

Kiyoshi Awaka (阿波加清志、1936 - 1988)

Akiyuki Jimura (Hiroshima University)

The late Professor Kiyoshi Awaka, of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mie University, died on the seventh of November, 1988. He was 52 years old, and his research, to say nothing of his human existence, was left uncompleted.

Kiyoshi Awaka was born in Toyama Prefecture on the 6th of June, 1936. He entered Tohoku University to study English language and literature, after he graduated from Toyama-chubu Senior High School. Then he went on to the Graduate School of Letters, Tohoku University and studied English language and literature. After he obtained a Master's Degree at Tohoku University, he got a teaching job at a senior high school for two years. In 1963 he had a teaching job at Kinjyo Gakuin Junior College (Nagoya), and in December he became Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education, Mie University. He became Associate Professor in 1967 and Professor in 1975. He moved to a newly-created faculty, the Faculty of Humanities, Mie University, in 1983. He did most of the planning for the educational program of the new faculty as a professional staff member of the academic affairs section when the Faculty of Humanities was founded. He made a great contribution to the development of this new faculty, taking the role of the chairperson of academic affairs and being a member of the operating committee of the faculty.

Professor Awaka trained a number of young scholars, guiding them with great learning and large experience, to say nothing of his teaching in Middle English and English Philology. He published a number of academic articles and contributed to the advancement of scholarship, especially through developments such as computer-assisted concordances.

His research mainly focused on grammatical studies of the Middle English *Ancrene Wisse* with special reference to metaphorical expressions, repetitions, genitives and word order.

In "*Ancrene Riwe* no Hanpuku to Gojun" (1964) ("Repetition and Word-order in the *Ancrene Riwe*"), Awaka indicates a variety of rhetorical devices including *alliteration*, *anacoluthon*, and *tautology*, which make the preaching effective. He also states that the rhetorical devices such as *anaphora* and *epanadiplosis* have much influence on the word-order. In "*Ancrene Riwe* niokeru Zokkaku" (1965) ("On Genitives in the *Ancrene Riwe*"), he discusses the uses of genitives synchronically, classifying the expressions involving genitives and making use of statistical analysis. In "*Pe Liflade*

ant te Passiun of St. Iulienne no Gojun – Shugo, Doushi, Mokutekigo wo Chushin ni” (1967) (“Word-order in *De Liffade ant te Passiun of St. Iulienne*: With Special Reference to Subjects, Verbs and Objects”), he indicates the regular patterns of word-order in *De Liffade ant te Passiun of St. Iulienne*, though the word-order in Middle English is said to be comparatively free. In “*Ancrene Riwe* niokeru Daimeishi-Mokutekigo no Ichi” (1968) (“On the Positions of Pronominal Objects in the *Ancrene Riwe*”), he clarifies the characteristics of the word-order SOV, investigating the positions of pronominal objects in the *Ancrene Riwe*. In “A Note on Middle English *Neveu*” (1979), he reexamines the meaning of *neveu*, since he has a doubt about the definition of this word in the *Middle English Dictionary*. He also shows his historical interest in some grammatical features such as comparison. In “Hikaku Henka no Keitai Henka --er, -est kara more, most e?” (1969) (“The Change of Comparison in Present-day English: From Inflectional to Periphrastic?”), he expresses doubt about the general change from inflectional to periphrastic forms of comparison in Present-day English, investigating statistically the usage in novels, essays, plays, etc. published about 1900 and after 1950.

Then he moved on to textual studies of the *Ancrene Wisse*, comparing *Ancrene Riwe* with *Ancrene Wisse*. He published his articles: “A Parallel Text of *Ancrene Riwe* and *Ancrene Wisse* (1), (2), (3) and (4)” (1974-1977), in one of which he says:

“in this paper a part of the texts is edited, for the convenience of the various studies of the work, from the two important English versions. One of them is called Cotton MS Nero A. xiv, in the British Museum, which contains the text of the *Ancrene Riwe* (AR), and the other is CCC MS 402 (MS 402 of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), which contains the text of the *Ancrene Wisse* (AW)” (Awaka 1974: 1).

He finished transcribing the two manuscripts. His scrupulous textual studies of the *Ancrene Wisse* led to his careful Japanese translation of the text. He translated the original text of the *Ancrene Wisse* into Japanese, consulting several manuscripts of the work. He published his translations over seven years, 1980-1986. They contributed to scholarship through their method of Japanese translation, because they were based upon the manuscripts, following the model of the late Professor Kikuo Miyabe’s translation of the *Ancrene Wisse*. It was fortunate that he had finally completed editing his new text of the *Ancrene Wisse*, making use of a personal computer, though the data-based study of literary works was not easy to perform at that time. In 1982 he also published his first transcription of *The Pains of Sin*, which was contained in the Bodley MS., Eng. Poet a. 1, generally known as the Vernon MS and written in England in the late 14th century. He faithfully transcribed the manuscript and added a modernization of the text.

In 1986 he read his paper “*Ancrene Wisse* no Hyoudai” (“The Title of the *Ancrene Wisse*”) at the 58th General Meeting of the English Literary Society of Japan; the article was in a way a condensation of the researches he undertook over long years. Though this work was generally known as the *Ancrene Riwle*, he had the original opinion that it would be more appropriate for us to use the title *Ancrene Wisse*, judging from the following evidences. The *Ancren Riwle* was named by J. Morton, the first editor of this work, but the form *Ancrene Riwle* was widely used in academic circles, since the form *ancrene* was grammatically correct as a genitive plural of the noun. However, in the text we could find only the compound expression “ancre riwle” and so we should not be too obsessive about regarding *ancrene* as the only genitive plural form.

The interpretation of *wisse* remains unsolved by scholars. Investigating words postposed after genitives, he found verbal nouns and nominal uses of adjectives in this position, but did not find examples of the nominal uses of infinitives. Therefore, we were not able to conclude that Old English infinitive *wissian* became the Middle English *wisse*, though it would be proper for us to regard the Middle English *wisse* as the nominalized form of the Old English adjective *wis* (or *wiss*). Finally, he interpreted the meaning of the title *Ancrene Wisse* as ‘guidance or knowledge for the anchoress’.

He concentrated his energy on making computer-assisted concordances of Middle English texts. He began by ascertaining the text on the basis of the manuscripts, when making the concordance of the *Ancrene Wisse*. The number of tokens of Middle English words in the *Ancrene Wisse* is 70,198, each of which was collected systematically and comprehensively by his computer programme. The summary of this project was published in his article “Pasokon Riyo no *Ancrene Wisse* Konkodansu” (“A Computer-assisted Concordance of the *Ancrene Wisse*”), *Festschrift for the Retirement of Professor Sachiho Tanaka* (Kirihara-shoten, 1988).

Professor Awaka was a pioneer figure in editing the text of the *Ancrene Wisse* on the basis of his scrupulous reading of the manuscripts, putting its textual information in database form. His database of the *Ancrene Wisse* was the first noteworthy achievement of this kind in the world. His contribution to the electronic scholarship led to *Electronic Parallel Diplomatic Manuscript Texts of Ancrene Wisse*, by Tokyo Medieval Manuscript Reading Group (2000-2001), the group which published *The Ancrene Wisse, A Four-Manuscript Parallel Text*, Preface and Parts 1-4, edited by Tadao Kubouchi and Keiko Ikegami with John Scahill, Shoko Ono, Harumi Tanabe, Yoshiko Ota, Ayako Kobayashi and Koichi Nakamura, 2003 and *The Ancrene Wisse, A Four-Manuscript Parallel Text*, Parts 5-8 with Wordlists, edited by Tadao Kubouchi and Keiko Ikegami with John Scahill, Shoko Ono, Harumi Tanabe, Yoshiko Ota, Ayako

Kobayashi and Koichi Nakamura, 2005.

Last but not least, I would like to conclude this essay, by quoting a part of my review article (*Studies in English Literature* (English Number 1996), 99-105), which sets out Professor Awaka's great achievement, comparing his concordance with Potts, Stevenson, and Wogan-Browne's *Concordance to Ancrene Wisse: MS Corpus Christi College Cambridge 402* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1993)

We have to notice the merits of Awaka's concordance. First, his concordance uses modern punctuation, with proper nouns modernized and the upper cases consistently used. On the other hand, Potts, Stevenson, and Wogan-Browne's is faithful to the original manuscript, in that it does not always use upper cases. Second, Awaka's concordance changes the abbreviated letters of the manuscript into the unabbreviated. Those unabbreviated in Awaka's text should have been italicized. The third problem shows us that it is difficult to decide which word is a compound in Awaka's text. Awaka's concordance is faithful to the original manuscript in this respect, but we should sometimes regard two separate words in the manuscript as one compound word when we transcribe the manuscript, e.g. "ancre wununge," or "hire seolf," where a hyphen should be inserted between the words. To sum up, Awaka's concordance is practical and exhaustive and should be very useful to medieval scholars. Potts, Stevenson and Wogan-Browne's concordance is for the most part mostly too faithful to the original manuscript and has many printing problems, the latter which would make it more difficult to use. (Jimura: 103)