Linked Words and Leaping *Kokoro*:
The Practice of Reusing Old Waka Poems in the Medieval Renga
——An Analysis of *Rensho-shu* and the Documents in the
Shiguretei-Bunko Collection of the Reizei Family

Kosuke TSUCHIDA

Concerning the issue of composition in medieval waka poetry, it was common practice to 'reuse' old waka poems rather than to compose thoroughly 'new' ones. The reusing of old waka pieces is usually called 'honka-dori' in the present time. However, this concept is ambiguous. This paper suggests that 'honka-dori' is the method of taking words from an old poem, superimposing new content, or *kokoro*, on the content represented in the old one. Another method of reusing old poetry is 'koka-dori', which literally means taking old poems. It can be described as the method of taking only original words from an old waka without utilising *kokoro*.

Medieval renga, or linked poetry, inherited such ways of reusing old waka. In the case of the composition of renga, when a writer links a verse to the preceding verse composed by another, the network of words in old waka poetry becomes fundamental. This suggests that a word from an old work in the preceding verse has a tendency to connect to another word used in the same poem, and these words 'link' the preceding and the following verse. This technique of connecting old words can be based on either 'honka-dori' or 'koka-dori' in waka poetry. Furthermore, these methods are relevant to the 'leap' of *kokoro*, that is, changes in theme and content from verse to verse, which is a significant element in the progress of linked poems. Through such awareness of this practice of reusing old poems and the application of these methods, it becomes evident that the programme of making *kokoro* continuously 'leap' is installed in renga poetry.

The above aspects of medieval waka and renga poetry imply the paradoxical possibility of creating 'newness' by reusing the past. The past can work as the standard of value for present creation. Therefore, in a genre where the shared past is reused as material, the system of the continuous generation of the definite value is activated.