

Abstract (Rewritten: 15-07-2021)

The visual world of children's books

Children's literature in various formats: books, multimedia, Internet etc

Kamishibai : an alternative format of children's literature (presentation)

Kamishibai is a unique Japanese cultural asset, born in the 1930's in Tokyo. A kamishibai shows a certain number of loose sheets that have a picture on the front and text on the back. The presentation of kamishibai always needs a performer, who stands facing the audience. The sliding-out and sliding-in motions of the picture serve the purpose of moving the story along, while the performer is reading the text.

More and more librarians, educators, speech therapists, performers, and researchers as well as creators in the world come in contact with kamishibai. Many of them make use of it, because although the story and illustrations are quite simple, kamishibai offers great joy of literature for a wide range of the public, including toddlers, immigrants, children with disabilities, and even adults and the aged. Kamishibai's format is different from picture books, so it has its own key features. Being an administrative member of the International Kamishibai Association of Japan (IKAJA), I want to clarify these key features in my presentation.

For my clarification, I will use some kamishibai works of Seizo Tashima, shortlisted for the H.C. Andersen Award 2020. Seizo Tashima was born in Osaka Prefecture and spent his childhood in Kochi Prefecture. In 1969, he moved to the village of Hinode in the Tokyo area with rich nature, and joined movement against the construction of a garbage incineration plant in the village.. In 1998, he moved to the Izu Peninsula and he dedicated himself to creations that focus on nature He has illustrated or written and illustrated numerous picture books, including *Chikara Taro* (Powerful Taro, published by Poplar Publishing Co.), winner of the Biennale of Illustrations Bratislava (BIB) Golden Apple Award in 1969; *Tobe batta* (Fly, Grasshopper, published by Kaiseisha), winner of the Shogakukan Illustration Award in 1989. His latest work published in 2020, *Tukamaeta* (I've got it, published by Kaiseisha) is based on the unforgettable experience of childhood, which depicts the summer day when he caught a big fish.

He has created not only picture books but also masterpieces of kamishibai. Among others, three kamishibai will be focused, which are based on the folktales in France, India and Japan respectively: *Ahiru no Osama* (Duck the King, 1970), *Kashikoi Kanfu* (The Wise Kanfu, 2007), and *Shippei Taro* (2017), which are all published by Doshinsha. His powerful line, strong colors and the inner rhythm really fit the art of kamishibai, which is a combination of the oral and visual literature.