



The differences of connotations between two flowers, plum and cherry, in classical Japanese poetry, 10th century.

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Introduction

- This project addresses an analysis of connotations of flowers in classical poetry: i. e., ‘ume’ (plum) and ‘sakura’ (cherry) .
- We will identify the characteristics of two flowers by computer modeling.
- Using parallel texts of original texts and contemporary translations of classical Japanese poetry, *the Kokinshū*, we will clarify the details of connotations in an objective procedural manner that is not influenced by human observations.
- The aim is to examine whether or not the residual of *CT* – *OP* gives information on the non-literal elements of *OP*.

Problem

1. What is the difference between *ume* (plum) and *sakura* (cherry)?
2. What kind of connotations does each flower contain?
3. Which picture is that of cherry flowers?



Methods

Material: *Kokinshū* a.k.a. *Kokinwakashū* is: the first anthology compiled by the order of Emperor Daigo (ca. 905), which contains about 1,111 poems. And 10 sets of their **Contemporary Japanese Translations (CT)**

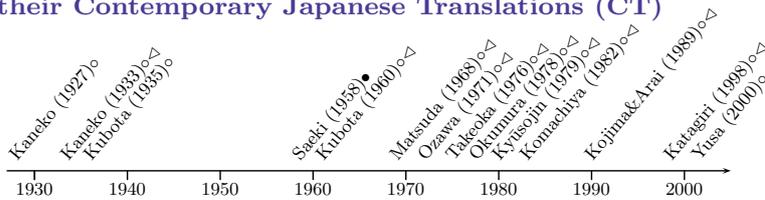


Fig. 1: Dates of publication of annotations of the *Kokinshū*: ◊ indicates that it has CT; ● indicates that it does not include CT; ▷ indicates that it is used in this project.

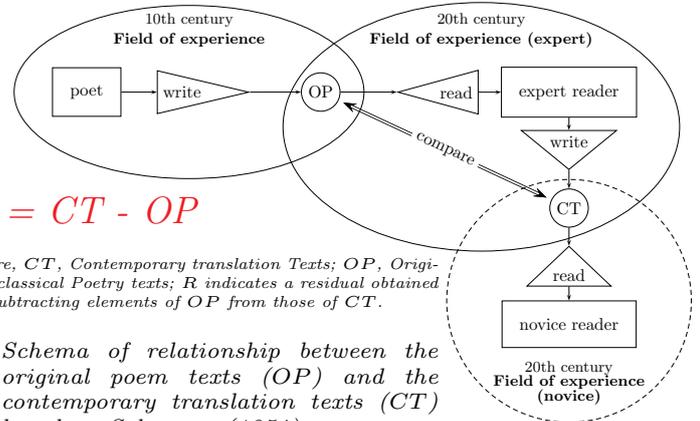


Fig. 2: Schema of relationship between the original poem texts (*OP*) and the contemporary translation texts (*CT*) based on Schramm (1954).

Result

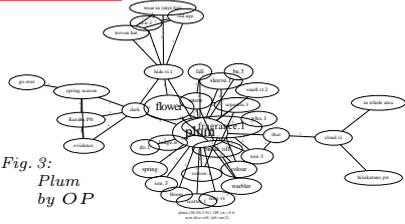


Fig. 3: Plum by *OP*

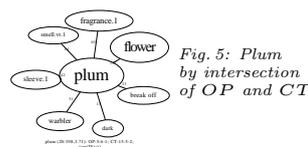


Fig. 5: Plum by intersection of *OP* and *CT*

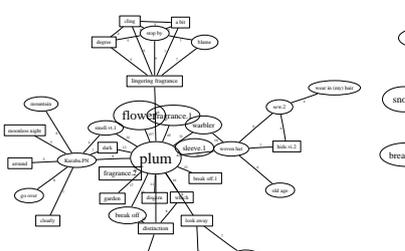


Fig. 4: Plum by *CT*

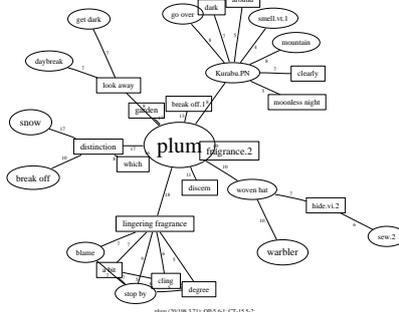


Fig. 6: Plum by subtracting *OP* from *CT*

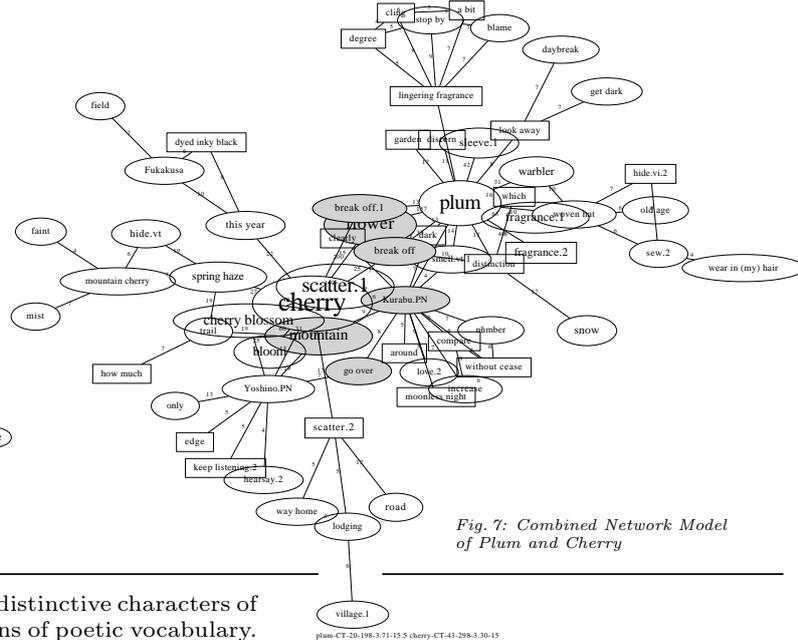


Fig. 7: Combined Network Model of Plum and Cherry

Conclusion

- It will be necessary to examine not only common nouns but also the distinctive characters of proper nouns in order to further examine the connotative associations of poetic vocabulary.
- We observed proper nouns such as place names, *Kurabu*, *Tatsuta*, *Otowa*, *Yoshino* in the network models of common nouns, and concluded that they seem to strongly influence the associations of poetic vocabulary.
- The relative salience clearly indicates that both *ume* (plum) and *sakura* (cherry) share *Kurabu yama* (Mt. Kurabu), which comprises a cluster of nodes in the sub-network.

Reference

- Schramm, W. L. 1954. How communication works. *The process and effects of mass communication*. 3–26. University of Illinois Press.
- Yamamoto, H. 2006. Extraction and Visualisation of the Connotation of Classical Japanese Poetic Vocabulary. Symposium for Computer and Humanities, 2006. The information processing society of Japan. Vo. 2006, No. 17, 21–8.