
Modern Japanese Literature Critical Insights

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The Linguistic Turn in Contemporary Japanese
Literary Studies

SANIYA BARTLETT

Text and the City

Stanford University Press
 Modern Japanese Literature is Donald Keene's critically acclaimed companion volume to his landmark Anthology of Japanese Literature. Now considered the standard canon of modern Japanese writing translated into English, Modern Japanese Literature includes concise introductions to the writers, as well as a historical introduction by Professor Keene. Includes: "Growing Up" by Ichiyo, a lyrical story of pre-adolescence in the 90s; Natsume's story of "Botchan," an ill-starred and ineffectual Huck Finn; Nagai's "The Sumida River";

Kokomitsu's Kafkaesque "Time"; Kawabata's "The Mole"; "Firefly Hunt"; a glimpse into Tanizaki's masterpiece "Thin Snow"; and the postwar work of such writers as Dazai and Mishima.

The A to Z of Modern Japanese Literature and Theater Salem Press

The 1970s and 1980s saw a revolution in Japanese literary criticism. A new generation of scholars and critics, many of them veterans of 1960s political activism, arose in revolt against the largely positivistic methodologies that had hitherto dominated postwar literary studies. Creatively refashioning approaches taken from the field of linguistics,

the new scholarship challenged orthodox interpretations, often introducing new methodologies in the process: structuralism, semiotics, and phenomenological linguistics, among others. The radical changes introduced then continue to reverberate today, shaping the way Japanese literature is studied both at home and abroad. The Linguistic Turn in Contemporary Japanese Literary Studies is the first critical study of this revolution to appear in English. It includes translations of landmark essays published in the 1970s and 1980s by such influential figures as Noguchi Takehiko, Kamei Hideo, Mitani Kuniaki, and Hirata

Yumi. It also collects nine new essays that reflect critically on the emergence of linguistics-based literary criticism and theory in Japan, exploring both the novel possibilities such theory created and the shortcomings that could not be overcome. Scholars from a variety of disciplines and fields probe the political and intellectual implications of this transformation and explore the exciting new pathways it opened up for the study of modern Japanese literature. Five Modern Japanese Novelists iUniverse This book uses texts from classical to modern Japanese literature to examine concepts of 'respect for the strong', as a notion of an evolutionary

society, and 'sympathy for the weak', as a notion of a non-violent and changeless egalitarian society. The term strong refers not just to those with strength and power. It also includes other ideal attributes such as beauty, youth and goodness. Similarly, the term weak implies not only the weak and infirm, but also the disadvantaged, the indecent, the unsophisticated and those generally shunned by society. The former are associated not only with the power of life, competition, evolution, progress, development, ability, effectiveness, efficiency, individuality, the future, hope and romance, but also with violence, fighting, bullying, discrimination

and sacrifice. The latter, in contrast, invoke notions of peace, egalitarianism, anti-discrimination and welfare, as well as stagnation, retreat, retrogression, degeneration and the decline of vital powers. By using these two concepts Murakami skillfully weaves a narrative that is part literary criticism, part social commentary. As such the book will be of huge interest to not only scholars and students of Japanese literature, but also those of Japanese society and culture.

Complicit Fictions
Duke University Press
This book examines how early research on literary activities outside national literatures such as émigré literature or diasporic literature

conceived of the loss of ‘mother-tongue’ as a tragedy, and how it perpetuated the ideology of national language by relying on the dichotomy of native language/foreign language. It transcends these limitations by examining modern Japanese literature and literary criticism through modern philology, the vernacularization movement, and Korean-Japanese literature. Through the insights of recent philosophical/linguistic theories, it reveals the political problems of the notion of “mother-tongue” in literary and linguistic theories and proposes strategies to realize genuinely “exophonic” and “translational” literature beyond the

confines of nation. Examining the notion of “mother-tongue” in literature and literary criticism, the author deconstructs the concept and language itself as an apparatus of nation-state in order to imagine alternative literature, genuinely creolized and heterogeneous. Offering a comparative, transnational perspective on the significance of the mother tongue in contemporary literatures, this is a key read for students of modern Japanese literature, language and culture, as well as those interested in theories of translation and bilingualism.

The Politics and Literature Debate in Postwar Japanese Criticism, 1945-52

Columbia University
Press

This anthology collects works of fiction, poetry & drama from a pivotal time in Japanese history & includes translations of texts by Nagai Kafū, Shimazaki Tōson, Natsume Sōseki & Kawabata Yasunari.

Narrating the Self Duke
University Press

Representing the Other in Modern Japanese Literature looks at the ways in which authors writing in Japanese in the twentieth century constructed a division between the 'Self' and the 'Other' in their work. Drawing on methodology from Foucault and Lacan, the clearly presented essays seek to show how Japanese writers have responded to the central question of what it means to be 'Japanese' and of how

best to define their identity. Taking geographical, racial and ethnic identity as a starting point to explore Japan's vision of 'non-Japan', representations of the Other are examined in terms of the experiences of Japanese authors abroad and in the imaginary lands envisioned by authors in Japan. Using a diverse cross-section of writers and texts as case studies, this edited volume brings together contributions from a number of leading international experts in the field and is written at an accessible level, making it essential reading for those working in Japanese studies, colonialism, identity studies and nationalism.

Modern Japanese Fiction and Its Traditions Springer

This collection examines literary criticism in postwar Japan. The contributors analyze the debates that occurred among Japanese intellectuals and highlight the various ideological forces that shaped the country's postwar trajectory.

Representing the Other in Modern Japanese Literature Routledge

Yokomitsu Riichi occupied a central position in the Japanese literary world during the 1920's and 1930's. He is perhaps the most important counterpart in modern Japanese prose literature to the "modernist" writers at work in Europe during and following World War I. His experimental

works of the mid-1920's are a fascinating, self-conscious attempt to introduce the modernism of Europe to what was, by any standards, an alien tradition. These experimental writings are perhaps the most striking example in Japanese literature of "European influence" can be. Dennis Keene's study, *Yokomitsu Riichi: Modernist* concentrates on these early modernist works. Although he attends fully to Yokomitsu's works as worthy objects of study in themselves, Keene's real subject is the ways in which premodern literature can affect another. "For modern Japanese literature, and for modern Japanese society as a whole, the overwhelming fact is

the presence of the West." In this context Yokomitsu himself emerges as one of the most significant agents of this presence. In demonstrating how Yokomitsu and other writers of the early twentieth century created a new form of Japanese literature, Keene provides not only a significant study in comparative literature, but a paradigm of cross-cultural relations between Japan and the West.

Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese Literature

Routledge
Can novels contribute to the ethical lives of readers? What responsibilities might they bear in representing others? Are we ethically accountable for how we read fiction? This

study takes up modern Japanese fiction and metafiction, subjects overwhelmingly ignored by Anglophone scholarship on novel ethics, to discover pioneering answers to these and other questions. Each chapter offers new readings of major works of modern Japanese literature (1880s through 1920s) that experiment with the capacity of novel narration to involve readers in ethically freighted encounters. Christopher Weinberger shows that Mori Ogai and Akutagawa Ryunosuke help to address key issues in new ethical theories today: debates about the roles that identification and empathy play in novel ethics; concerns about the

representation of “otherness” and alterity in novels; divergence between cognitive and affective theories of ethics; widespread disagreement about what novel ethics obtain in the experience of reading, the effects of reading, or the form or content of novel representation; and, finally, concerns with bias and appropriation in the study of world literature. Concluding with a jump to the present, *Imaginary Worlds and Real Ethics in Japanese Fiction* puts on display a startling continuity between the methods of Japan's modern novel progenitors and those of novelists at the forefront of global literature today, especially Haruki

Murakami. Ultimately, this book models an original approach to ethical criticism while demonstrating the relevance of modern Japanese fiction for rethinking contemporary theories of the novel.

Imaginary Worlds and Real Ethics in Japanese Fiction Cambridge

University Press

The Routledge

Handbook of Modern

Japanese Literature

provides a

comprehensive

overview of how we

study Japanese

literature today. Rather

than taking a purely

chronological approach

to the content, the

chapters survey the

state of the field

through a number of

pressing issues and

themes, examining the

ways in which it is

possible to read

modern Japanese literature and situate it in relation to critical theory. The Handbook examines various modes of literary production (such as fiction, poetry, and critical essays) as distinct forms of expression that nonetheless are closely interrelated. Attention is drawn to the idea of the *bunjin* as a 'person of letters' and a more realistic assessment is provided of how writers have engaged with ideas – not labelled a 'novelist' or 'poet', but a 'writer' who may at one time or another choose to write in various forms. The book provides an overview of major authors and genres by situating them within broader themes that have defined the way writers have produced

literature in modern Japan, as well as how those works have been read and understood by different readers in different time periods. The Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese Literature draws from an international array of established experts in the field as well as promising young researchers. It represents a wide variety of critical approaches, giving the study a broad range of perspectives. This handbook will be of interest to students and scholars of Asian Studies, Literature, Sociology, Critical Theory, and History. *Early Modern Japanese Literature* Routledge
The 1970s and 1980s saw a revolution in Japanese literary criticism. A new

generation of scholars and critics, many of them veterans of 1960s political activism, arose in revolt against the largely positivistic methodologies that had hitherto dominated postwar literary studies. Creatively refashioning approaches taken from the field of linguistics, the new scholarship challenged orthodox interpretations, often introducing new methodologies in the process: structuralism, semiotics, and phenomenological linguistics, among others. The radical changes introduced then continue to reverberate today, shaping the way Japanese literature is studied both at home and abroad. The Linguistic Turn in

Contemporary Japanese Literary Studies is the first critical study of this revolution to appear in English. It includes translations of landmark essays published in the 1970s and 1980s by such influential figures as Noguchi Takehiko, Kamei Hideo, Mitani Kuniaki, and Hirata Yumi. It also collects nine new essays that reflect critically on the emergence of linguistics-based literary criticism and theory in Japan, exploring both the novel possibilities such theory created and the shortcomings that could not be overcome. Scholars from a variety of disciplines and fields probe the political and intellectual implications of this transformation and

explore the exciting new pathways it opened up for the study of modern Japanese literature.

Theory of Literature and Other Critical Writings

University of Hawaii Press
With the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japan opened its doors to the West and underwent remarkable changes as it sought to become a modern nation. Accompanying the political changes that Western trade ushered in were widespread social and cultural changes. Newspapers, novels, poems, and plays from the Western world were soon adapted and translated into Japanese. The combination of the rich storytelling tradition of Japan with the realism and modernism of the

West produced some of the greatest literature of the modern age. The A to Z of Modern Japanese Literature and Theater presents a broad perspective on the development and history of literature—narrative, poetry, and drama—in modern Japan. This book offers a chronology, introduction, bibliography, and over 400 cross-referenced dictionary entries on authors, literary and historical developments, trends, genres, and concepts that played a central role in the evolution of modern Japanese literature.

Yokomitsu Riichi

Routledge
Modern Japanese Literature is Donald Keene's critically acclaimed companion volume to his landmark

Anthology of Japanese Literature. Now considered the standard canon of modern Japanese writing translated into English, Modern Japanese Literature includes concise introductions to the writers, as well as a historical introduction by Professor Keene. Includes: "Growing Up" by Ichiyo, a lyrical story of pre-adolescence in the 90s; Natsume's story of "Botchan," an ill-starred and ineffectual Huck Finn; Nagai's "The Sumida River"; Kokomitsu's Kafkaesque "Time"; Kawabata's "The Mole"; "Firefly Hunt"; a glimpse into Tanizaki's masterpiece "Thin Snow"; and the postwar work of such writers as Dazai and Mishima.

Literature of the Lost Home Columbia University Press
 With the Meiji Restoration in 1868, Japan opened its doors to the West and underwent remarkable changes as it sought to become a modern nation. Accompanying the political changes that Western trade ushered in were widespread social and cultural changes. Newspapers, novels, poems, and plays from the Western world were soon adapted and translated into Japanese. The combination of the rich storytelling tradition of Japan with the realism and modernism of the West produced some of the greatest literature of the modern age. Historical Dictionary of Modern Japanese Literature and Theater

presents a broad perspective on the development and history of literature_narrative, poetry, and drama_in modern Japan. This book offers a chronology, introduction, bibliography, and over 400 cross-referenced dictionary entries on authors, literary and historical developments, trends, genres, and concepts that played a central role in the evolution of modern Japanese literature.

The Pleasures of Japanese Literature

Duke University Press
Modern Japanese Literature is Donald Keene's critically acclaimed companion volume to his landmark work *Anthology of Japanese Literature: From the Earliest Era to*

the Mid-Nineteenth Century. Now considered the standard canon of modern Japanese writing translated into English, the book includes concise introductions to the writers as well as an historical introduction by Professor Keene. Modern Japanese literature is the product of two great traditions: the native, which goes back 1300 years, and the Western, first introduced to Japan about 150 years ago. The combination of these very different traditions gave birth to a literature that stands as a unique product of the meeting of East and West. This volume is telling testimony to this historic meeting, and includes many works considered

classics written from 1868 to the present day. Here in the stories, plays, and poetry of modern Japan is a mixture of the familiar and the strange that is fascinating in itself and an insightful guide to the thoughts and lives of Japanese today. The volume is sure proof that modern Japanese literature is an important part of the literary heritage of the world.

Writers and Society in Modern Japan Rowman & Littlefield

Perhaps no one is more qualified to write about Japanese culture than Donald Keene, considered the leading interpreter of that nation's literature to the Western world. The author, editor, or translator of nearly three dozen books of

criticism and works of literature, Keene now offers an enjoyable and beautifully written introduction to traditional Japanese culture for the general reader. The book acquaints the reader with Japanese aesthetics, poetry, fiction, and theater, and offers Keene's appreciations of these topics. Based on lectures given at the New York Public Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the University of California, Los Angeles, the essays -though written by a renowned scholar-presuppose no knowledge of Japanese culture. Keene's deep learning, in fact, enables him to construct an overview as delightful to read as it is informative. His

insights often illuminate aspects of traditional Japanese culture that endure today. One of these is the appreciation of "perishability." this appreciation is seen in countless little bits of Japanese life: in temples made of wood instead of durable materials; in the preference for objects - such as pottery- that are worn, broken, or used rather than new; and in the national love of the delicate cherry blossom, which normally falls after a brief three days of flowering. Keene quotes the fourteenth-century Buddhist monk Kenko, who wrote that "the most precious thing about life is its uncertainty." Throughout the volume, Keene demonstrates that the

rich artistic and social traditions of Japan can indeed be understood by readers from our culture. This book will enlighten anyone interested in Japanese literature and culture.

Literature Among the Ruins, 1945-1955 University of Michigan Press

Maeda Ai was a prominent literary critic and an influential public intellectual in late-twentieth-century Japan. *Text and the City* is the first book of his work to appear in English. A literary and cultural critic deeply engaged with European critical thought, Maeda was a brilliant, insightful theorist of modernity for whom the city was the embodiment of modern life. He conducted a far-reaching inquiry into

changing conceptions of space, temporality, and visual practices as they gave shape to the city and its inhabitants. James A. Fujii has assembled a selection of Maeda's essays that question and explore the contours of Japanese modernity and resonate with the concerns of literary and cultural studies today. Maeda remapped the study of modern Japanese literature and culture in the 1970s and 1980s, helping to generate widespread interest in studying mass culture on the one hand and marginalized sectors of modern Japanese society on the other. These essays reveal the broad range of Maeda's cultural criticism. Among the topics considered are

Tokyo; utopias; prisons; visual media technologies including panoramas and film; the popular culture of the Edo, Meiji, and contemporary periods; maps; women's magazines; and women writers. Integrally related to these discussions are Maeda's readings of works of Japanese literature including Matsubara Iwagoro's *In Darkest Tokyo*, Nagai Kafu's *The Fox*, Higuchi Ichiyo's *Growing Up*, Kawabata Yasunari's *The Crimson Gang of Asakusa*, and Narushima Ryuhoku's short story "Useless Man." Illuminating the infinitely rich phenomena of modernity, these essays are full of innovative, unexpected connections between cultural productions

and urban life,
between the text and
the city.

*The Cambridge History
of Japanese Literature*
Springer

This study is a
theoretical
reconsideration of the
concept of the “tragic”
combined with detailed
analyses of Japanese
literary texts. Inspired
by contemporary
critical discourse
(especially the works
by such thinkers as
Theodor Adorno,
Fredric Jameson and
Raymond Williams),
the author challenges
both exotic and
postmodern
representation of
Japanese culture as
“the other” of the
West. By examining
the social backgrounds
of artists’ endeavors to
create new literary
forms, the author
unveils a rich tradition

of tragic literature that,
unlike the dominant
local tradition of
naturalism, has
registered the
unbridgeable gap
between universal
ideals and social values
at a particular
historical moment.

**The Columbia
Anthology of Modern
Japanese Literature**

Stanford University
Press

Emphasizing how
modes of book
production, promotion,
and consumption
shape ideas of literary
value, Edward Mack
examines the role of
Japan’s publishing
industry in defining
modern Japanese
literature. In the late
nineteenth century and
early twentieth, as
cultural and economic
power consolidated in
Tokyo, the city’s
literary and publishing

elites came to dominate the dissemination and preservation of Japanese literature. As Mack explains, they conferred cultural value on particular works by creating prizes and multivolume anthologies that signaled literary merit. One such anthology, the Complete Works of Contemporary Japanese Literature (published between 1926 and 1931), provided many readers with their first experience of selected texts designated as modern Japanese literature. The low price of one yen per volume allowed the series to reach hundreds of thousands of readers. An early prize for modern Japanese literature, the annual Akutagawa

Prize, first awarded in 1935, became the country's highest-profile literary award. Mack chronicles the history of book production and consumption in Japan, showing how advances in technology, the expansion of a market for literary commodities, and the development of an extensive reading community enabled phenomena such as the Complete Works of Contemporary Japanese Literature and the Akutagawa Prize to manufacture the very concept of modern Japanese literature. Manufacturing Modern Japanese Literature Modern Language Association
As Japan moved from the devastation of 1945 to the economic

security that survived even the boom and bust of the 1980s and 1990s, its literature came to embrace new subjects and styles and to reflect on the nation's changing relationship to other Asian countries and to the West. This volume will help instructors introduce students to novels, short stories, and manga that confront postwar Japanese experiences, including the suffering caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki, the echoes of Japan's colonialism and imperialism, new ways of thinking about Japanese identity and about minorities such as the zainichi Koreans, changes in family structures, and environmental disasters. Essays provide context for understanding the particularity of postwar Japanese literature, its place in world literature, and its connections to the Japanese past.