

Representation of Men in Yoshida Shuichi's *Nagasaki Ranrakuzaka*

Yuichi Kuroiwa

In this article, I analyze the representation of men in Yoshida Shuichi's *Nagasaki Ranrakuzaka* (2004), focusing on the following three points. First, in this work the male body (particularly the penis) symbolizes violent male domination over women and children. But at the same time the text shows that the penis is merely a weak organ, and therefore that the basis of the male domination is unstable. Second, as the story unfolds, it follows the heterosexual development of the protagonist Shun. Nevertheless, there are some queer scenes which subvert this straight development. Third, Shun represents passivity in the climax of the work, not only in its plot but also in its narrative. This passivity suggests the possibility of resistance to violent masculinity. Finally, I point out the importance of the representation of men in *Nagasaki Ranrakuzaka*, paying attention to contemporary research on masculinity and femininity.