

## **Abstract of Doctoral Thesis**

### **Title: China and Literary Studies Yoshimi Takeuchi Faced —An Interpretation of Takeuchi's Diaries during and after World War II—**

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This thesis explores the path of prominent Literature expert Yoshimi Takeuchi's life to and from China through a combined examination of his diaries and articles.

In Chapter One, I dissect Takeuchi's conception of literature by investigating his studies in Beijing. Before studying abroad, Takeuchi highly valued Japanese literary circles. After experiencing love, Takeuchi abandoned his sense of superiority as an intellectual and discovered how hard ordinary people's life in Beijing was.

Chapters Two, Three, and Four discuss Takeuchi's relationship with his friends. Among his friends were Japanese writers Takeo Oda, Taijun Takeda, and Shigeharu Nakano, who were also intrigued by China.

In Chapter Two, I compare Takeuchi's image of prominent Chinese writer Lu Xun as a litterateur to that of Oda's portrayal of Lu Xun as a patriot. The difference between Takeuchi and Oda's images can be attributed to their different personalities. Compared with Oda, who describes a heroic Lu Xun, Takeuchi portrays a weakling Lu Xun because he is closer to the life of ordinary people.

In Chapter Three, I look into the communication between Takeuchi and Takeda in the 1940s. Takeuchi and Takeda depicted Lu Xun's and Chinese historian Sima Qian's despondence about politicians who persecuted others; and though centuries apart, both Lu Xun and Sima Qian described an atmosphere of social stagnation, chaos, and backwardness. Takeuchi and Takeda, who wrote weakling, are not only for China but also for Japanese culture.

Chapter Four examines Takeuchi's thinking on Japanese literature in the Urawa era, and investigates Takeuchi's rediscovery of Japanese literature. During the Urawa era, Takeuchi was inspired by the

image of simple people, a sense of anti-authority, and a resistance against Japanese literary circles found in Nakano's literature. After that, Takeuchi advocated the theory of national literature.

In summary, this dissertation examines the evolution of Takeuchi's thinking from a literary view focused on penmen to a literary view centered on the daily life of ordinary people. What is more important is the change in Takeuchi's attitude toward literature. Initially, Takeuchi went to Beijing with a literary outlook that highly valued Japanese literary circles. Because Takeuchi's expectation was very different from the reality of Beijing, at that time, he fell into despair and contemplated giving up literature. After that, he formed a new view that praised literature inspired by the daily life of ordinary people. However, he was moved to see the development of Japanese literature in an era when it was moving in a direction that did not coincide with his views. Takeuchi's growth is thence obvious. Previous research has shown that the "real" Japanese literature that Takeuchi envisaged was the literature that would be born after the disintegration of the literary circles. The literature advocated by Takeuchi promoted the development of postwar social education in Japan.