Translating Ise Monogatari through the Lens of Process Grammar Model
A Bilingual and Structured Approach to Classical Japanese Narratives

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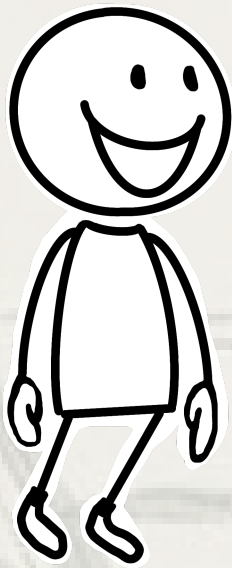[1] **Institute of Science Tokyo**   [2] **The University of Osaka**

Ariwara no Narihira

Introduction

- Ise Monogatari: A classic of Japanese literature
- Process Grammar Model: A framework for understanding narrative structures
- Bilingual approach: Bridging classical Japanese and modern English

52 dan, ID 6

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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出会って、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) ...
  {
    "phrase": "道にて馬の口をとりて ",
    "gloss": "on the road took hold of the horse's bridle",
    "words": [
      { "word": "道 ", "gloss": "road" },
      { "word": "にて ", "gloss": "LOC.CVB" },
      { "word": "馬 ", "gloss": "horse" },
      { "word": "の ", "gloss": "GEN" },
      { "word": "口 ", "gloss": "mouth / bridle" },
      { "word": "を ", "gloss": "ACC" },
      { "word": "とり ", "gloss": "take" },
      { "word": "て ", "gloss": "CVB" }
    ]
  },
  {
    "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" }
    ]
  @*)}
],
"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 -Narihirais recounting his
          own experience in such terms."
  },
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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]

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