



Tohoku University Main Library 10th Global Session “BIBLIOBATTLE World Cup”

On April 27th (Friday) 2018, we held the 10th Global Session in a format of “BIBLIOBATTLE World Cup”! The event was divided into two parts: Part 1 was in Japanese and Part 2 in English, so that both international and Japanese guests could equally enjoy it.

Participants (or, as we called them on the day - the Battlers) one by one presented their favorite books to audience for 5 min each, followed with Q&A session.

Part I: Japanese section

First Battler of the Japanese section was Doctoral course student of Graduate School of Arts and Letters Davide Bitti (Italy), who presented a book about traditional Japanese art “Namazue (鯰絵)”. Audience asked many questions, mainly wondering how Davide found out about “Namazue” and if he tried a dish with a similar name (“鯰料理”).



Davide Bitti

Davide's presentation was followed by a 4th year student from Faculty of Education, Yoshinori Sato. His book of choice was called “オー！ファザー” and it was written by famous writer from Sendai, Kotaro Isaka, an alumni of Tohoku University. After emotional explanation of the twisted plot of the book,

Yoshinori received many questions and comments, which led to comparison of the book and a popular “Mama Mia!” musical.

Another Doctoral course student of Graduate School of International Cultural Studies Ernei Ribeiro (Brazil) talked about well-known Japanese novel “Miyamoto Musashi” by Eiji Yoshikawa, after read the book, Musashi became his role-model. He also confessed that he is planning to read stories about Miyamoto Musashi to his future children.

Last Battler came to the event all the way from Fukushima – Yuka Suzuki, a 3rd year student from Yotsukura High School prepared a great speech, presenting a book called 「月の上の観覧車」 by Hiroshi Ogiwara.

That touching story told us a boy who has lost his closest family members and ever since dreamt of meeting them again on the moonlight Ferris Wheel.

The Battlers were really into presenting their special books but they were also careful in order not to give too many spoilers. Their main wish was to make guests want to read those books in future and at the end of the first part, audience voted for the book they want to read the most. 「月の上の観覧車」, presented by Yuka Suzuki became an absolute champion book of the Japanese part of BIBLIOBATTLE World Cup



“Champ book” and Battlers

Part 2: English section

The first battler of the English section, Trishit Banerjee from India, introduced the novel "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri, which describes the problems of an Indian boy who moves to the United States. After a series of events, this character comes to realize who he really is. This story apparently fascinated the audience's attention and Trishit was awarded the prize of best presentation.



Trishit Banerjee

Second was Chiharu Inoue from Japan, who presented the short story 「山椒魚」 by Masuji Ibuse. That was a short fable about a salamander, which hid in its nest from a surrounding world. After reading it herself and having a further discussion with her professor, Chiharu was surprised with a difference in their perception of the moral of the story and was curious to see how others will understand it.



Chiharu Inoue

The third presenter, Ahmed Mustahid from Bangladesh introduced the book "A Brief History of Time", by Stephen Hawking. Ahmed

talked about some intriguing questions proposed by the book, such as the origin and structure of the whole universe.



Ahmed Mustahid

Andi Holik Ramdani from Indonesia, talked about the book 「虹の少年たち」 by Andrea Hirata (original title is "Laskar Pelangi") The novel tells the development of children from poor families who live in a small Indonesian island. It seems that this success story gave motivation to the presenter as well to many other people.

The fifth Battler, Jenna Wu from the United States, presented a novel called "Alex" – a mysterious story of a young woman who was kidnapped and kept in a cage. As the novel unfolds, some surprising and disturbing facts come to light. It seems that this plot deeply stirred the presenter and caused curiosity among the audience.

At the end, we also had a special participant, who had a 5-min presentation out of the main contest. Marie Goto shared her thoughts on a book called 「去年の冬、きみと別れ」 by Fuminori Nakamura.

This book is an example of belles-letters, the genre of so-called "pure literature" ("fine writing"). Although shaped as a mystery, the plot concentrates on psychological portraits of characters and the inner motives of their actions.

An MC for the both Japanese and English parts of the event was Kiya Okhlopko from Graduate School of Arts and Letters, who made sure that every guest had a chance to interact with the Battlers during Q&A sessions and that no language barrier would become an issue for their conversation.

That was our 10th Global Session and we were happy to see many new faces among those who attended the event. We hope to

see you all soon! If you ever need any help within the library, please don't hesitate to approach International Concierge Service.



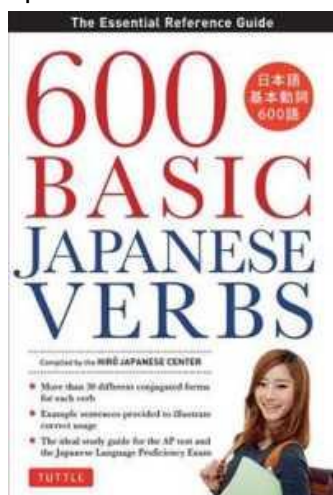
As reported by **Kiya Okhlopkova,**
Ernei Ribeiro

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a-book-a-month to feed your grey matter with intellect and emotion from the selection available at Tohoku University Main Library. Sit back and let's read!

Mainly written in Latin alphabet (Romaji), this book not only includes 600 of the most useful Japanese verbs, it also shows, in a handy table, their proper conjugation. Each entry is shown on their 30 possible tenses, as well as their proper usage.

Despite some of the example could be difficult to understand, I believe this book could be very helpful for the absolute beginners, and serve as a useful reference for the intermediate Japanese students.



Book: 600 basic Japanese verbs = 日本語基本動詞 600 語

Author: compiled by Hirō Japanese Center

Publisher: Tuttle Pub

Barcode No. : 00140376093

Call No. : KF72/15

Location : Main Library

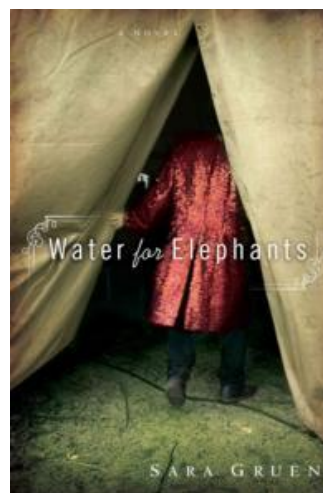
(LIB-Global-Forgn)

A retrospective novel that tells a fraction of the life of Jacob Jankowski, a 23-year-old Polish American veterinary student. Water for elephants is an enjoyable and well written novel that has drama, tragedy, love, and suspense.

The history starts with a series of events that push Jacob to take a life changing decision, as one of the most important events of his short life approaches.

As the plot thickens, the readers will discover the real traits of the main character as new names appear on the story.

A rollercoaster of emotions, this book is an interesting fictional history that takes place during the great depression.



Book: Water for elephants

Author: Sara Gruen

Publisher: Algonquin Books

Barcode No. : 00140336857

Call No. : KS141/456

Location : Main Library

(LIB-Global-Forgn)

Reviewd by **Manuel Campos**

My Hometown: Dalian (大連))

In this column, we introduce our hometowns to make you familiar with the culture and the best things to do!

Hello everyone! This is Jing. I would like to share you my hometown, Dalian, a beautiful city which is located in Northeast China. Dalian is a modern port city on Liaoning Province. It covers 13,237 square kilometers (5,110 square miles), and has a population of about 6.9 million.

Dalian is famous for its nice weather and honoured as 'A City Built in Gardens'. It has many famous scenic spots, such as Zhongshan Square, Xinghai Park and so on.

Zhongshan Square is a bustling downtown area of the city. It has ten avenues radiating from it and is one of the most famous squares in the city.

Zhongshan Square

Xinghai Park is situated on the southwestern side of Dalian City and spread over 800 meters in length. There are many luxuriant trees and flowers on the landward side in the park, and also a beach of golden sands on the coastal side.

Xinghai Park

Labor (Laodong) Park is a great place to visit as well. When the cherry blossom in bloom, the park turns into a photo studio. At the top, there is an excellent view of Dalian. There is also a TV tower where you can have a cafe.

Labor (Laodong) Park

Dalian is not only famous for the beautiful view, but also famous for the delicious seafood. Sizzling Squid is very popular. And the Chinese Penis Fish tastes good as well.

Sizzling Squid

Chinese Penis Fish Dumplings

*As expressed by **Jing***

Yang's corner

"An evening in the library"

傍晚图书馆的故事

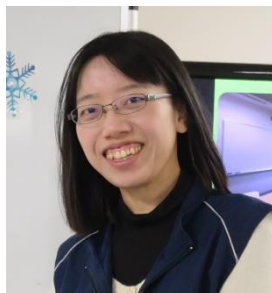
This is the story of what happens on a regular day in the life of the international students that work in the Main Counter of the Tohoku University Main Library.

As one may expect, there are sad and happy moments. Can you relate to this story?
About the author: Yang Yan is a third year PhD student at The Graduate School of International Cultural Studies. She has been drawing since a young age and wished to become a cartoonist in the future. As her first work, this marks the beginning of her career. Let's support her publication!



*This story is fiction...!

Editors



Lin, I-Chia (林宜佳)

A graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Taiwan, she loves listening to music and reading children's literature which full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

Manuel Campos



A graduate student of medicine from Venezuela, he loves to travel, write and cook. "Hard times forge steel smiles," is what he believes. Did we tell you that he speaks English, Japanese and Spanish?



Yang Yan (楊妍)

Yang, from China, loves to write comic strips! A graduate student of international cultural studies, she believes that none of us should ever forget our first resolution. Interested in her work? Check out the next issue for her manga!

Trishit Banerjee
[Editor-in-Chief]



From the land of Buddha - India, Trishit loves to read, write and travel. A student of chemistry, he can speak 5 languages! "Pick up a good book and open up your world," is what he believes in.

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