

# Changes in classical Japanese poetic vocabulary between the Kokinshū and the Shinkokinshū: *ame* (rain) and *shiguru* (drizzling rain)

HILOFUMI YAMAMOTO<sup>1,a)</sup> GRIFFEN SCHWIESOW<sup>2,b)</sup>

**Abstract:** This paper addresses the changes of classical Japanese poetic vocabulary between the Kokinshū (ca. 905) and the Shinkokinshū (1205), a period of three hundred years. We will examine whether it is possible to describe the changes in the mutual relationships of words in poetry between the Kokinshū and the Shinkokinshū based on their cooccurrence patterns.

## 1. Introduction

This paper addresses the changes in classical Japanese poetic vocabulary between the Kokinshū (ca. 905) and the Shinkokinshū (1205). We will clarify the historical transition regarding the types of *ame* (rain), specifically the differences between *ame* and *shiguru* (drizzling rain). During the three hundred years of the Hachidaishū (ca. 905-1205), about 17 types of terms related to *ame* appear in classical Japanese poetry, including nouns and verbs. The four most frequently used terms are: *shiguru*, *ame*, *samidare* (May rain), and *harusame* (spring rain) (Table 1). The term *shiguru* often appears following *ame* in terms related to rain in the Man'yōshū (ca. 759) [2]. In the Hachidaishū (ca. 905-1205), *shiguru* appears more often than *ame*.

When it comes to the word *ame*, modern people commonly consider it as the weather seen in June; that is, *tsuyu* (the rainy season). However, when it comes to *shiguru*, the senses of modern people are blurred and it is difficult for us to clearly describe the differences between *tsuyu*, *samidare*, and *shiguru*. *Shiguru* is recognized as it occurs temporarily from late fall to early winter, and, unlike the rainy season, it often starts and stops repeatedly [1].

## 2. Methods

We will use the Hachidaishū database and a visualization system of classical Japanese poetic vocabulary [5], [6]. The text originates from “the Nijūchidaishū database,” compiled by the National Institute of Japanese Literature [3]. The original text is the “Shoho version book of the Nijūchidaishū,” borrowed from the National Institute of Japanese Literature. We will use 9,484 po-

ems from the Hachidaishū, excluding long poems since they have significantly longer lengths than ordinary short poems. We will generate the figures using combinations of any two words that appear in the poems. Function 1 below defines the cooccurrence weight of the pattern composed from any two words.

$$cw(t_1, t_2, d) = (1 + \log ctf(t_1, t_2, d)) \cdot \sqrt{idf(t_1) \cdot idf(t_2)} \quad (1)$$

$$idf(t) = \log \frac{N}{df(t)} \quad (2)$$

Where  $t$  is token,  $d$  is the documents, and  $df$  returns the number of  $d$  in which term  $t$  appears.

## 3. Results

We conducted an analysis of the differences between two representative eras, the Sandaishū (ca. 905-1007) and the Shinkokinshū (1205), based on the compound models between *shiguru* and *ame* (Fig.1). There are some poems sharing both *ame* and *shiguru* in the Sandaishū, while there are not any poems sharing both of them in the Shinkokinshū.

## 4. Discussion

During the Sandaishū (ca. 905-1007), *ame* and *shiguru* appeared in the same poems. *Ame* may include some characteristics belonging to *shiguru* in the early time of the Hachidaishū. On the other hand, in the age of the Shinkokinshū, *shiguru* may have begun to have a characteristic meaning different from the general *ame*. To verify the above, we examined poems including *ame* and *shiguru* in the Hachidaishū.

*Tatsuta gawa / nishiki orikaku / kannazuki / shigure no ame*  
*o / tatenuki ni shite* (Kokin 314) On the Tatsuta / River the Godless Month  
weaves / a brocade of leaves / red and gold upon the sharp / silver warp and weft of sleet [4]

*kannazuki / shigure fururashi / saho yama no / masaki no*  
*kazura / iro masariyuku* (Shinkokin 574) In Autumn / drizzling rain  
falls / at Mt. Saho / Masaki vine / the color of its leaves / getting deeper and deeper

<sup>1</sup> Tokyo Institute of Technology  
W1-8 2-12-1 Ookayama, Meguro, Tokyo 152-8550, Japan

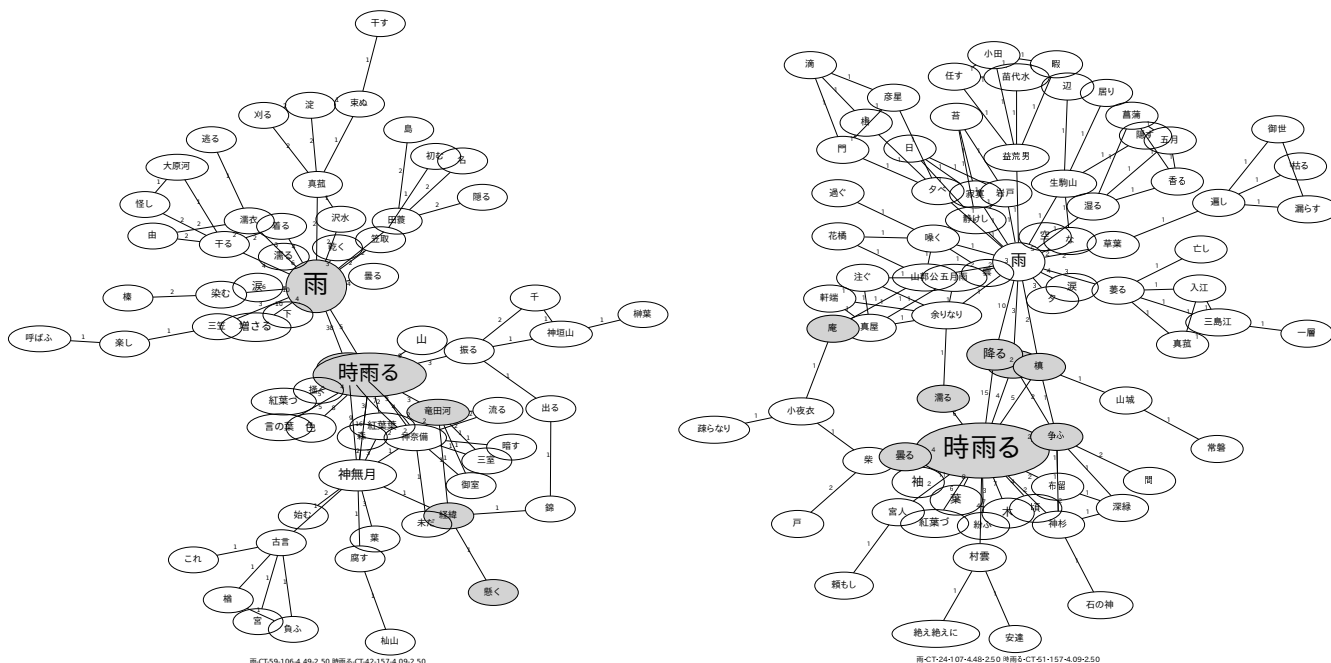
<sup>2</sup> University of Washington  
4014 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105-6203

<sup>a)</sup> yamagen@ila.titech.ac.jp

<sup>b)</sup> griffens@uw.edu

**Table 1** Frequency and distribution of the four types of rain in the Hachidaishū.

	Freq.	Japanese	English	Kokin ca. 905	Gosen 951	Shūi ca. 1005	Goshūi 1086	Kinyō 1126	Shika 1151	Senzai 1188	Shinkokin 1205
1.	164	shiguru	drizzling rain	16	17	15	16	6	9	34	51
2.	153	ame	rain	23	33	25	15	8	4	8	37
3.	68	samidare	May rain	3	5	5	10	11	4	16	14
4.	35	harusame	spring rain	8	7	0	2	3	1	3	11



**Fig. 1** Ame (雨; rain) v.s. shiguru (時雨, vi.; drizzling rain) during the Sandaishū which comprises the Kokinshū (ca. 905), the Gosenshū (951), and the Shūishū (1007) for 100 years (left) and in Shinkokinshū (1205), 200 years after the establishment of Shūishū; both *ame* and *shiguru* are indicated as shared nodes (in grey filled) in the Sandaishū, while *ame* is not a shared node with *shiguru* in the Shinkokinshū.

It is no longer necessary to explain *shiguru* using *ame* in the era of the Shinkokinshū. *Shiguru* can fully express itself. In other words, one can understand its meaning sufficiently with just the word *shiguru*. We call this “word independence.” Unless one explains it using the word *ame*, *shiguru* in the Sandaishū does not convey the special meaning that is added to the concept of *ame*; rather just itself. We call this “dependence on other words.” When one word is dependent on another, both depending words and dependent words appear in the same text. Conversely, when “word independence” occurs, the relationship between two words is regarded as that of hypernym and hyponym: the two words do not need to appear together in the same expression. The hyponym are often expressed by its hypernyms when it comes to being representative such as “speaking about rain.” “Speaking of flowers, it is cherry blossoms” is a typical example. However, we could not confirm whether only the word *ame* can express *shiguru*. It will be a problem to analyze by observing the use of *shiguru* in the next era.

## 5. Conclusion

We analyzed words expressing *ame* (rain) in the Kokinshū and the Shinkokinshū using the Hachidaishū database, especially fo-

cusing on *ame* and *shiguru* (drizzling rain). In the Kokinshū period, *shiguru* was a dependent word explained by *ame*, but in the Shinkokinshū period, *shiguru* came to be used independently.

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