The Evolution Of Japanese Haiku: From Paper To Digital

by Ni Luh Gede Meilantari

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	Haiku is a type of traditional Japanese poetry that originated in the Muromachi era (13th-15th centuries) and evolved further throughout the Edo era (17th century). Haiku, along with Ninja, Manga, Samurai, and Karaoke, has become a prominent Japanese vocabulary word around the world. Haiku is a form of poetry that can be found in both Japanese and international literature. Haiku has grown in popularity as a result of technological advancements in the twenty-first century, particularly through the internet and social media. This study attempts to summarize the evolution of haiku from paper to digital media as it exists today. Digital platforms have changed the classic haiku structure by allowing for syllable count experimentation, multimedia incorporation, and worldwide cultural interaction. These innovations have enhanced the haiku tradition while preserving its core and depth.

1. INTRODUCTION

Haiku is a type of traditional Japanese poetry that originated in the Muromachi era (13th-15th centuries) and evolved further throughout the Edo era (17th century). Haiku, as a traditional poem, has binding constraints, especially the teikei regulations, which mandate that each haiku contain 17 syllables (5,7.5) and employ kigo. Kigo denotes the season in which the haiku is written, while kire-ji, which literally means word cut, serves as punctuation and emotional description (Mandah, 1992:6)

Here is an example of a traditional haiku by Matsuo Basho:

古池 や かわず 飛び込む 水 の 音

Furuike ya/kawazu tobikomu/mizu no oto

(In an old pond, a frog jump, the sound of water)

Kigo on Basho's haiku above is Kawazu (frog), which represents spring. Kireji appears in the word ya, which is an enthusiastic word. The haiku above appears easy, capturing the mood around a pool at night. The silence was broken by a frog that plunged into the water. That is way many Japanese love haiku's ability to convey itself in 17 syllables.

Haiku, along with Ninja, Manga, Samurai, and Karaoke, has become a prominent Japanese vocabulary word around the world. Haiku is a form of poetry that can be found in both Japanese and international literature. According to Higginson and Harter in The Haiku Handbook (1989: 49-57), Haiku was brought to the Western world in the early 1900s by Julien

Vocance and Paul-Louis Couchoud who penned Haiku in French after visiting Japan and published their volumes in 1905. Michel Revon later translated other Japanese literary classics and published them in Paris in 1910. Revon's translation featured a haiku by Matsuo Bashō titled Revon as Haikai. Haikai became a popular word for haiku in Spain and France at the time.

Haiku has grown in popularity as a result of technological advancements in the twenty-first century, particularly through the internet and social media. This study attempts to summarize the evolution of haiku from paper to digital media as it exists today. Several writers, including Yamashita Kazumi, have written on the history of haiku in Japan in his book *Haiku No Rekishi: Muromachi Haikai Kara Sengo Haiku Made* (History of Haiku: From Muromachi Haikai to Post War Haiku). Yamashita analyzed the evolution of Haiku from Muromachi, when it was known as Haikai, to Modern Haiku, which arose after World War II.

Burleson (1998) writes about the history and aesthetics of haiku, as well as how to write haiku with elementary school pupils. Burleson's research focused on the evolution of Haiku during the Edo period, with the birth of the great haiku poet Matsuo Basho. Both Yamashita and Burleson's research were written in the 1990s, when the internet had only recently established, so they did not trace the evolution of Haiku after the internet appeared. This is the study's research gap, which fills a gap in earlier research on the development of haikus in Japan.

Hokku gained notoriety in the 17th century for its autonomous style of poetry. The haiku form was improved by Matsuo Bashō, who elevated it to a more sophisticated poetic style. He is frequently given credit for establishing haiku as a unique and well-known style of Japanese poetry. Numerous Haiku schools, including Teitoku and Shomon, have emerged. While the Teitoku school concentrated on complex wordplay and sophisticated language, the Shomon school prioritized straightforward language and striking images. Haiku styles have become more diverse as a result of these schools.

2. METHODS

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. According to Bungin (2007: 68-69), descriptive qualitative research aims to describe and summarize various forms of societal conditions, situations, and phenomena that are the objects of research, as well as to attract reality to the surface as a characteristic, character, nature, model, model, signs, or description of certain conditions, situations, or phenomena.

Data collection method employs qualitative research methods, including the examination of literature in Japanese and English that deals with the history of haiku. The

technique used is the take note technique. After collecting data, the results of the analysis are presented using a descriptive method, which includes explanations or detailed information as an instructional tool.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The evolution of Japanese haiku from traditional to digital forms spans several centuries, with significant developments during various periods in Japanese history. Here is a detailed timeline and summary of the evolution.

1. The Origin and Early Development (15th-17th centuries)

Japanese poetry originated during the Heian period (794-1185), which was dominated by Waka. Waka is a term used to separate Japanese classical poetry from Chinese poetry (Kanshi), which has grown from the Nara period (4th century). Haikai no Renga, a kind of Renga (chained poetry), gained popularity during the Muromachi period (1336-1573). Haikai is a more casual poem that frequently includes humor or irony. The introductory section of Renga, known as Hokku, then evolves into the basic form of haiku.

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2. Classical Period: The Development of Haiku

Masaoka Shiki (1867–1902) was a poet who coined the term haiku to describe the work of hokku as a distinct genre of poetry. Shiki refined Haiku by emphasizing honest and straightforward natural observations, and separated it from the association and Renga. Following Masaoka Shiki's death in 1902, the Japanese haiku world was divided into two major schools. Takahama Kyoshi promoted the traditional 5-7-5 pattern, whilst Kawahigashi Hekigotō allowed for free rhythm and formal variation. Kyoshi led the Hototogisu Journal, which became a significant influence on the Haiku world.

3. Haiku in Modern Era

During the Taisho and Showa periods (1912-1989), Haiku evolved further, with the establishment of several streams and schools emphasizing distinct parts of Haiku. Masaoka Shiki, Takuboku Ishikawa, and other haiku poets crafted haiku in a more intimate and

contemplative form. Modern haiku (*gendai haiku*) emerged after the war and continued to evolve despite wartime persecutions. This time also witnessed the emergence of the New Rising Haiku movement, which emphasized new forms and techniques. Haiku gained global recognition through translations into other languages. Haiku gained popularity outside of Japan, particularly in the West, where writers like as Ezra Pound and Jack Kerouac drew inspiration from it.

4. Haiku in Digital Era

Haiku has evolved to the digital age in recent years, particularly during the Heisei and Reiwa periods, with online platforms and social media making it easier to share and create haiku. Poets can now connect and exchange their work on a worldwide scale. In the early twenty-first century, digital channels for creating and sharing haiku emerged. This includes haiku-specific websites, social media, and online communities.

Haiku has made its way into digital media as technology has advanced. The Internet enables poets from all over the world to instantaneously share haiku, broadening the reach and community of haiku authors. The Shiki Internet Haiku Salon (四季インターネット俳句サロン), founded in 1996 by Matsuyama University in Ehime, Japan, was one of the first haiku-specific websites. This site was created in honor of Masaoka Shiki, a well-known haiku reformer, and serves as a forum for haiku writers to share their work online. Shiki Internet Haiku Salon was one of the first sites to connect with the international haiku community and let them to engage in the haiku discussion and contest.

As internet availability in Japan increased, more Haiku-related websites appeared. These websites provide a variety of services, including discussion forums, haiku contests, and haiku education tools. Another example is the Asahi Haikuist Network website, which is part of the Asahi Shimbun newspaper and offers a venue for sharing haiku in both Japanese and English.

Around 2010, Haiku writers began to use social media platforms such as Twitter to swiftly and widely share their work. Haiku writing is best suited to platforms with short character constraints, such as Twitter. On social media, hashtags such as #haiku are a popular method to share and discover haiku from across the world. In addition, there are Haiku-specific websites where poets can submit their work and engage in a Haiku contest or community. Some Haiku Digital communities have grown on platforms like as Facebook and Line, where writers can share and connect.

Mobile applications for composing and sharing haiku, such as "5-7-5オンライン" and "haikuJAM," has emerged, allowing writers to collaborate or compete in the art of haiku. Haiku began to be written using artificial intelligence (AI). Algorithms can generate haiku by processing data and patterns from thousands of prior haiku. This sparks a debate regarding human versus computer innovation in art.

The digital platform has aided the global spread of haiku, allowing poets from a variety of cultural backgrounds to participate and enjoy the genre. This cross-cultural contact contributes to the haiku heritage by providing fresh themes, techniques, and views. Haiku is becoming increasingly popular in English-speaking countries, with numerous poets writing haikus in English that follow the typical 5-7-5 syllable pattern.

This has contributed to making haiku more accessible and inclusive, bridging cultural gaps. Today, digital platforms organize large-scale haiku competitions, such as the NHK Haiku Masters, which draws thousands of competitors each year. These events allow poets to present their work and compete against one another for awards and recognition. The following timeline summarizes the development of haiku in Japan.

Year	Development of Haiku
15th-17th centuries	Origins and early development of haiku from renga and hokku
1603-1868	Edo period, emergence of haikai no renga and development of Shomon and Teitoku Schools
1868-1926	Modernization and influence from Western poetry
1902	Division into schools after Shiki's death
1945-1960s	Post war period, emergence of gendai haiku and New Rising Haiku Movement
1970s-present	Contemporary period, global popularity and adaptation to digital age.

Table 1. Timeline Summary of Haiku in Japan

4. CONCLUSIONS

Haiku has come a long way from its origins as part of Renga to becoming a well respected independent poem style. Haiku has evolved throughout history, from Matsuo Bashō's basic form to Masaoka Shiki's modernization, even in the digital age. Modern internet and technology have broadened the reach of haiku, making it more accessible to people all over the world and introducing new innovations in the way haiku is produced and distributed. Haiku is a basic yet profound form of poetry that can communicate the beauty and complexity of life in a few words.

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