

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

The study on Yasunari Kawabata's "Palm-of-the-Hand Stories"

-From prewar to postwar-

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This dissertation examines 10 stories of the "Palm-of-the-Hand Stories" which Yasunari Kawabata wrote between prewar 1934 and postwar 1952.

In chapter 1, *Lady's Diary* and *The Pomegranate* are treated. The analysis of Akiko's year-end and new-year holidays proves her sense of discomfort with the reality and that of alienation from the time in *Lady's Diary*. The dissection on *The Pomegranate* discusses Kimiko's emotional mind, the ambiguous role of her mother and the symbolism of pomegranate to clarify the world of this work.

In chapter 2, *Seventeen* and *Cloth Remnants* are dealt with. At first, younger sister in *Seventeen* is focused on to make the cause of her sadness clear. Then, Miyako in *A Cloth Remnant* is examined with a cloth remnant that reflects the condition of the home front and Miyako's wish for a little happiness.

In chapter 3, *Hometown* and *Water* are considered. Kinuko's gasp with surprise brought by her awareness of some changes in the last four years is targeted to analyze her mind in *Hometown*. And a young wife living in Manchuria shows her nostalgia, strong will and tenderness in *Water*.

In chapter 4, *The Silver Fifty-Sen Pieces*, *The Camellia* and *Bamboo Leaf Boats* are referred. Yoshiko and her Mother in *The Silver Fifty-Sen Pieces* show their internal conflicts and changes. And the considerations of the rest two works on main characters who cannot find the new way of living after the war are focused on.

In chapter 5, from the point of view of memories, the character of Tsukiko in *Bright Moon* is discussed to prove how various kinds of elements are integrated into the theme of this novel.

In conclusion, each chapter is summarized, the nature of "Palm-of-the-Hand Stories" is revealed and Kawabata's inside is explored.