

Study on Japanese Early Modern Literature



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● Research Outline

My research field is the Edo period Japanese Literature, mainly studying the pieces of Saikaku Ihara(1642-1693).

Saikaku has the characteristic of writing by adapting elements from various written works, performance art and media. Its resource range from Japanese Classical pieces such as *The Tale of Genji* and *The Tale of Ise* to contemporary pieces such as Kanazōshi, popular lyrics and Jōruri drama. As a result, it is impossible to comprehend the pieces of such writer by simply translating it into modern language. To read, finding related pieces and information is first necessary, followed by pursuing the actual understanding of Saikaku and people of the time. Since the author and the reader live in the same age, many elements do not require extra explanation, but to the people of different era, elements “left unexplained because unnecessary” must be recovered in order to comprehend what was appealing.

My basic goal is to understand the Saikaku pieces by clarifying both the reception of Japanese Classics until the Edo period, and the minds of early Edo period Japanese, using books besides Saikaku and historical records.