

A Note from the Editor

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This is the fifth volume of the journal *Meiji University Asian Studies*. For this volume, the current editorial board members wanted to gather new and innovative approaches to the journal. This marks our attempt to add a few new dimensions to this journal. The theme of this volume, in recognition of the journey of the past five years, is translation.

Back in 2018, this journal started under the initiative of Masato Goda, the former dean of Meiji University's School of Arts and Letters, and Hideki Aotani, the former editor-in-chief of this journal. The original idea of launching this online journal was to make scholarship of the members and the partners of the School more visible and accessible to a wider audience by translating their publications, which were originally written in Japanese. Even though there were variety of research and manuscripts published by the members of the School of Arts and Letters, the majority of their works were published in Japanese and were practically inaccessible for those outside of the Japanese-speaking sphere. Therefore, all of the articles in the first volume (2019) were the translated version of School's faculty members works which had been originally published in Japanese.

In the second volume (2020), the journal took a different approach by having two original articles in philosophy and theater in addition to the translated article on Japan's cultural resource management in archaeology. Still, in order to select more precise words and phrases in English to represent the message of their articles, the editors and the authors carefully exchanged their ideas both in English and in Japanese throughout the editing process. In fact, over the last five years, whether the submitted article is written in English or in Japanese, one of the main responsibilities of the editors of this journal has been to facilitate the flow of the author's message. Effective linguistic translation is possible with careful attention to the layers of cultural and social factors behind each article. This can be achieved by having multiple open-ended conversations among author, translator, editor (and sometimes the audience as well). As we published further volumes over the following years, such inquiries on effective translation became more apparent as we worked on the manuscripts from a wider range in the humanities and social sciences. Takamura's article (2021) on ancient Chinese bamboo and wooden slips (漢簡) required four-way translations in contemporary Japanese, classic Japanese, classic Chinese, and English; Kai in this volume presents the classic Japanese translation practice of Chinese document. Ho and I exchanged several emails to decide which words to replace with English vocabulary and which words to keep in Japanese and in Korean to effectively send his message in the translated version of his autobiographic article (2022).

In this volume, we have bilingual reports on educational practices in English and in Japanese from Meiji University and from our partner institutions, in addition to Fujikawa's original article on the correspondence of the Catholic Church in the 16th century over their concerns about the political relationship among European nations, Persia, and the Ottoman Empire. Since the launch of this journal,

translation has been a major method for dissemination. While we have worked on publishing articles from a wide range of academic disciplines from the humanities and social sciences (such as Asian history to contemporary sociology; or cultural resource management to the autobiographic narratives of Japan's minority group), we have not set a theme of discussion. In this volume, all of the educational reports, along with Fujikasa's article, relate to various aspects of translation from the linguistic to the cultural. Having these reports in a bilingual format, we would like to see this volume function as a platform for further discussion of the importance and challenges of translation in academic and educational environments.