

Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

A Study of the *Torikaebaya Monogatari*

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The *Torikaebaya monogatari* (とりかへばや物語) is a 12th century Japanese tale about two siblings who live with inverted genders, and finally exchange their identities after a series of incidents. This dissertation discusses the textual representations of the female image and gender in the *Torikaebaya Monogatari* through three comparative approaches so as to reveal how this tale expands the possibilities of these representations by using the cross-dressing motif.

The first chapter focuses on the development of textual representations of female images in this tale and in ancient tales from the Heian period in order to reveal the connections between them. By analyzing the processes of marriage, pregnancy and childbirth of the cross-dressing heroine, it is clear that even under the restraints of the patriarchal family, this tale establishes a new style of heroine.

Based on recognition of the performativity of gender, as applied by Judith Butler, the second chapter focuses on the textual representations of the heroine's gender in the *Torikaebaya Monogatari* and analyzes the construction of her gender based on the corresponding historical context.

The third chapter draws on an extensive comparative approach that contrasts this tale with Chinese cross-dressing fiction. By analyzing the similarities and differences from the perspectives of both cross-dressing and gender, it is clear that the *Torikaebaya Monogatari* exposes the so-called ideal hero, even within the restrictions of a genre that is avowedly fictitious.

Although the Tale of Genji, the most famous of the Heian era, has more than ten Chinese translations, the *Torikaebaya Monogatari* had not been introduced to China other than in a book "The History of Japanese Literature" published in 1929. As an addition to this dissertation, an excerpt of this tale has been translated into Chinese, preliminary to future publication of the complete original.