderator	KAN, Satoko (Professor, Ochanomizu University)

Alcott's *Little Women*, which many of the young females still love to read in Japan, was introduced to the country as a translated fiction at a surprisingly early stage. In this lecture, Professor Tsuchiya Dollase looked at a translation *Shōfujin*, a first translation of the book done by a young Japanese woman, Kitada Shuho in 1906, and by comparing the translation with the original, illustrated its characteristics as a translated fiction in the Meiji Era, and the expectation of an image of new women which Shuho had put on the translation.

As the stage of the translated version, *Shōfujin*, was changed to Japan, Professor Tsuchiya Dollase pointed out some rather unnatural descriptions, which are typically seen in the translations done during the Meiji Era — some setups that appear to be comical from the present viewpoint, and which drew laughter from the audience. She also argued that this translation had been quite attractive to the readers, in that it had introduced them to new cultural aspects while living up to the Good-Wife-and-Wise-Mother Ideology which had been so dominant during that time in Japan that it had even modified the education of women along the ideology. One of the new cultural aspects was the notion of “home,” and another was the figure of Jo, one of the main characters most popular even now. About the latter, in particular, by comparing Tomboy Heroines Joe and Takayo from the works, she pointed out some differences in their denials (refusals) of femininity.

Professor Tsuchiya Dollase mentioned that Kitada Shuho, a translator unknown to us, had attempted to present a translation as attractive and provocative (though it may be a too strong a word) as possible. I was touched by the aspirations and will of the young woman from the old Meiji Era.

From the floor, there were many questions on “shojo shosetsu,” including Alcott's *Little Women*, from the viewpoint of Japan-US comparison, which led to lively, interesting discussions.

(Professor, Ochanomizu University, KAN, Satoko)