

Translating Ise Monogatari through the Lens of Process Grammar Model

A Bilingual and Structured Approach to Classical Japanese Narratives

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Ariwara no Narihira

Introduction

- **Ise Monogatari:** A classic of Japanese literature established in CA. 10th century, Heian period.
- **Process Grammar Model:** A framework for understanding narrative structures
- **Bilingual approach:** Bridging classical Japanese and modern English

63 dan, ID 6, Tsukumogami

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  "date": [20240721, 20250214, 20250508],
  "id": 6,
  "text": "狩しありきけるにいきあひて、道にて馬の口をとりて、「かうかうなむ思ふ」といひければ、あはれがりて、来て寝にけり。",
  "kana (roman)": "karishi ari kikeru ni ikiahite, michi nite uma no kuchi wo torite, 'kaukau namu omofu' to ihikereba, aharegarite, kite ne nikeri",
  "koutei": "...",
  "honkoku": "...",
  "translation-ja": "狩りをして歩いているときに会って、道で馬の口をつかんで、「こうこうと思っています」と言ったので、同情して、来て寝た。",
  "translation-en": "While out hunting, he encountered [her], and on the road took hold of the horse's bridle, saying, 'This is what I think.' Feeling moved, [she] came and lay down [with him].",
  "phrase-gloss": [
    ... (omitted for brevity and bravery) ...
    {
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      "gloss": "on the road took hold of the horse's bridle",
      "words": [
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        { "word": "にて", "gloss": "LOC.CVB" },
        { "word": "馬", "gloss": "horse" },
        { "word": "の", "gloss": "GEN" },
        { "word": "口", "gloss": "mouth / bridle" },
        { "word": "を", "gloss": "ACC" },
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        { "word": "て", "gloss": "CVB" }
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    {
      "phrase": "「かうかうなむ思ふ」といひければ",
      "gloss": "saying, 'This is what I think'",
      "words": [
        { "word": "かうかう", "gloss": "thus and thus" },
        { "word": "なむ", "gloss": "FOC" },
        { "word": "思ふ", "gloss": "think" },
        { "word": "と", "gloss": "QUOT" },
        { "word": "いひ", "gloss": "say" },
        { "word": "けれ", "gloss": "PST" },
        { "word": "ば", "gloss": "when" }
      ]
    },
    {
      "phrase": "あはれがりて、来て寝にけり",
      "gloss": "being moved, she came and lay with him",
      "words": [
        { "word": "あはれがり", "gloss": "be.moved" },
        { "word": "て", "gloss": "CONJ" },
        { "word": "来", "gloss": "come" },
        { "word": "て", "gloss": "CONJ" },
        { "word": "寝", "gloss": "sleep" },
        { "word": "に", "gloss": "PERF" },
        { "word": "けり", "gloss": "PST" }
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{
  "abbreviations": {
    "CONJ": "conjunctive",
    "PST": "past",
    "LOC": "locative",
    "GEN": "genitive",
    "ACC": "accusative",
    "FOC": "focus",
    "QUOT": "quotative",
    "PERF": "perfective"
  },
  "translation-ja-natural": "男が狩りに出かけていたとき、道で出会った三男が馬の口をつかみ、「こんなふうに思っています」と伝えた。男はそれを聞いて心を動かされ、ある女のもとへ行き、一夜を共にした。",
  "translation-en-natural": "While the man was out hunting, he met a young man on the road who took hold of his 'horses bridle and said, 'This is how I feel.' Moved by those words, the man went to a certain woman and spent the night with her.",
  "notes-ja": [...],
  "notes-en": [
    {
      "title": "The narrator and the 'man'",
      "note": "In the Ise Monogatari, the narrator refers to himself in the third person as 'the man.' This self-distancing technique allows the text to feel autobiographical while maintaining a poetic and narrative detachment. In this passage, the -narratorpresumed to be -Narihira is recounting his own experience in such terms."
    }
  ]
}
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in JSON format

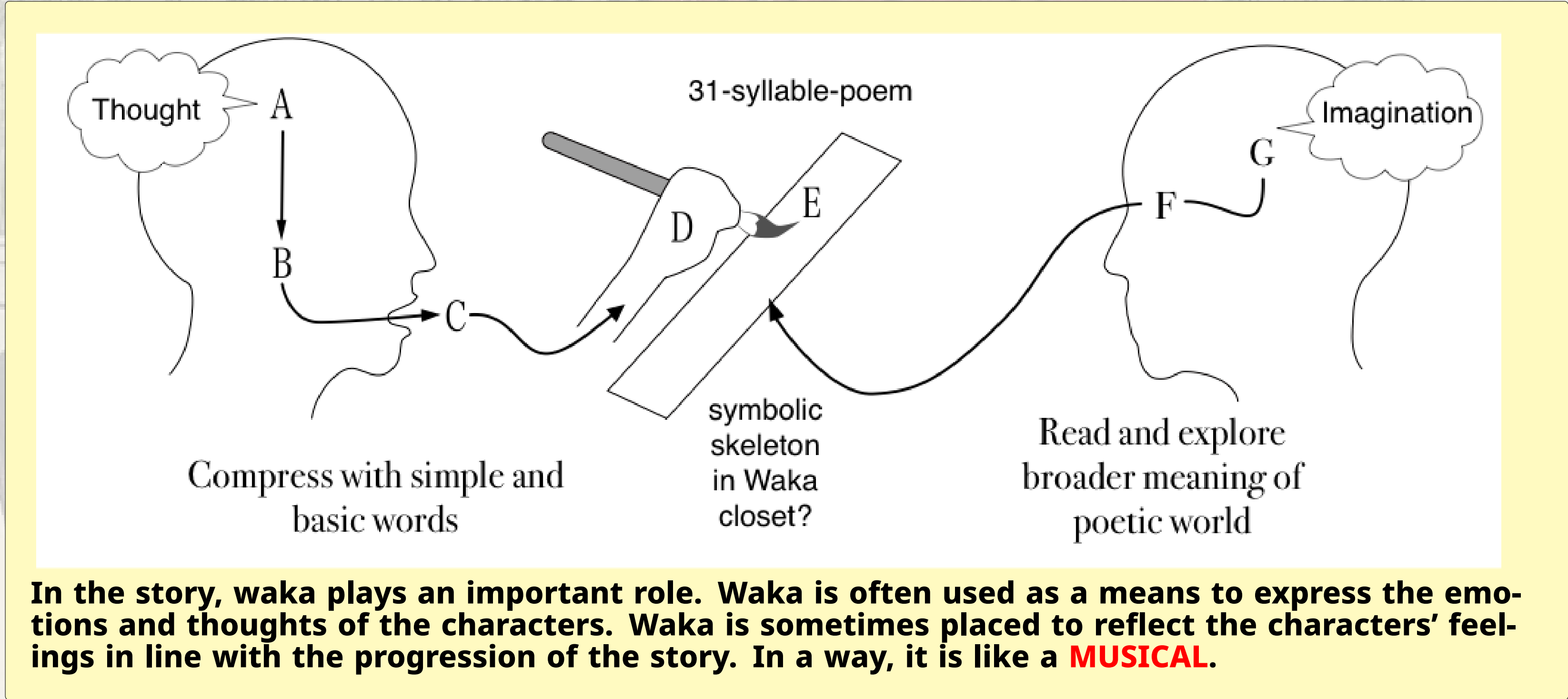
Phrase-gloss is intended to help understand the meaning and grammatical function of the original text.

Uma no kami ("Master of Horses") is actually Narihira himself.

Thus and thus..., what?

Sleep? With whom?

Gloss? LGR?



Do not translate TOO MUCH!

If it is necessary, interpretation can be written in notes-ja/en.



Conclusion

- Created a complete bilingual literal and natural translation of all 125 sections of Ise Monogatari.
- Using the Process Grammar Model, we segmented the literal translation into phrases and added gloss to each phrase.
- On that basis, we combined phrases into a natural modern Japanese or English translation, considering the relationships between phrases.

References

- Yamamoto, H. (2025). Process Grammar Model (v1.0.11). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15613134> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15613134
- Yamamoto, H. (2024). The Tales of Ise, Contemporary Japanese and English translation dataset (v1.0.1) [Data set]. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13994483> DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.13994483