

# WRITING TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATED JAPANESE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED THE GLASS RABBIT

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**Abstract**— This article is aimed to the study on Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” with the objective of study the writing techniques according to literature elements, language usage, and also the value of facts and opinions of the author about the event of second World War. This can be defined as The plot of this documentary is not complicated, it has clear main plot, that is the conflict between human and war that show the cruelty and loss brought by the war which bring nothing but destruction. This main conflict affected the story, opening by the most familiar thing for the author, which is her home and neighborhood. Then, the opening of each chapter will be a narration about place, event, character, and date by time respectively. The story process is conducted by solving each problem one by one without complication. The ending is the summary that the war and conflict was ended, and the author ended with her most familiar thing, her home and neighborhood, but the different feeling of before and after the war was hidden in there too. In her happiness of something close to her, the opening is the happiness that the readers could clearly understand and see the hidden difference. Before she narrates, she will narrate through character of the story, which is Toshiko Takagi herself as the main character using first person point of view. The narration in this type will make readers understand the situation and feeling of the character deeply while also perceive the feeling of other characters through the eyes of the protagonist too.

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**Index Terms**- writing techniques, translated Japanese, autobiographical documentary and The Glass Rabbit.

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## Background and significance

A literature is a mirror of society. The reflection of society in literatures did not appear as a documentary that only states only facts, but as a mirror of the experience of the author and a part of event that has truths of each society. A literature could reflect the society in both substantial and abstract. The substantial means the normal occurrence in the society and the abstract is about values, thoughts, and minds of people in the society.

Moreover, not only a literature is a mirror of the society, the society also influences the transmitted creativity and value in the literature. In the other word, the author usually is influenced by the culture, customs, religion, philosophy, and politic of the society. These factors define the vision and view of life of the author, which directly influenced the literature created on the vision of each author in each era and environment.

The vision in the literature is not about facts but act as the structure of thought and emotion created by the experience, which is also called conscious mind. The role of

vision is to set the structure of the creation of a literature as is a source of the outside world, which is the theme and elements of each literature. Trisin Bunkhachon[1] mentioned that “good literature must clearly reflect the state of society in each period, while a great literature will

bring main problems from the contemporary experience to the truth”.

From what mentioned above, a literature is a tool to reflect society. Therefore, it is another way to learn about different cultures in the society through the literatures. However, one of the obstacles of that learning is the language barrier if the reader could not understand or lack ability to read the original language of the literature. From that reason, translated literatures are an alternative method to transmit stories without any barrier.

Translated literature is a work that the translator translated the literature from one language to another by keeping the content or idea as close as the original language as possible[2]. Moreover, there are also many translation academicians who gave the definition of translated literature such as Chaiyaporn Inthuwisarn[3] mentioned that translated literature or a translation is like a bridge that connects readers and authors within the country with the society outside. If there are many people who could read and learn about other cultures, that would mean the widening of view and understanding life in another view, which might be used in creativities or creation of understanding on international level. Same as Bualak Naksongkaew[4] mentioned that the development of Thai language teaching model to enhance analytical thinking skills consisted of presentation of problems, select strategies for problem solving and etc.

Books or literatures are another media that gains a high number of popularity, especially at the beginning

of World War II. There are many literatures about World Wars published in Japan and other countries, showing that there are many authors who conveyed war stories through writings with the concept of protesting wars from their experience in the past. An author created many war stories, including the translation in many countries and many re-publishing until while also received many literature awards from Japan and the world. The popular examples of translated Japanese literature about wars are such as "Hiroshima Diary", "Sadako and the thousand paper cranes", "Two Iida", and "Mieko and the fifth treasure".

As Kularb Mallikamas[5] mentioned that literature is a writing in a form of poetry, verse, and all writings that use prose language including articles, documentaries, novels, short stories, play scripts, movie scripts, drama scripts, and all of the columns on newspapers. Therefore, in order to study literature as a reflection of the society, the researcher then decided to study the documentary literature "The Glass Rabbit" with contents as followed.

"The Glass Rabbit" is a life documentary of Toshiko Takagi, which is her personal experience during World War II that aim to give the reader information, facts, and opinions while also entertain them with her writing techniques that have all elements in completion adhere to storytelling in the form of historical documentary novel.

Autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" received an excellent award of peace and youth cultural prize of Japanese Ministry of Public Health and became a television drama 2 times. This literature was translated into many languages including German, English, Thai, Chinese, Bengal, Srilankan, Indian, and Spanish respectively. There are 2 editions, the original in 1977 and new edition in 2000 by Toshiko Takagi. In Thailand, there are two translation of The Glass Rabbit including the translation of original edition by Budsaba Banchongmanee in year 1987 and the new edition by Kamchai Laisamit in year 2003.

However, both 2 editions have the same goal, which is the objective of making readers feel opposing to war and emphasize the late generations to not indulge in present and future without looking back at the past.

Moreover, the translate Japanese autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" also present the concept of war interestingly and also describe the suffering of both mind and body of Japanese people who have to endure during the second World War until the readers could imagine about how evil the war is and feel oppose to have any other war.

From what mentioned above, the researcher see that the Japanese autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" is interesting in its writing techniques that could entertain the readers like fictions while also

presenting the war interestingly, The facts, opinions of the writer, and the stylistic in this literature make the readers conformable with the characters like they really are present in that event. Therefore, the researcher was interested in analysis this Japanese autobiography documentary in detail of its content, writing techniques, language usage, and values.

#### Objective

1. To study the Japanese autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" in term of writing techniques according to literature elements.

#### Scope

1. Study the Japanese autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" by Toshiko Takagi, translated by Budsaba Banchongmanee, first edition. Bangkok: Ruhaeng Publish House. 1987 [6]
2. Study writing techniques and language usage.
3. Study Japanese society situation during the second World War. [7-8]
4. Study the apparent facts and opinions of the author.

#### Method

This study is a documentation research and present in the form of qualitative analysis with methods as followed:

1. Set the structure of the thesis.
2. Set the background and importance of the problem while also state the objective, scope, and method.
3. Study and collect related information and documents for the research.
4. Study the theories of literature and related theories about data analysis.
5. Analyze the Japanese autobiography documentary "The Glass Rabbit" in detail of its content, writing techniques, language usage, and values according to the objective.
6. Summarize the research and present in a form of thesis.

#### Expected benefits

1. See the value of writing techniques and language usage in autobiography documentary.
2. See the concept and value of facts and opinion of the author in the event of World War II.
3. Become a guideline for readers to use and adapt with current society and situation.
4. Become a guideline for study autobiography documentary later on.

## RELATED RESEARCH

### 1. Conceptual framework

#### 1.1 Literature review

Because the Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” used techniques that completed all elements in the literature, the researcher then used novel analyzation principles as the concept idea and study theory as followed.

Thawat Punnotok[9] wrote the book “Current literature study guide” which presented about the study guide of literature divided into parts according to current Thai literatures, which were divided into 10 chapters. Chapter 1 of the current literature provided the knowledge of novel, value, and current types of Thai literatures. Chapter 2 mentioned about Thai literature evolutions that was divided into 4 periods including Sukhothai, the beginning of Ayutthaya, late Ayutthaya, Thonburi, and beginning of Rattanakosin. Chapter 3 mentioned about the development of literature from the past to present. Chapter 4 through 10 are about the study guide for each type of literature, but to study Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit”, the researcher used the content in chapter 6 about novels as concept idea and theory for the research.

The rules for commenting on novels are divided into 3 parts including:

### 1. Content analysis

#### 2. *Literary arts.*

2.1 Story strategy means proceeding the story with art on the objective of selecting which chapter should be first or use the viewpoint switching, or proceed like reading letters, which is the story progression techniques to make readers keep on following the story.

2.2 Main idea is where the author would insert their thoughts in their literature to deliver the message to their readers. If readers accepted each viewpoint that means it is a shared idea between author and the readers. Therefore, the analysis of literature should be aware if that idea is a collective idea or not.

#### 3. Reflection from reading.

3.1 Emotional entertainment or enriching the emotion that would satisfy the readers, making them continue to read without being bored.

3.2 Flourishing wisdom by analyzing in concept that could improve the mental status of the readers, which is also including the correct vision on the world which everyone who can read and write could understand and reached the core vision.

Ing-on Supanwanitch[10] wrote a book “Literature analysis” that presents the content about reading and analyzing the theorem with practical experiment. The review on the contemporary literature was divided into 12 chapters, which chapter 1 and 2 is about review history and Thai literature, chapter 3 through 6 explain about review theories from the Eastern and Western, and chapter 7 and later on are about the review on contemporary literature for clearer

understanding of the theories. For the study on Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit”, the researcher uses the detail and current literature review method which was mentioned in chapter 6 as the frame idea and important theory in study.

Ingorn used the idea of Walther J. De Moivre Dong that was suggested the review of novels that the reviewer might review by answering questions in topics, which are:

#### Plot and Structure

Does this novel have an intro or not? If it has, what is its objective and what the intro does to lead the reader into the story?

1. Did the author used flashbacks or complicated stories? If so, explain the technique that the author connected the story together and how this story mix together?
2. Study the events which are the keys that progress the plot and which drive the story off the plot.
3. What technique did the author used to make the readers wait and then review on the elements of the plot and the style of the author.
4. What is the most important scene?
5. Study on the conflicts that what did they do to drive or affected the characters.

#### Theme and Purpose

1. Consider on important experience for humans which are appeared in the novel while also explain how the protagonist solve their life problems.
2. Did the author showed the objective to the readers clearly or not?
3. Study on the objective, philosophy, or vision of the author towards life.

#### Point of View

1. Study on the relation between narration techniques and the plot.
2. Did the author used narration techniques from the first person or not? If used, what is the important role of the narrator in the story?
3. How often the author narrates from the view of third person and is it appropriate?
4. Did the author use the all-seeing narration or not? And how clear the character’s pronoun and personality is? Explain along with examples.
5. Did the author used telepathy recollection technique in the story? If used, what is the purpose?

### Related documents for analysis

Because “The Glass Rabbit” is an autobiography documentary of Toshiko Takagi, which is her personal diary during the second World War, the researcher decided to use documentary analysis as the frame idea and study theories as followed:

Wirat Siriwatananawin[11] wrote “Chapter 5 How to read a documentary” in the use of Thai language,

present the content about the definition of documentary, types of documentary, styles of documentary, and how to analyze a documentary respectively. In the study on Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit”, the researcher used the detail of how to analyze a documentary as the frame idea and important theories in the study as followed:

1. Separate facts from opinion: Because documentary writings usually contain both fact and opinion of the writer, the readers should be able to distinguish which part is fact and which part is an opinion.
2. Consideration on the reliability of the facts: This might be done by judging the author of how well their education and experience in their story is or judging on the appropriateness of the source.
3. Consideration on the reliability of the opinions: This might be done by judging from the author what their background is, how was their knowledge and experience about their story, what is their objective — to create or to destroy, what was their fairness in judgement, do they have any bias toward both like and dislike, and also what was their benefit or loss of benefit in their related story.
4. Consideration on presentation method: The methods which the readers should consider are the title, intro, sequencing, layout, covers, illustrations, and epilogue. Consider how attractive and content related the title is, consider on how attractive the intro is, consider the easiness in understanding the sequences, and what was the unique technique of the author.
5. Consideration on language usage: The usage of language is a very important aspect that would create value in the documentary and make it attractive. The readers should consider how clear and appropriate the stylistic of the author is including rhetoric, explanation, preaching, or exemplifying. Moreover, the readers should also consider on the usage of words, idioms, and images if they are correct or matched with the desire of the author or not.
6. Consideration on harmony of the elements and value evaluation: When each topic was analyzed, the last step is to consider on how well the harmony of each elements and completeness of facts and opinions, presentation techniques, and stylistic, then judge the value of each documentary if it is “good” or “bad”, how worthiness of the praise, or which part needed to be improved.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

From the study on Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” with the objective of study the writing techniques according to literature elements, language usage, and also the value of facts

and opinions of the author about the event of second World War, which resulted as followed.

#### 5.1.1 Writing techniques summary

The plot of this documentary is not complicated, it has clear main plot, that is the conflict between human and war that show the cruelty and loss brought by the war which bring nothing but destruction. This main conflict affected the story, opening by the most familiar thing for the author, which is her home and neighborhood. Then, the opening of each chapter will be a narration about place, event, character, and date by time respectively. The story process is conducted by solving each problem one by one without complication. The ending is the summary that the war and conflict was ended, and the author ended with her most familiar thing, her home and neighborhood, but the different feeling of before and after the war was hidden in there too. In her happiness of something close to her, the opening is the happiness that the readers could clearly understand and see the hidden difference. Before she narrates, she will narrate through character of the story, which is Toshiko Takagi herself as the main character using first person point of view. The narration in this type will make readers understand the situation and feeling of the character deeply while also perceive the feeling of other characters through the eyes of the protagonist too.

5.1.2. Characters: From the study, there is only one main character, which is the protagonist Toshiko Takagi, while other characters are only secondary characters that have both few and many personalities within them. Because this is the autobiography documentary of the author herself, the character has their personality like a real-life person.

#### 5.2 Suggestions

5.2.1 From the study comparing between the Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” in the original translated by Budsaba Banchongmanee in year 1987 and the new edition that has its content adjusted with the current situation, it was translated by Kamchai Laisamit in year 2003.

5.2.2 Study on the Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” as a historical diary as the Japanese autobiography documentary “The Glass Rabbit” recorded the historical moments of Japan during World War II in detail and following the real time of real events, which is a great help as a piece of history that was compiled into the form of literature that would give new viewpoints to the reader from the academic documents like in the past.

5.2.3 In the study on Japanese literatures about World War II, there are other 5 Japanese literatures including Hiroshima Diary, Sadako and the thousand paper cranes, Twenty-Four Eyes, Two Iida, and Mieko and the fifth treasure. These literatures are all have similar feature with The Glass Rabbit, that is the feely of deeply moved by the presentation of cruelty of the war

and children who became the victims as they are Japanese children who are innocent, orphanage, poor, or sick, which make the readers feel pity and sympathize with their hardship and sad life. In the other word, these literatures are interesting and worth for study on and on.

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