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Foreword

We are pleased to welcome the November 2023 issue of Japanology Journal Vol. 10 No. 2. This issue presents a variety of articles that not only explore the dimensions of Japanese culture, but also offer new perspectives that are relevant in understanding Japanese society and its cultural heritage.

The articles *Co-Dependency between Single Mother and Her Son in Mother (2020)* and *Karyuu Roujin as a Subgroup of Impoverished Elderly in Japan* provide an in-depth look at the social dynamics in Japan. The relationship between a single mother and her son, as outlined in the movie *Mother (2020)*, reflects relevant family issues and social challenges in modern Japan. Meanwhile, the phenomenon of *karyuu roujin* as a group of elderly people living in poverty highlights demographic and economic realities that are of growing concern in Japanese society. Both studies highlight the importance of understanding the interaction between social structures and individual experiences in Japan.

In the article *Objectification of Women and the Practice of Male Gaze in the Short Story Collection Zou no Shoumetsu by Murakami Haruki*, the author explores the representation of women in Japanese literature. The issue of objectification of women discussed shows how gender norms are reflected and questioned in contemporary Japanese literature. This is in line with the theme of aesthetics in the article *Japanese Aesthetics of Wabi-Sabi and Mono no Aware in Memories of Matsuko (2006)*, where traditional Japanese aesthetic insights such as *wabi-sabi* and *mono no aware* are used to understand the depth of emotions in cinematic works. These two articles complement each other by highlighting how art, both literature and film, is an important medium for understanding Japanese cultural values and views.

The article *Hokkaido Dialect as a Form of Code-Switching and Code-Mixing in the Novel Poppoya* presents a discussion on language as cultural identity. The use of Hokkaido dialect in the novel *Poppoya* reflects the dynamics of locality in the Japanese national context, as well as how language elements create emotional closeness and cultural authenticity in literary narratives. Language is also a major theme in the article *Effectiveness of Role-Play Method in Improving Japanese Speaking Ability of Prospective Indonesian Migrant Workers at Vocational Training Center*. This article highlights an innovative approach to Japanese language teaching that not only supports language learning but also strengthens the relationship between Indonesia and Japan as cultural partners.

Through this collection of articles, we hope readers can explore the many facets of Japanese culture that reflect the challenges and richness of its society. We would like to thank the authors, editors, and all those who have supported the publication of this journal.

We hope that Japanology Journal Vol. 10 No. 2 can be a valuable source of inspiration and reference for readers. Happy reading!

Surabaya, November 2023

Sincerely,
Japanology Editor

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