
Abstract

Poetic Language in the Theories about Waka: “*Toshiyorizuinou*”

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This study focuses on the annotations of poetic words in the waka poetry piece called “*Toshiyorizuinou*”, by Minamoto no Toshiyori. There are a total of 122 annotations in this piece and I have examined their characteristics from various aspects.

Firstly, in terms of arrangement, there are some parts that show loose associative linkage while at the same time, there are cases where there is a group of words with common contents even though there is no linkage to the surrounding words. Although there is no clear consistency it can be said that, to some extent, the flow of the text was being used to explore the author’s intentions.

In some cases the annotations are based on literary sources, but in a third of cases, it is explicitly stated that the content is based on what was heard from others. At the same time as conveying the teachings of his father, Tsunenobu, there are passages in which he states his own theory; he criticizes the theories of other families of the same period, showing an attitude of trying to assert the superiority of his own family’s theory.

Conversely, there are many topics that are not directly related to waka poetry. It seems that the author was fascinated by the appeal of the stories themselves, while at the same time he aimed at creating reading material that would attract the attention of young women, who were the intended readers.

“*Toshiyorizuinou*” is a comprehensive book on waka poetry that includes theories and notes that allow it to be widely studied. This is what makes “*Toshiyorizuinou*” unique and distinct from other theories of waka poetry.