

# Melissa A. Tanaka

*Japanese to English translation  
focused on voice and narrative*  
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I provide polished, flowing English translations of Japanese media contents, prose, and literature. My experience spans diverse fields including manga, novels, video games, marketing, and academic texts. I am driven by a fierce dedication to character voice and stylistic integrity as well as timely delivery.

In recent years I have worked on several high-profile manga series and the novelizations of a major RPG franchise.

## ***Curriculum Vitae***

### **Contracted translation projects**

#### Client: Vertical, Inc. (New York)

2016 - *BLAME!*, 6-volume manga series  
2015 *The Gods Lie*, 1-volume manga, released March 2016  
2013 - 15 *Mobile Suit Gundam: The Origin*, 12-volume luxury edition manga series  
2012 *5 Centimeters per Second*, 2-volume manga, released as omnibus June 2012

#### Client: Yen Press (New York)

2015 - *The Asterisk War* light novel and manga series  
2014 - Novelizations of *Kingdom Hearts* video game franchise  
2013 - 14 *Inu x Boku SS*, volumes 1 through 10  
2012 - *Blood Lad*, ongoing manga series  
2010 - *The Betrayal Knows My Name*, ongoing manga series

#### Client: Naiway (Tokyo)

2011 A guide to *kaiseki* cuisine  
2010 Script for a documentary on cherry blossom viewing spots  
2010 Tourist brochures for the city of Sasebo, Japan  
2010 Two academic articles on Chinese linguistics

#### Client: Honyaku Center (Tokyo)

2010 Sections of action video game script\*

\*Details confidential at client's request.

## **Relevant Work Experience**

### C.V. Starr East Asian Library at Columbia University

9/08 - 5/09            Cataloguing Assistant

Catalog received Japanese books/periodicals and assist in various activities related to maintenance of the Japanese language collection

### Shiseido Cosmetics America, Ltd.

5/06 - 7/07            Assistant Manager, International Products Marketing Department

Coordinate between offices in Tokyo and New York, translate (Japanese to English) marketing materials and directives, work with outside copywriters and assist in creation of materials and ad copy, final English check and proofreading of marketing materials

### Central Park Media

8/05 - 11/05           Business Affairs Coordinator

3-month paid internship; duties included communicating with licensors, receipt of materials, database updating, and assisting in preparation of marketing materials

## **Education**

### Columbia University, New York, NY

2007 - 2009            M.A., Modern Japanese Literature

Thesis on Jun'ichirō Tanizaki's *The Key*

### Trinity College, Hartford, CT

2001 - 2005            B.A., Asian Studies, Concentration in Japanese Language

Studied abroad two semesters in Kyoto; senior thesis on Amy Yamada

## **Awards & Certifications**

2008    Distinctive Merit Award, Seventh Shizuoka International Translation Competition

2005    Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 2