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A study of the position of haikai in Uchida Fuchian's literary criticism and its various aspects

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This paper is a survey of how haikai is mentioned in Uchida Fuchian's criticism. Uchida Fuchian (Also known as Uchida Roan:1868- 1929) is a literary critic and is known to have been active in the mid-Meiji period.

Fuchian began to write literary criticism in 1888. Then, when he was in Shizuoka in 1889, he bought number of haikai books and became interested in haikai. After reading these books, he wrote about haikai in his literary criticism. By the way, what was most important was that he discussed haikai from a modern perspective. This is a noteworthy event in the history of modern literature, because although it is commonly accepted that it was Shiki Masaoka who modernized haikai, Fuchian's criticism was earlier than Shiki's activities.

After I realized this, I read Fuchian's literary criticism in chronological order and considered how haikai was mentioned. I then wrote a paper on Fuchian's criticism for the Journal for Women's Learning. This paper is a continuation of that work.

In this paper, I examined the critiques from January 1890 to March 1892. Fuchian became an employee of the Minyu-sha Company in 1890 and began to write articles for the newspapers and magazines that the company published. And with that, the references to haikai in Fuchian's critiques changed. In the critiques Fuchian wrote in 1889, he wrote about the history of haikai and about Matsuo Basho and his group. However, in his 1890 critique, the references to haikai became more diverse and were used as irony and humor.

This paper is organized as follows. First, I surveyed his works in the above period and listed those in which haikai was mentioned. Then, I organized and discussed how haikai was used in each genre of the articles. Then, I analyzed the characteristics, and for those that cited haikai, I identified the original sources from the Edo period and discussed how the haikai was interpreted.