Abstracts

A Dynamic View of Narrative Structure

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Under almost all the intellectual products of human society, including literary works, arts, entertainments, advertisements, academic papers, and documentaries, there exists some latent narrative structure.

In traditional narrative theory the structure of narratives has been statically treated as the contraposition of 'narrative content' and 'narrative discourse' and the contraposition of 'the writer' and 'the reader.'

In this paper we would like to investigate the dynamic nature of the narrative structure in which the narrator creates another new narrator within the narrative, or the reader becomes the narrator and enquires about the 'original narrator' or the 'narrative' itself.

The dynamic nature of a narrative can be described as its reclusive property or regenerative property. We claim that when the reclusive property of narrative structure maintains the properties of a riddle issuing and riddle solving, the intellectual appealing power of narrative is reinforced. We will show same concrete instances of this claim

Furthermore, we show the fact that even in intellectual objects of 'non-narrative' structures such as Haiku, Renku (='linked verse'), mathematical propositions and media reports, the latent riddle-solving narrative structure exists and captures the interest of the readers.

Japan's Housing Market in the Face of a Declining Population

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Japan's housing market has provided housing services to the Japanese public through the construction of new homes. In particular, during the postwar years of rapid growth and the economic bubble there was a boom in the number of housing starts, bringing prosperity to the market. However, the amount of new housing built declined after the bubble economy imploded, and since then the ongoing situation has been one in which only around half the number of housing units are being supplied.

The Japanese economy has been regarded as having entered a long–term slump after the collapse of the bubble economy. Nonetheless, immediately after the bubble burst the amount of housing starts did not actually dramatically decline. In this paper, while showing how the collapse of the bubble economy forced a major balance sheet adjustment on the Japanese public, it is demonstrated that until around the year 1997 population factors and the rebuilding of housing that was constructed in the 1960s helped support the number of housing starts.

However, on top of the deteriorating economic factors prior to and after the Asian currency crisis, the long-term trend of a declining population and the relatively low destruction ratio of the housing stock built in the 1970s suppressed the rebuilding of housing, and resulted in a downturn in the number of housing starts. In the regions outside of Tokyo in particular, the population began to decline straight after the amount of housing starts fell back, leaving a large stock of empty residences in these areas.

In the future, the decline in the Japanese population and the increasing proportion of elderly people who have little demand for buying their own homes is expected to result in a sustained low level of demand for new housing. Demand is expected to decline on a large scale, particularly in the Kinki region around Osaka and Kyoto, and other largely rural regions. The future Japanese housing

market is likely to have to change from meeting the public's housing needs by providing new housing to a model similar to that of America and Europe, in which a good stock cycle is maintained through a resale housing market. In such an eventuality it will be essential to prepare an environment that enables a massive improvement in the data used in real estate buying and selling, including information about the quality of buildings.