

Research Summary

The research project entitled ANALYSIS OF JAPANESE LITERARY SELECTIONS ANTHOLOGIZED IN PHILIPPINE TEXTBOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1997 TO THE PRESENT: IMPLICATIONS TO FILIPINOS PERCEPTIONS OF JAPANESE VALUES AND CULTURES studied a broad range of Japanese Literary works which are anthologized in Philippine textbooks for Literature 2 (Literatures of the World), a course mandated by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines to be taken as basic course for all tertiary students of the Philippines. From selected eight (8) textbooks published in the Philippines used as Literature 2 texts in different tertiary institutions in the country, the following selections were identified: **Poetry**—18 Haikus (Matsou Basho); 8 Haikus (Yosa Buson); 5 Haikus (Masaoka Shiki); Autumn (Tsurayuki); Things that Bend in the Wind (Old Folk Song); River Frog (Fukuyabu); The Dew (Motosube); To A Lotus Bloom (Gonnosbe Komai); The Temple Bell (Gonnosbe Komai); **Short Story**—Of a Promise Kept (Lafcadio Hearn); The Story of the Aged Mother (A Japanese Folktale); The Izu Dancer (Yasunari Kawabata); The Grasshopper and the Bell Cricket (Yasunari Kawabata); The Spider's Thread (Akutagawa Ryunosuke); **Fiction Excerpts**—from The Tale of Genji (Murasaki Shikibu); from The Pillow Book (Sei Shonagon); from The Temple of Golden Pavilion (Yukio Mishima); and **Drama**—The Madman on the Roof (Kikuchi Kan); The Damask Drum (Motokiyo Zeami).

Evaluation of the literary merits and characteristics of the Japanese literary selections was done through close-text and symptomatic readings with references to published commentaries and other publicly-available reviews and analysis of the identified selections. Components of the evaluation are artistry, intellectual beauty, suggestiveness, spiritual value, permanence, universality and style.

Elucidation of the Japanese value orientations and cultural tendencies as perceived from the selections was done through in-depth reading applying post-modernist literary critical approach. The breakdown of the reflected values and cultures are categorized using the following: personal orientations, association with nature, concept of death and beauty, sense of time, and patterns of social relationship.

Accounts of the implications of the analysis of the Japanese literary selections to the Filipinos' perceptions of Japanese culture and values encompass five important points: (1) the choices of selections as representative of Japanese mind and soul; (2) teacher's knowledge of historically specific and socially structured context, conventions and symbolic processes operating in the literary works; (3) appropriateness of teaching strategies to facilitate authentic value perception; (4) the readers or students own orientation and culture that may influence or get in the way in the interpretation of human experiences and values in the selections; and (5) the recognition of the purpose of teaching literary selections which is to stimulate a sense of personal involvement and reaction that enrich and shape character and personal integrity.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

- Faculty Lecture Series of School of Arts and Sciences, Xavier University—Ateneo de Cagayan [the study will be tendered to be in the pipeline for paper presentations in the schoolyear 2009-2010]
- RAFIL (Reading Asia, Forging Identities in Literature) International Conference [significant part of the research paper will be submitted for possible acceptance for presentation in the subsequent 3rd convention (next convention to be set after Feb 2009)]

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

- KINAADMAN, Journal of Southern Philippines—(compressed version of the study will be submitted for potential publication for 2009)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)