

## 第64回福井県中学校英語弁論大会で熱弁

10月7日（木）に武生商工会議所において中学生による弁論大会が行われ、本校からは3年1組の辻春香さんと橋本彩華さんが出場しました。

8月下旬に本校の代表に選ばれてからは英語科の先生方とともに練習に励み、本番でも大変落ち着いた様子でスピーチを行うことができました。

以下に2人の弁論原稿を掲載します。



思いを伝える橋本さん（左）と笑顔いっぱいの辻さん（右）

## “Yabai” Is A Bridge Between Us!

Tsuji Haruka

Maruoka Junior High School

“Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going.” These words were said by an American writer. I think she’s right. A country’s language changes over time, but always connects people together in surprising ways. I discovered that in Japan, Yabai is a bridge between us.

Let me start by saying I’m a little bit of a goofy student. In my daily life, both good and bad things happen to me. For example, when my homework isn’t finished late at night, I tell myself, “Yabai!” After I finish all my homework, I am happy, so I say, “Yabai, I’m done.” I had another experience. My grandma, who is 70 years old, says the word sometimes. When she mistook sugar for salt while making a cake, she said “Yabai.” When my mum was sick, she said, “Oh, no. I have 39 degree fever... yabai.” I think I use it even more than my family does.

Like when I ate the most delicious beef ever, or when I saw the coolest Korean star, Park Seo Joon, and when I found the most beautiful sky in the evening, I said “Yabai.” Can you find that each Yabai is different?

My grandma was ashamed of her mistakes, my mum was in a risky situation, and I was quite happy. I discovered that the word Yabai can be used in many different meanings and situations. I think Yabai is a universal slang word, and it helps us to connect to others.

However, the word Yabai may be confusing because it is a slang word. This kind of situation happened with my grandma. Last summer, I said to my grandma, “Baaba, this cookie is Yabai! Did you make this?” Then she looked at me funny. And she said, “What do you mean? Is it not delicious?” This is the result of how the word Yabai has been used for centuries. Did you know that people started to use the word in the Edo period? A part of the word, “Yaba” meant a prison then. So the people used the word Yabai to tell others about dangerous places and serious situations. I was surprised to learn this. That’s the reason why some elderly people don’t use it much. After my grandma asked me the meaning then, I explained to her how to use it in different situations. It was fun to talk with her. I never thought a word could help us connect. I realized that Yabai became a bridge between us.

Moreover, the word Yabai has the power to connect Japan to the world. I had an experience in English class that proved this. My school’s ALT realized that she forgot to bring her textbook to class right before the bell rang, and she said “yabai” very naturally. I was surprised to hear that and I thought she could speak Japanese very well.

So I asked her the reason why she used it. She told me that the word Yabai is quite useful because it’s easy to memorize. Also, she often catches the word being used in conversations with different meanings.

My ALT can only speak a little Japanese and she sometimes worries

about communicating with students. But the word helps her to relax, and connects her to the people at school and even other foreigners living in Japan. I realized Yabai is a bridge between us.

From small children to elderly people to foreigners, people in various ages from different countries can use this wonderful word. Through my experiences, I discovered that the Japanese language connects people from all over the world. Before I knew about the history of the word Yabai, I just used it freely without thinking. But now I know the word can be a bridge of communication. In the future, I want more people in Japan and the world to know the slang word, Yabai, and show that they can also be a part of Japanese culture. As the American writer said, believe the possibility of each word we use and try to go through on a road of culture with language!

## Thank You for Loving Us!

Hashimoto Sayaka  
Maruoka Junior High School

I fell in love with anime and manga when I was little, especially ONE PIECE. It is an adventure story loved around the world. Luffy is the main character and the characters travel around the world on a pirate ship. Again and again, I have been helped by one of the anime's characters. That character is Ace. He says, "Thank you for loving me." He said these words when he helped his brother, Luffy, survive an attack from enemies. Those were his last words before he died. He fought for his brother with strength and confidence. I sometimes face problems, but I try to improve myself by living like Ace bravely. But recently I discovered something troubling about anime. I am worried about anime's future and I want to make a change by using

Ace's words.

One day last year, some serious news shocked me about the working conditions of anime and manga creators. I discovered that they make little money. Most of the money earned from anime and manga goes to the studio companies and show networks. Even if they spend several hours drawing characters and places, they make just around two hundred yen per drawing! I can only buy a bag of chips with that amount! How can they survive every day?

Also, most cannot live healthy lives because of overworking. In 2014, one incident made headlines around the world. One creator worked more than 20 hours in a day before his death. I could not believe this. The creators make their original stories and draw pictures with great skills. I think they deserve a fair wage and working rights. If this serious problem does not change, Japan's world famous art form may be disappearing. This possibility makes me sad. How can I protect anime and manga? I know that thinking like Ace could help. I've come up with two ideas.

First, we should tell many people about this problem with confidence, just as Ace was confident during an attack. If we tell our friends about it, they will tell their friends and families. If more and more people can start thinking about the problem, we can think of how to solve it together. The first step in solving a problem is knowing that the problem exists! I think many people only know that anime and manga are popular, and not that there is a big problem.

Second, I want to have strength like Ace to proudly share my love for anime, just as he proudly shared his love for his brother. My dream is to go to different countries and share my love for anime and manga with the locals. Actually, I visited Australia three years ago and did a homestay for two weeks there. The family I met had a son about

the same age as me. When I showed him a picture of Doraemon that I drew quite well, he said with a smile, “I don’t know the character, but it’s so cute!” I was glad to hear his words, but at the same time, I found that there are still some people who don’t know about anime. Now I think I should have told him that Doraemon is made by creators with great effort. If I did so, the host family may have been interested in learning more about it. Someday, I want to share my drawings with foreigners again, and even tell them how anime and manga are created. I hope they understand how difficult it is to create and appreciate the effort of the creators.

Last summer, the Tokyo Olympics were held and we could hear Japanese anime music during games. I am sure people living far away from Japan are interested in Japanese culture. And I am sure they believe that Japanese culture is worth protecting. I hope together we can support animators and manga creators in the future. If we, the viewers, are Luffy, and the creators are Ace, I know the creators would say, “Thank you for loving us.” They continue to create art for us even when they are drowning. We should try our best to love them back by talking about this problem seriously. Someday in my future, I will definitely say “Thank you for loving my country.” Now I am standing on the ship of adventure to protect Japanese culture. Won’t you join me?