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“From *bungotai* (文語体) to Akita-ben (秋田弁): A journey in search of cultural competence”


By Prof. Mark Williams
University of Leeds, UK

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2 My objectives


To think about what we mean by **Cultural competence** in general – and then to consider the case of **Endō Shūsaku** (遠藤周作) as a good example of a Japanese author who was committed to consideration of this question.



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3 My journey



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A world map with several black circles highlighting specific regions: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and East Asia. The map is color-coded by continent.

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4 So what is cultural competency?

At the heart of **cultural competency** is the distinction between:

Bilingual and Bicultural
(Multilingual and Multicultural)

What is the difference?
Acquiring linguistic competency is (relatively!) easy, especially for children....
But ...


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The slide contains text explaining the distinction between linguistic and cultural competency. The words 'Bilingual', 'Bicultural', 'Multilingual', and 'Multicultural' are underlined. The word 'But' is in red.

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Akita International University

5

- すみません →
- 'Excuse me';
- 'Please';
- 'Thank you';
- 'I'm sorry'.



- 済みません
 - 日本は長いですか？
 - どこに行くの？
 - ちょっとそこまで。。。

Translating cultures →

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6

'Either the translator leaves the author in peace as much as possible and moves the reader towards him.....'

翻訳者が作家をそのままにしておいて、読者を作家の世界に連れて行くか。。。

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7

‘... Or he leaves the reader in peace and moves the author towards him.’

。。。または、読者をそのままにしておいて、作家を翻訳の世界に連れて行くか。翻訳者がそのどちらかを選ばなければなりません。

(Lawrence Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*).

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8

‘**domesticating**’ (同化 - a reduction of a foreign text to the cultural values of the target language) vs.

‘**foreignising**’ (異化 - which encourages/ obliges the reader to travel abroad to the source culture)

This can be performed at the linguistic and/ or cultural level.

Some examples from my experience of translating the literature of **Endō Shūsaku** (遠藤周作):

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		Linguistic	Cultural
9	Domestication (同化)	らーめん→ noodles/spaghetti; わからへん→ ' dunno luv '	6畳のへや → medium-sized room; 観音像 → statue of Mary
	Foreignisation (異化)	日本語(原文)の単語をそのまま残す(それらが英単語になる) (eg. <i>sushi</i> , <i>kami-kaze</i> , <i>samurai</i> , <i>Bushido</i> , <i>miso</i> soup, etc.)	日本(原)文化のシンボルをそのまま残す。 (exoticism の原因になる) (eg. 玄関で靴を脱ぐ; お風呂の外で体を洗う、など)

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A case study of cultural competency from Japan

遠藤周作 (1923-96)

「日本人キリスト教作家」



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The dilemma for Endō:

「キリスト教徒であり、日本人であり、しかも作家である私には、いつもこの三つの条件の関係、その対立が念頭にある。

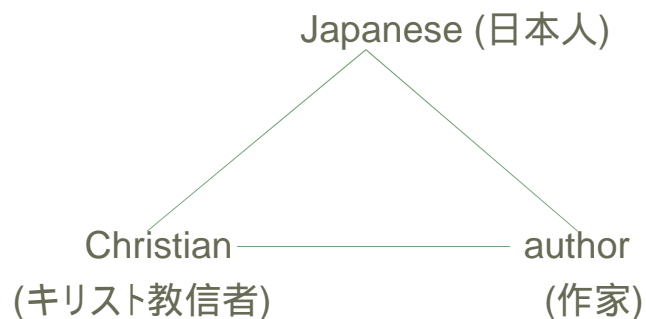
この三つの条件は残念なことには、未だ私のうちで調和、統一されず、むしろ多くの場合に矛盾をしめすのである」。

「日本人感情の底にあるもの：メタフィジック批評と伝統美」

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The “trichotomy” (三分法)



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13

□ 遠藤周作
「沈黙」 (新潮文庫)

From the movie
Silence (2016),
directed by Martin
Scorsese

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13

26 martyrs
of
Nagasaki
(1597)



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14

A
'fumie'



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15

Statue of
Maria
Kannon



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16
16

「踏むがいい」..... → 'Trample!'
「鶏が遠くで鳴いた」
"Can anyone say that the weak do not suffer more than the strong?"




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17 Re. the human propensity for evil

'Man is a splendid and beautiful being and, at the same time, man is a terrible being as we recognised in Auschwitz – God knows well this monstrous dual quality of man' (Endō).

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14

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ありがとう
ございました

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