
Preface

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and satisfaction to say a few words of welcome to all the people gathered here to attend the Third International Conference of the Global COE program: “Identity in Text Interpretation and Everyday Life”. In 2002 the Ministry of Education *alias* MEXT in Japan publicly promoted a special five-years grant-in-aid program “the 21st Century COE Program” in order to create competition between academics. We submitted a research proposal entitled “Studies for the Integrated Text Science” to the selection committee of the JSPS that worked on behalf of MEXT. We succeeded in obtaining the grant and I would reveal here that the committee of *ex post facto* evaluation has blessed our former project with the highest rating after five years of its performance in 2007. It must be stressed that we belong to the Happy Few who received the highest marks from *post-factum* evaluation along with Hokkaido University and Keio University in the Humanities group.

During the latter part of quinquennial program, they say that MEXT had been considering shifting the focus of the ministerial plan from research to education giving it the name “Global COE” program. We were puzzled a little over the change of ministerial directive but thanks to discussions by leading members we finally created a good project to propose, which succeeded in passing a harder peer screening system. This success is all the more valuable considering the fact that the number of selected projects has been reduced to half of the former program. Our new project named “Hermeneutic Study and Education of Textual Configuration” consists of discovering the logical disposition of textual constituents, which must be varied from one text to another, according to the nature and function of the text itself and by means of interpretative practices.

Starting from the commencement of our new program, we organized two international conferences: the first was a joint one with SHELL (The Society of Historical English Language and Linguistics) last September and the second one was held last December on the subject of French literature texts with the title “Balzac, Flaubert. La genèse de l’oeuvre et la question de l’interprétation”. Today, to my great pleasure, we are going to attend the third international conference discussing “Identity in Text Interpretation and Everyday Life”. I am sure that this highly academic meeting will also provide, as with the two previous conferences, precious results to the human sciences.

I am very grateful to all of the guest speakers independently of nationalities and living places where they traveled from for more or less a longtime to join us. They accepted our invitation to deliver papers on their research activities or ideas enriching the text sciences. Some of them have already visited our university as invited scholars and others are going to discover the university and the city as well. I hope that all of them will enjoy their stay in Nagoya after they have presented their thought provoking discussions about their work.

Last but not least, on behalf of all the members of the project I would like to thank Professor Masa-chiyo Amano and those who have worked under his instruction for organizing this conference and enabling it to run efficiently and successfully.

Thank you.

Shoichi SATO

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