

The relationship between text and illustrations in a translated science book for children from 19th century Japan

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the role of illustrations in a translated Western science book in late 1860s and 1870s Japan, a time when Japan was modernizing by assimilating Western concepts. In this article, we will observe the relationship between text and illustrations both in source texts (ST) and in target texts (TT). Illustrations in the TT titled *Kinmō Kyūri Zukai* are compared with drawings in the ST and TT itself. We subdivided the scientific illustrations into three categories, and the last category, which used intersemiotic translation from the TT, was strongly influenced by Japanese social codes. The drawings include appropriate people in particular situations which are suggested by the TT. We consider that this feature might have been intended to enlighten readers, especially children who encountered Western science for the first time, which means that the translator and the engraver used intersemiotic translation to show Western science.

KEY WORDS: dissemination of Western science, intersemiotic translation, science illustrations, social code, visualized knowledge