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'Spirit of Romanticism' in Kaneko Chikusui Longing for the genius:
on Reading 'The collected works of Kitamura Tokoku' and The genius for
poetry

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Kaneko Umaji [Chikusui] (1871-1937) was one of the first students at the Department of Literature at Waseda University, where Tsubouchi Shoyo and Onishi Hajime taught philosophy. As a student of Tsubouchu, Kaneko was an influential figure of the Meiji period literary world alongside Shimamura Hogetsu.

Generally, Kaneko has been regarded as an objective and sensible scholar. In literary research, Kaneko's "objectivity" is often highly praised. However, I would like to point out the "romantic spirit" which is often visible especially in his early works. This is because Kaneko highly valued "subjectivity". In *Reading 'The collected works of Kitamura Tokoku'*, he clearly expressed his admiration for the genius [= poetry genius] in his

discussion on Kitamura. Moreover, in his graduation thesis *The genius for poetry*, Kaneko developed his concept of the "genius" and "poetry genius" by referring to the German idealism represented by the aesthetics of Schelling.

This paper investigates the characteristics of Kaneko's romanticism that followed his longing for the genius [= poetry genius] by discussing the symbolism of his "subjectivity". In particular, by examining *The genius for poetry*, which was never studied before, it sheds light on a new point of view on the studies of Kaneko Umaji. To approach from both aspects of aesthetics and art theory, and literary analysis, I will present not only the characteristics of Kaneko's Romanticism but also his concept on poetic existence.