

Plagiarize?! Who, me?!

There are a few reasons why Japanese university students have a hard time coming to terms with plagiarism issues (盗作). For one, the academic standards regarding plagiarism vary from country to country. American universities are quite strict < <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/education/02cheat.html> >, but the Japanese academic community tends to be less so. Chinese academia is even more lenient. Standards also vary from university to university. It's no wonder students are unsure of where the lines are.

Further, many students have not been taught adequate summarizing skills. Without the skills to summarize an article, using the author's original words can seem like the only option. In addition, the emphasis on using "correct English" makes using the original content an even more tempting choice.

We will try to address this problem using a 2010 article from the Japan Times concerning the problem of the sustainability of bluefin tuna. < <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/n20100804a2.html> > or < <http://bit.ly/fOy9lj> >

Read the article. Try to answer the following questions:

- What is the topic of the article?
- What are the main facts presented? (Be careful to separate FACTS from opinion, speculation, or even questions.)
- What is the opinion or point of view of the article's author? (Articles are written by human beings. Even though an article may appear to be "objective" (客観的) the author still has his/her own opinion that may change the tone of the article.)
- Is there a course of action suggested by the author? What is it?

If you try to answer these questions in your own words, and then use those answers in your paper, it is unlikely that you will be guilty of plagiarism. Your answers may look something like this:

- What is the main point of the article?

The World Wide Fund for Nature Japan warns about the declining numbers of blue fin tuna.
- What are the main facts presented? (Be careful to separate FACTS from opinion, speculation, or even questions.)

There was a forum in Tokyo. They want people to be more aware of the bluefin tuna problem. This was the first time they got together to discuss the problem. 43,000 tons (39,090,909 kg) of tuna were eaten in Japan in 2008. A ban on catching bluefin has been proposed.

- What is the opinion or point of view of the article's author? (Articles are written by human beings. Even though an article may appear to be "objective" (客観的) the author still has his/her own opinion that may change the tone of the article.)

She mentions the bluefin shortage numbers and other countries criticizing Japan. She may think that this is a problem that needs more attention.

- Is there a course of action suggested by the author? What is it?

She doesn't say so directly, but I think she thinks we somehow need to take fewer bluefin tuna from the sea.

Here are two ways one might summarize this article.

Acceptable:

The stocks of bluefin tuna have been declining recently. Representatives from several countries met recently in Tokyo to discuss the problem. Japan was criticized since about 70–80% of the world's tuna catch is consumed in Japan. There was no agreement of the best way to regulate the fishing of bluefin tuna, but all seemed to agree it was a big problem.

Plagiarism:

I am concerned about bluefin tuna (*maguro*). Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks are declining at a dangerous pace, experts and members of an international nongovernmental organization warned at a forum Tuesday in Tokyo. A global system is needed to ensure tuna fishing is done legally and stocks are managed properly. The international community has raised serious concerns about the rapid drop in Atlantic bluefin and proposed a ban on its international trade. We need to be aware of how our actions affect the environment.

IF you want to use the exact words from the original source, use quotation marks (" ") or a "block quote (as above, in the "Acceptable" and "Plagiarism" sections) AND clearly credit the source (author, publication name, date, etc.) Any format (MLA, APA, Chicago) is acceptable for this class. Generally, any time you find yourself "cutting and pasting," you MUST cite your source.

Now, try to summarize the other article. Try to use only three sentences.

Awareness of bluefin decline urged | The Japan Times Online 8/5/10 7:50 AM

The Japan Times Printer Friendly Articles

Awareness of bluefin decline urged

Tokyo forum looks at resource management; official defends opposition to ban on trade

By MASAMI ITO

Staff writer

Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks are declining at a dangerous pace, experts and members of an international nongovernmental organization warned at a forum Tuesday in Tokyo, urging Japanese consumers to be more aware of the problem when they opt to eat sashimi and sushi.

According to organizer World Wide Fund for Nature Japan, the gathering was the first attempt to bring fishermen, government officials, NGOs and consumers together to find a way to ensure the prized resource survives.

WWF Chairman Tsunenari Tokugawa stressed that a global system is needed to ensure tuna fishing is done legally and stocks are managed properly.

"We would like consumers to understand more about using resources (like tuna) in a sustainable way," Tokugawa said. "We must make sure (tuna are not consumed) to a point where they are unable to reproduce."

The largest consumer of bluefin, Japan went through 43,000 tons in 2008, or some 70 percent to 80 percent of the global total traded. About half of Japan's bluefin comes from the Atlantic Ocean.

The international community has raised serious concerns about the rapid drop in Atlantic bluefin and proposed a ban on its international trade at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in Doha, Qatar. In March, 68 states, including Japan, rejected the proposal, while only 20 voted in favor.

Masanori Miyahara, a councilor of the Fisheries Agency, told the gathering Japan agrees that Atlantic bluefin must be managed properly but opposed the CITES proposal because it unfairly benefited only countries that catch their own bluefin, including the United States and European nations, instead of relying on imports.

"The Washington Convention only controls trade, so it has no effect on countries that can fish their own tuna supply," Miyahara said. "The proposal completely lacked fairness."

Japan was labeled by the international community and media as a country that bribed developing nations to get them to vote against the proposed trade ban, Miyahara said, issuing a strong denial.

"People kept saying how Japan was a bad country that doesn't listen and that its three major flaws were Toyota, whaling and tuna," he added.

"The media said we (bribed) developing countries, but that's wrong. (Those countries) were angry over the unfairness . . . because developing countries make money by selling (tuna) to countries like Japan, earning the money to buy food for their people."

Goro Matsuo, an angler from Nagasaki Prefecture, gave a presentation and expressed great concern over the rapidly decreasing number of tuna in general.

"Watching the sea for the past 14 years, I've noticed that so many of the natural resources are truly disappearing," Matsuo said. "I think we've reached the time to regulate tuna fishing not in specific areas but around the world, and promote resource management-based fisheries."

The Japan Times: Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010 (C) All rights reserved

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/nn20100804a2.html>

Students stage rally to protest time-consuming job-search 'farce' | The Japan Times Online

11/29/10 7:31 PM

The Japan Times Printer Friendly Articles

Students stage rally to protest time-consuming job-search 'farce'

By KAZUAKI NAGATA

Staff writer

Several dozen young people, mostly college students having a hard time finding work amid the stagnant economy, staged a protest Tuesday in the Shinjuku district of Tokyo, voicing anger at companies they say put unreasonable demands on people trying to get through school.

Japan's infamous corporate recruitment process is a tiring road that lasts months and involves contact with dozens of companies.

The current job-hunting season is mainly for college juniors who will graduate in March 2012. Given the current economic slump, however, it is uncertain if enough positions will be available when they graduate, even for those who receive job offers now.

"The job-hunting process is a farce. . . . Let us live like college students!" the protesters shouted in the middle of bustling Shinjuku.

A member of a student committee that organized Tuesday's rally said the group was established about a month ago to prepare for the gathering.

The committee has about 10 members, all undergraduate or graduate students discontented with the job-hunting system.

"We don't go to college to do job-hunting," said one committee member, a 22-year-old Tokyo college junior who asked not to be named.

He complained that companies undermine the lives of college students by, for example, scheduling explanatory sessions in the middle of the day, when many students have classes.

However, "it's like if you don't attend (the sessions), you wouldn't be able to go to the next stage" to get a job with those companies, he said.

He objected as well that the job-hunting process is too long and begins too early.

A female participant told the crowd that, like many women, she faced discrimination during her job hunt.

"As soon as I sat down (for my job interview), I was told 'we aren't hiring for clerical jobs this year,' " she said, adding she is from a rural area where there are few job opportunities.

"It's not that we are rejecting everything about the job-hunting process. We just want to live. We just want a job."

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<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/print/nn20101124a3.html>