

Re: Senryuu containing the word ÷ (chimata)

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On Sun, 16 Jul 2006 13:31:14 -0400, Phil Yff wrote:

We had a thread about senryuu (short humorous or quixotic verse) and a thread where we ended up talking about the shades of meaning of ÷ (a~_ - chimata) whose meanings range from street or section of town to society, public, public opinion, etc. Just for the fun of it, I thought I'd try to find senryuu that contained the word ÷ (a~_ - chimata) and came up with a couple. Because of the tight, terse construction they are hard to translate. For example, in the first one, there is no particle between ÷(chimata) and LO (iku or yuku). I have taken chimata to be the subject and interpreted it to mean society. However, I can see other interpretations.

あ%œOjDShj\K÷LO %あ ,,
Somehow, without wanting to know anything, society goes on.

To further explain why I find this ambiguous, I feel I could also have translated this verse as follows:

Wanting to be left alone, inexplicably I went into town.

In this interpretation, I see あ%œOjD (shiraretaku nai) as in あ%œOjD)) (shiraretaku nai kenri) – right to privacy and j\K (nazeka) in the context of without knowing why. Note that here I interpret ÷ (chimata) as town with the underlying meaning that it is a specific section of town.

Mata ato de,

Phil Yff

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