

Completion Report

Department of Malaysian Languages & Applied Linguistics,
Faculty Of languages & Linguistics, Universiti Malaya. .
Thanalachime Perumal

Subject of Research Project : Translating Japanese's Children Literature into Malay and Tamil Language

Ten popular Japanese children's moral stories from the Digital Collection of the National Diet Library, Japan, and the book "Nihon-O-Togibanashishu" (Collection of Japanese Fairy Tales) by Iwaya Sazanami, published by ARS in 1927, were selected for the research project titled "Translating Japanese Children's Literature" into Malay and Tamil." These stories were translated into Malay, Malaysia's national language, and Tamil, a minority language in Malaysia. The Malay translations were overseen by Dr. Woo Wai Sheng, and the Tamil translations by Dr. Thanalachime Perumal. Both translations were carried out by professional translators and proofread by experts.

The main objective of this project is to help local children learn about the ideas, thoughts, history, cultural values, and traditions of Japan. Translating children's literature from various countries is important because it provides children with opportunities to engage with literature and appreciate their own cultural heritage as well as those of others. It also helps develop their emotional intelligence and creativity.

As part of the research project, the website JapanMoralTales.com was created and overseen by dr Elanttamil Maruthai. It features an eBook library of ten Japanese children's stories translated into eBooks in both Tamil and Malay, with interactive flipbook functionality for an engaging reading experience. The homepage includes a main slider highlighting different featured eBook titles and stories. The website aims to provide free access to these literary translations while promoting the languages, cultures, and moral lessons within the original Japanese stories.

The project promotes an appreciation of both local and foreign cultural heritages among children, enhancing their emotional intelligence and creativity. The creation of JapanMoralTales.com provides an interactive platform for children to access these stories. The project culminated in a significant event attended by a representative of the Japanese Embassy in Malaysia, indicating formal recognition and support of the initiative.

This research uniquely involved translating the same set of stories into both Malay and Tamil, catering to different linguistic communities within Malaysia. The development of an interactive website with flipbook functionality is a novel approach to presenting these stories, making the reading experience more engaging for children. Providing free access to these translated stories is a new step in promoting literature and cultural education among children without financial barriers. This project fosters cultural exchange and understanding between Japan and Malaysia, highlighting the educational value of children's literature in promoting international cultural awareness.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Launching of the Website on 24.05.2024 at Mengkula Hall, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

- Speech by the representative of Embassy of Japan in Malaysia- Mr saito Yukiyoshi, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
- President of JACTIM, Mr Takero Sawamura
- Representative from the Japanese Chamber of Trade and Industry Malaysia
- Puan Nik Hasni bt Nik Abdullah, Headmaster of Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato Onn Jaffar
- Mr Johnson A/L Mathalamuthu, Headmaster of Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) Tun Sambantan
- Students and teachers & Lectures

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

e-book launched in proses of publication