

# Landscape appreciation by haiku Comparison of appreciation by respondents of Japanese and United States

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## Introduction

Haiku was born in the 15th century of Japan and spread through Japan in the Edo period. It is known that haiku had spread to the world after the opening of the country by Meiji revolution (Sonoo Uchida 2005). At the beginning, Torahiko Terada (1961) said that foreigners could not understand haiku forever, but it was spread to the world by the contribution of many people, i.e. Kyoshi Takahama and R.H. Blythe. And now haiku was enjoyed by more than 20 languages and in more than 50 countries and regions in the world. In western countries, it is said that there are many haiku about personnel affairs, but in Japan many people recite landscapes. Shuoshi Mizuhara described the importance of scenery for haiku and many haiku poets are recounting sceneries.

## Methods

However, few researchers scientifically study on this subject. So we employed 15 aged Japanese and 16 university students of USA to read 34 English haiku composed by Blue Ridge Haiku Association in Roanoke, and they judged their understanding and appreciation on them. We examined the difference their responses.

## Results

As a result, the following was found out.

Japanese are naturally less understood haiku less than Americans (Fig. 1).

Some haiku were understood better by Japanese than Americans (Fig. 2).

Examining the correlation of understanding between the Japanese and the Americans revealed the little relation (Fig. 3).

A similar result was obtained by examining the score of haiku appreciation with the point one for understanding and two for empathy.

Evaluation of Japanese is lower than that of Americans (Fig. 4).

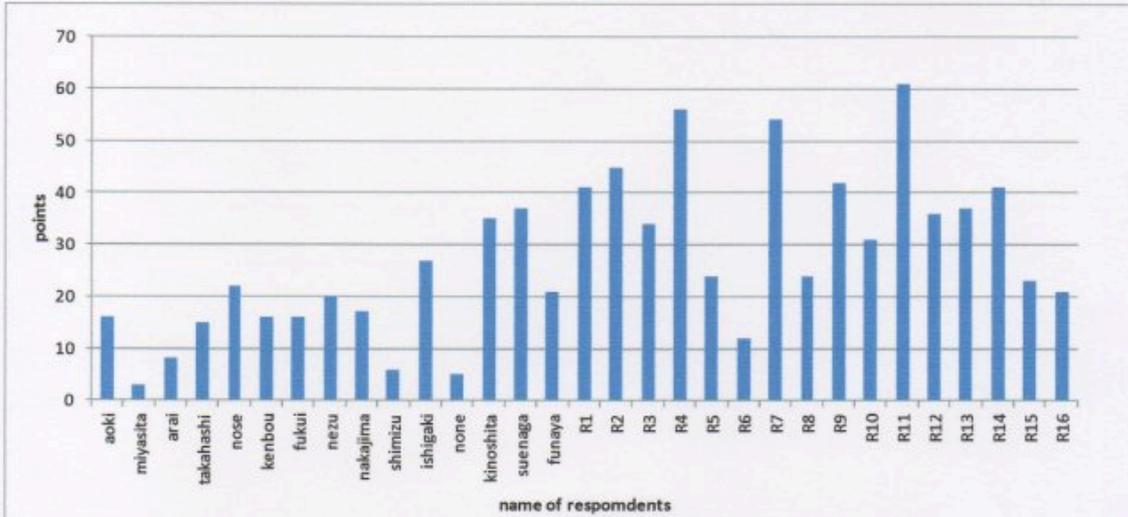
Japanese prefer haiku to describe nature, Americans prefer culture such as history (Figure 5).

There was no correlation between the Japanese and the Americans' evaluation (Figure 6).

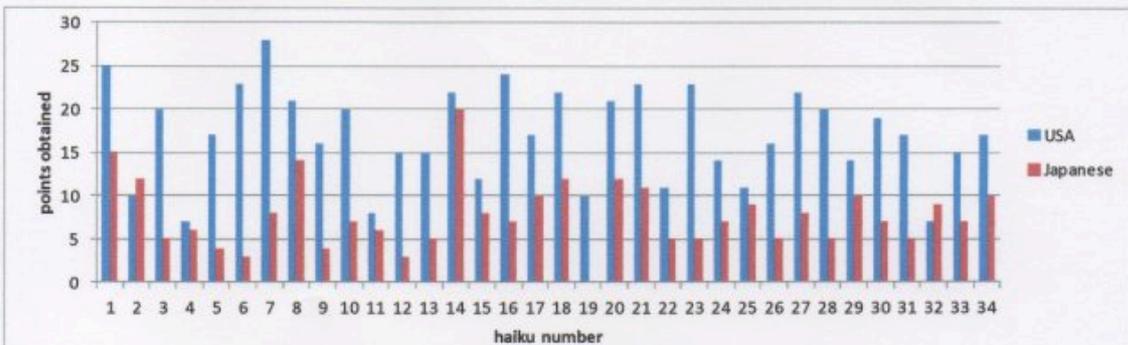
## Reference

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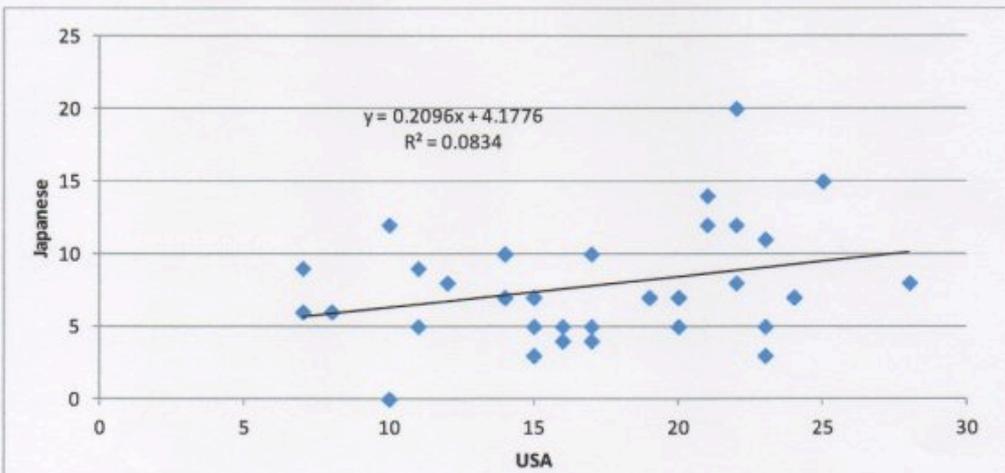
Keywords: haiku, landscape appreciation, comparison of appreciation by Japanese and Americans



**Fig. 4 Personal appreciation on 34 English haiku**



**Fig. 5 Results of appreciation, understand=1, empathy=2**



**Fig.6 Correlation of haiku appreciation between Japanese and USA**