



## Conditions of Japanese literature in 1920s~1940s

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### ● Research Outline

#### On “SHANHAI”

”SHANHAI” is by Riichi Yokomitsu. The setting of this work is in Shanhai. Yokomitsu visited Shanhai to collect material for this work. A background is ‘5,30EVENT’. In those days Shanhai was under the control of Britain. Yokomitsu’s intention is to describe ‘Toyo no Gomidame(an Oriental dustbin)’. A scene of a riot is a climax. His style of writing is in his own way. A hero is Sanki. He is Japanese. But he left Japan ten years ago. After that he hasn’t returned his country. He gets to know Hou Shuran. She is a communist. She plays a leading role in the strike that causes a riot. He has an argument with her about the present situation of Shanhai. His characteristic is that he can’t separate himself from Japan though he loses his whereabouts in Japan.

#### On”RYOSYU(Sorrow of Journey)”

“RYOSYU” is by Riichi Yokomitsu. The setting of this work is the first half in Paris and the second half in Japan. An aim is what compares modern European ideas with concepts about Japan. In the first half Yashiro and Kuzi discuss the concept of the world. Yashiro respects special circumstances of Japan. Kuzi respects universal truth found in Europe. In the second half Yashiro is worried about Catholicism and natural science. One of his ancestors was destroyed by Catholics. His girlfriend is a Catholic. Yashiro thinks that natural science was born of Catholicism. Yashiro is a hero. And Yashiro’s thought is strange. But it requires an investigation.

