

## Master's Thesis Abstract

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Name:

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Major Program / Course :

- Cultural Arts Course
- Modern Inter-Cultural Studies Course
- Policy Science Course

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Title

“Weak” Men in Tamura Toshiko's Novels--Thinking about *Miira no kuchibeni* and *Horaku no Kei*--

Tamura Toshiko, the first female professional writer in modern Japan, was mainly active in the late Meiji period to the early Taisho period. Her novels always depict questions about women. Among them, the problem of conflict between the sexes called "Danjo no Sokoku" has been repeatedly treated.

Among the previous studies, especially on the subject of "Danjo no Sokoku", is a tendency to focus on the female characters, but there is considerably little evaluation of the male characters in the novels. With regard to the point, understanding must be given not only to women but also to men. Therefore, this paper focused on *Miira no kuchibeni* (Mummy's Lipstick, 1913) and *Horaku no Kei* (The Torture of Hot Pillar, 1914) among a series of novels based on "Danjo no Sokoku", and examined the male characters in the novels.

According to the precedent study, the “weak” image of the male characters such as Yoshio in *Miira no kuchibeni* and Keiji, Kozo in *Horaku no Kei* has been pointed out. In these studies, however, there is no mention of the detailed explanation of the weakness and how to evaluate it. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine and clarify the weakness of the male characters as in relation to female characters who pursued ego.

In Chapter 1, the purpose of this paper is set based on the contents of previous studies. In Chapter 2 and 3, images of the male characters in the novels were examined from two aspects. First, the understanding of male characters' own behavior and internal description was discussed. Secondly, the viewpoint about the male characters which depended on the Female Perspectives was observed. In Chapter 4, based on the masculinity of the Taisho Period and the characteristics of the modern patriarchal, analyzed how men's' weakness' reveals aspects of "Danjo no Sokoku". Chapter 5 describes the conclusion of the whole thesis.

As a conclusion of this study, it was pointed out that the content of "weakness" was different depending on whether or not a female partner exists. Whether Yoshio and Keiji are "husbands" depends on the needs of their partners. Therefore, which opinion drawn in this paper was that, they play a formal "husband" in this way. In addition, the “weakness” of Kozo who is a single person, appears in the fact that it does not express the true feelings of himself and can not measure the inside of the woman. Then, it is revealed that Kozo's “weakness” also shows that he has to accept the patriarchal. On the other hand, under the thought that men are superior to women, Yoshiko and Keiji's behavior is reasonable. However, the fact that they were insensitive of the patriarchal was found out. As a result, it is difficult for men to be in the same phase as women in "Danjo no Sokoku", and because of their lack of awareness, it is hard for men to find themselves in a difficult situation and seek a way of life.