

「町田くんの世界」を日本語と英語の世界から覗き込む

—日本コンテンツ文化英訳プロジェクトの目的と意義

昨今「クールジャパン」という言葉で、日本の様々な文化・サブカルチャーに国外から注目が集まっています。それに伴い日本国内で「日本的な」ものは国外から評価されるのだ、という風潮の広まりに、私は疑問を抱いていました。むしろ「クールジャパン」の広まりを素直に喜ぶより、日本語が母語でない人々がなぜ日本の文化や言葉から発生した作品に惹かれるのか、文化・言葉の壁を越えて感動や共感が広がっているのなら、そこを超える翻訳とはどのようなものか、そういったことを知りたいと考えていました。

そこで私は iCoToBa の講座で「町田くんの世界」という少女マンガを取り上げ、その答えを探すことにしました。少女マンガは伝統的に、恋愛や友情といった普遍的な人間関係における感情にフォーカスする作品の多いジャンルです。その一方で、時には物語の構造がパターン化されている、読者の憧れが単純に反映されているだけだ、という批判を受けることもあります。その点では、あるマンガの賞で斬新な主人公のキャラクター造形を評価された「町田くんの世界」を扱うことで、マンガの新しい部分・伝統的な部分の両面について考えを深められたのではないかと思います。

英語を専攻していない私には翻訳で悩む箇所も多くありましたが、日本と英語圏の文化・言葉の違いについて意識的に考える良い機会であったと思います。私に引き続き、日本文化学部が自身の専攻を活かし、こういったプロジェクトに参加することや、外国語学部の学生が日本の文化についても考えてみるといった取り組みが、今後さらに盛り上がっていくことを願います。

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He'll say yes, even if he doesn't like her.

Machida is such a good person.

You think Machida'll turn her down?

.....

When he said, "let's take it slow",

I was so happy.

If you think so, then you should tell him your own feelings.

.....

==

Oh, Where did Inohara and Sakae go?

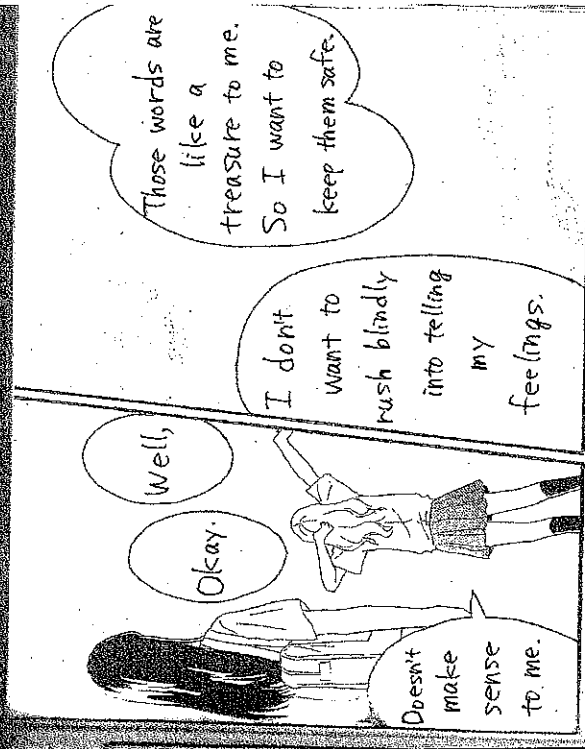
They said they went back to the classroom.

Okay.

..... I've got to be.

You're okay with this?

There's no way to stop it.



Those words are like a treasure to me. So I want to keep them safe.

Why do Normal Girls like Beauties?

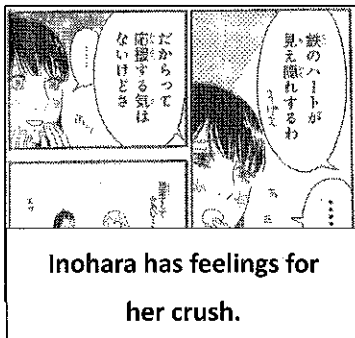
The famous manga writer Fumi Saimon once said, “male readers of manga don’t like cool, good-looking heroes. They prefer ordinary people who they can identify with.” On the other hand, the heroines in girls’ manga tend to be beautiful. Why can these characters get sympathy from the ordinary girls who read manga? Let us consider this question using characters from the recent manga series, *Machida’s World* (*Machida-kun no sekai*) by Yuki Andō.

The heroine of this manga, Inohara, is a beautiful and brilliant girl but she keeps people at a distance. In the opening volumes of the manga, she has a bitter attitude toward Machida, who is the hero in the work. At the beginning, most readers will likely feel that she is unpleasant, and therefore not relatable. However, as the story continues, the reader develops a good impression of her and therefore begins to relate to her. Her characterization accomplishes this through two features. One of these is that she has the relatable reactions of a ‘common’ girl. The other is that the manga shows her to actually be a sincere person.

Because she is so beautiful, she is never concerned about compliments. However, she feels embarrassed to be praised by Machida. In addition, when some girl tries to attract Machida’s attention, Inohara looks worried. These reactions are common among young girls in school life. She knows that she is beautiful, but she worries about the person she loves in the same manner as others girls do. Therefore, the readers can identify with her. That’s the point of the identification: not the character, but the reaction.

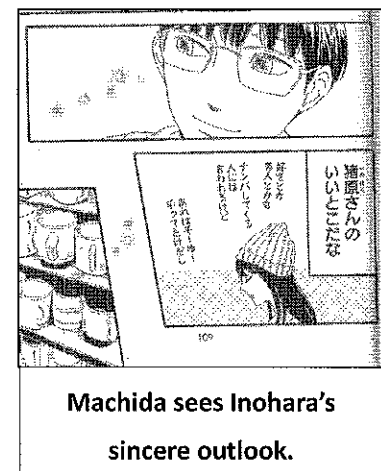


The second reason, Inohara's sincerity, is very effective in simulating feelings of closeness to her; she is posed as the reader's "good friend." Girls tend to like sincere friends. (This is likely not limited to girls.) In *Machida's World*, Inohara's classmate Sakae says, "Inohara, you have a cute side" to her when Inohara is visibly upset because the boy she likes is dating another person. If Inohara had acted out of jealousy instead of honest nervousness, the readers wouldn't have



sympathized her, and therefore Sakae wouldn't have said that. In this scene, Sakae is a substitute for the reader who wants to cheer on the honest feelings of a close friend.

When a male classmate tells Inohara that he loves her, she accepts the proposal for a date even though she has no feelings for him. This is because she thinks that she must turn down his feelings only after she comes to know his true personality. In this scene the hero, Machida, says, "Inohara is a sincere person" and that "sincerity is one of her good points." It is likely that the readers have the same impression. Here too, Machida is the substitute of the reader's identification.

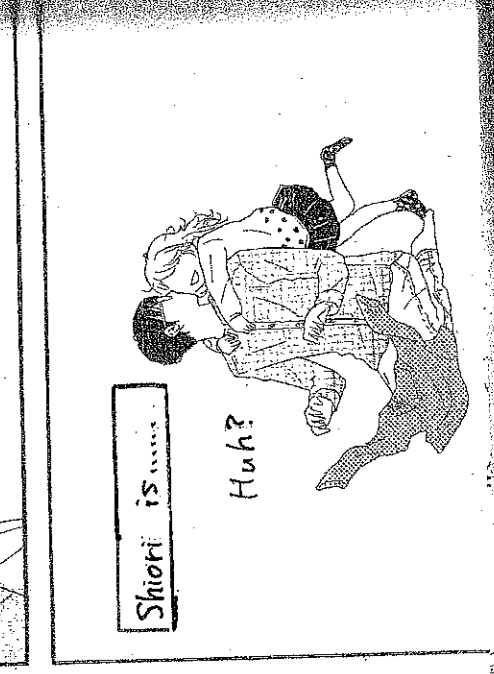
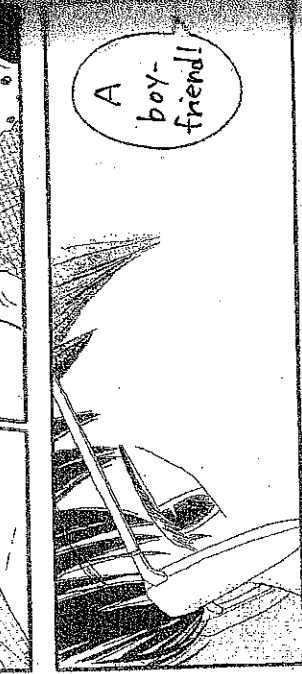
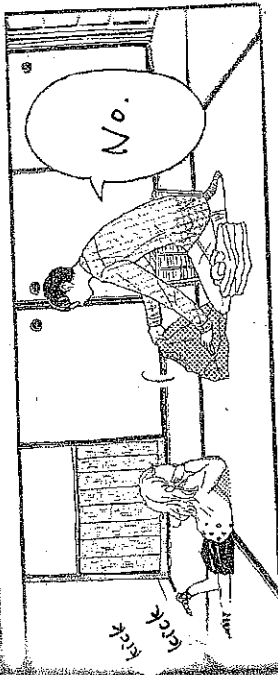


Based to these observations, we can say that girls' manga heroines have points through which the reader can identify with her.

The manga story gives the reader many chances to "cheer on" Inohara, by showing her reacting to common situations. Ideally, school-age girls want to cheer on their friends, but in real society relationships are very complicated. Some girls have feelings of jealousy, while others try to rank and classify people. For these reasons, many feel like they can't cheer on their real-life friends. However, by reading the stories in girls' manga they can simulate the experience of having a beautiful, sincere, ideal friend.

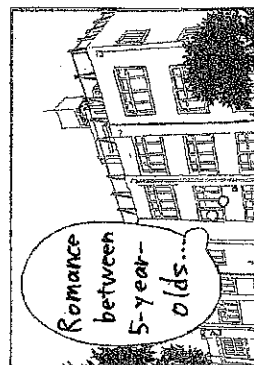
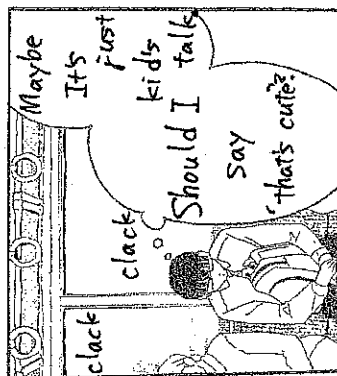
The hero of boy's manga is the reader's alter ego. However, the heroine of girls' manga is

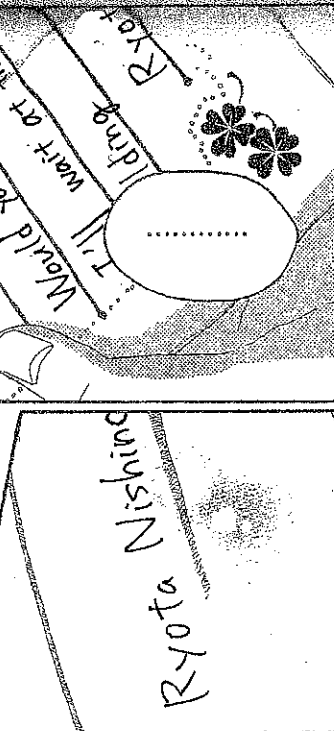
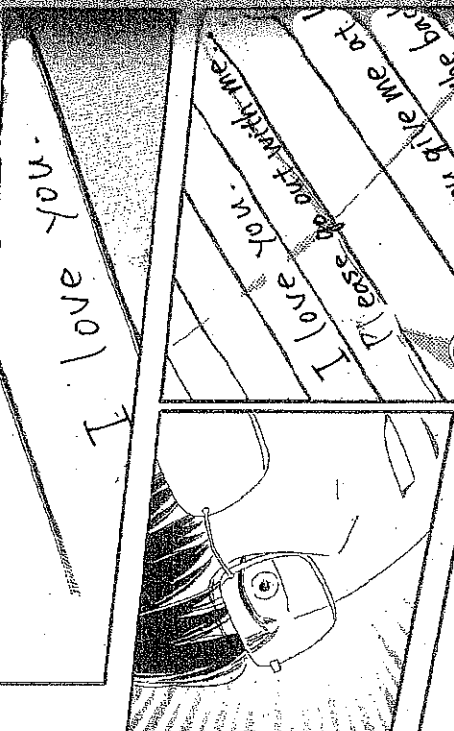
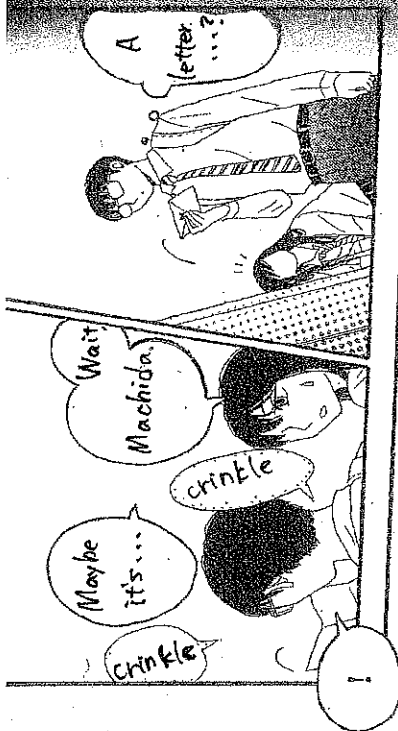
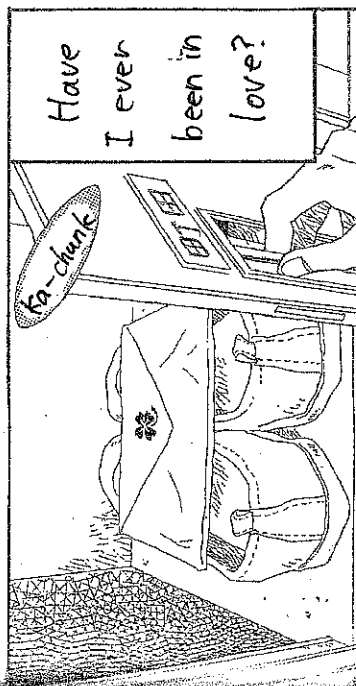
not completely the same style. Instead, she is also an ideal image, not of the reader, but the reader's ideal friend. Beauty is one element of an idealized version of a female personality. For the reader to idealize a character, that character must be "perfect," including "gentleness," "adventurousness" and also "strength." Can we not say that "beauty" is on this list as well?

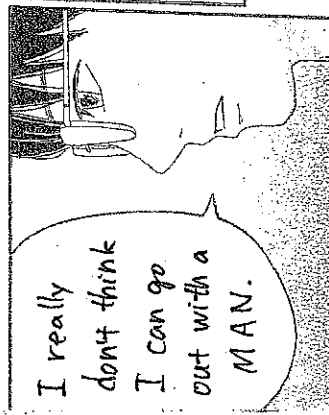
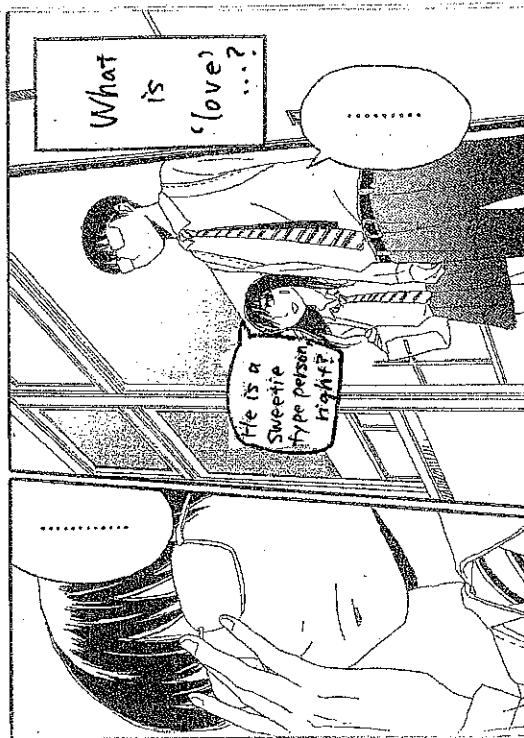
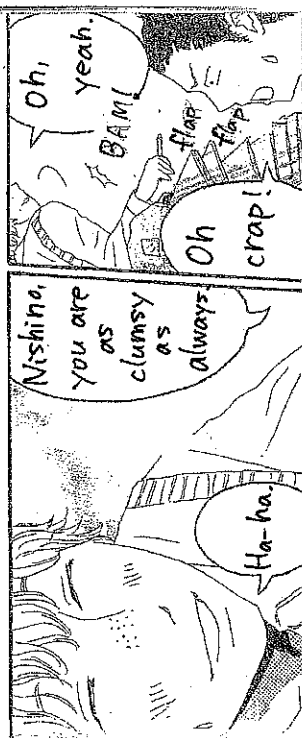


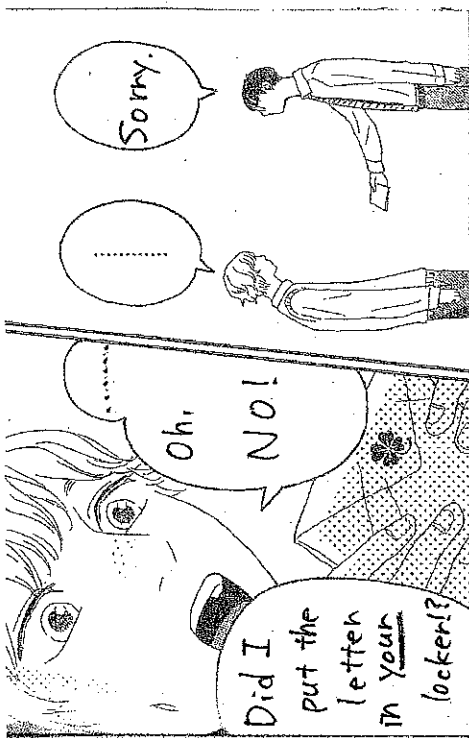


just 5 years old.











.....
has ever
treated me
as their
equal.

Nobody
.....



That's
because
I'm
just
a
CLOWN.

I don't
think
so.

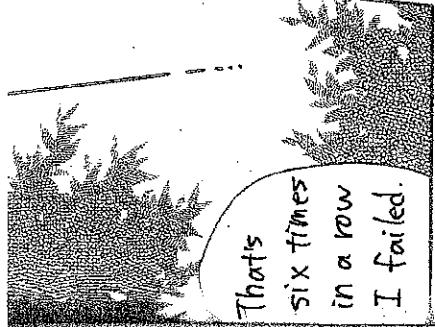


You are brave
to try to tell
your feelings.

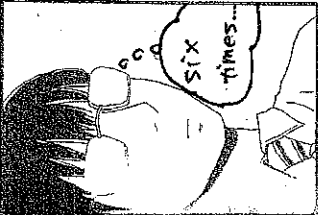


I think
not many
people
have your
courage.

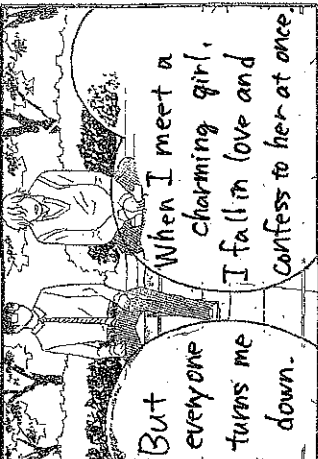
Even if
it fails,
you
never
give up.



That's
six times
in a row
I failed.



six
times...



But
everyone
turns me
down.

When I meet a
charming girl,
I fall in love and
confess to her at once.

I'm kind
of a
side
character.

It's
always
been
like
that.

but
I can't think
of you as a
man.

Umm
maybe

They
said,
"You're
a good
friend,"

How to Create Equal Friendships

What do you like about your friends? Maybe this is a difficult question, since usually the reasons people like other people are composed of many complicated factors. Not all of these factors are directly related to the friends' special points. If someone says, "I like my friend because he (or she) is convenient for me" you are likely to feel unpleasant. However, it is also likely that sometimes you yourself have a similar attitude toward your friends without knowing it. In fact, convenience is one important factor in creating friendships. These "convenient friends" of yours are probably like a certain character in the recent manga *Machida's World* by Yuki Ando. The hero Hajime Machida's relationship with this character is the good example of how to avoid "convenience friendship" and establish equal friendships.

The character Ryota Nishino is a careless person, to put it mildly. He drops papers, puts important letters in the wrong person's locker, and many other things. Because of these traits, he often is looked down on by people around him. You know a person like this, don't you? For example, at the office, among your relatives, in school, or among your friends. In one important scene, he talks to Machida about how "clumsy" he is.

「俺、いじられキャラってゆーか、あんまり同等に見てもらえないかんじなんだ」

"Nobody treat me as their equal...Uh, that's because I'm just a clown."

From this statement we can see that, although Nishino doesn't mind his position so much, he certainly doesn't like it. However, he grudgingly accepts others' treatment of him, because he is aware of his own faults. However Machida praises Nishino's energy, "Even if it fails, you never give up. I think not many people have your courage." Although Machida doesn't deny that Nishino has faults, he recognizes that that Nishino's lack of fear at confessing his love to the girls he likes represents a positive characteristic as well. Recognizing both the good and bad in a person is the sincerest evaluation you can give.



「ありがとう。今日ふたりに対等に向き合ってもらって俺、恋が
実ったくらいの気持ちだ」

In the scene after Machida and his female friend Inohara rescue Nishino from being treated unfairly by a group of boys who use Nishino as a “convenient friend,” Nishino thanks Inohara **“Thank you! Because you and Machida hung out with me today, I feel as good as if I could get a girl’s affections.”** Nishino is definitely a “clumsy” person but he also has the courage and honesty to thank people he cares about. In real life, it is difficult to make proper relationship between boyfriends and girlfriends, and between friends as well. However if you feel moved by the relationships in *Machida’s World*, it is certainly worth making efforts to establish equal relationships.

