

The A-I-U-E-O Gabun photo-and-wordplay workshop:

A participatory study of collaborative
storytelling in local communities

Kiyoko Toriumi
Interdisciplinary information studies, The University of Tokyo

Background and goals

What is A-I-U-E-O Gabun?

- Community-linked **participatory media project centering on workshop** designed to foster exchange among local citizens.
- Focuses on **collaborative process** by which personal histories are shared with others.
- Looks **personal memories and experiences as valuable historical resources** for storytelling.

Background and goals

What is A-I-U-E-O Gabun?

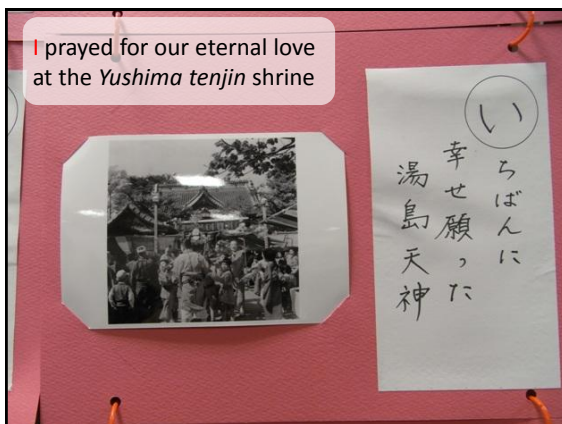
- Form of expression simple yet enabled sustained collaboration by diverse group.
- Hints from traditional wordplay forms: *oriku* (acrostic poem), *renga*, *haiga* etc.
- A-I-U-E-O = 1 syllabary group of the modern Japanese
- *ga* = picture, *bun* = text

A-I-U-E-O *gabun* as a new form of folk literary and artistic expression for the digital age

A baseball stadium (Tokyo
doom) I went with him

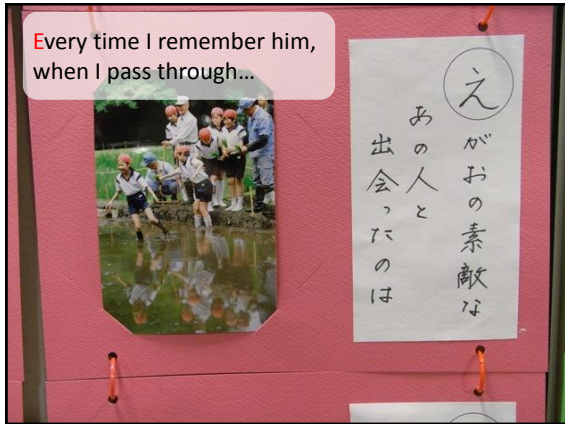


I prayed for our eternal love
at the Yushima tenjin shrine



Unforgettable first date in
the Koraku-en garden





Workshop

Venue and participants (Table 1)

- Fujisawa city, Kanagawa (Dec. 2007)
 - 9 residents from 20s to 70s
 - 2 days, used online system
- Toyohashi city, Aichi (Jan. 2009)
 - 8 residents from 40s to 80s
 - 1 day, publicly exhibited after the workshop
- Bunkyo ward, Tokyo (Mar. 2009)
 - 16 residents and commuters from 20s to 60s
 - 1 day, publicly exhibited after the workshop

Workshop

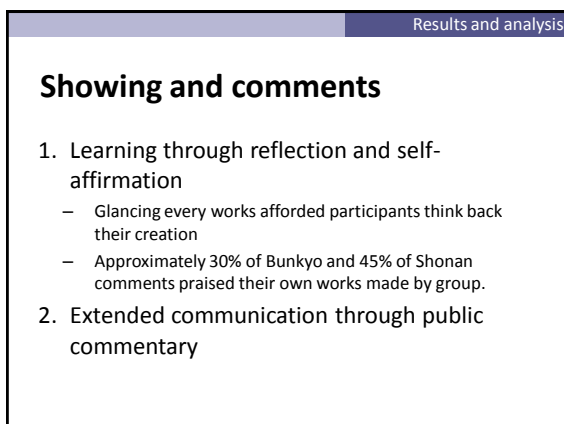
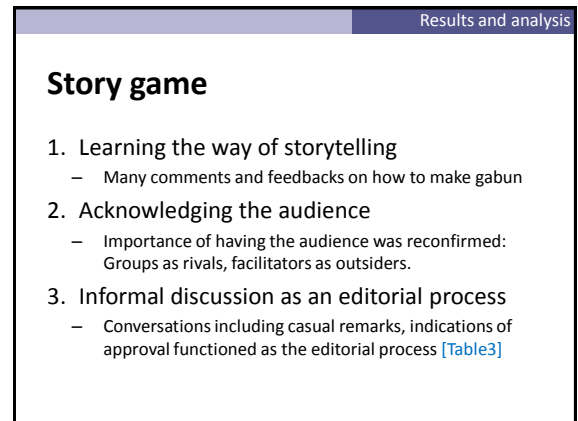
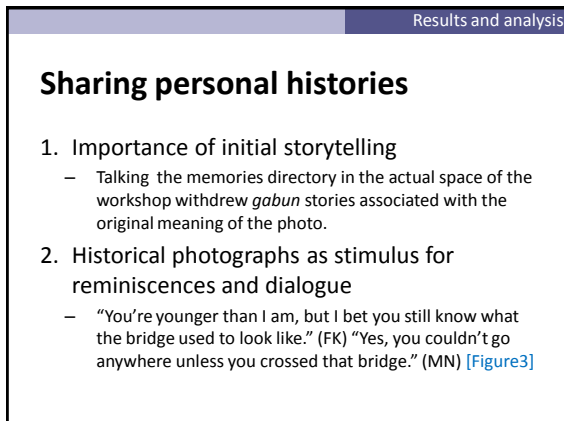
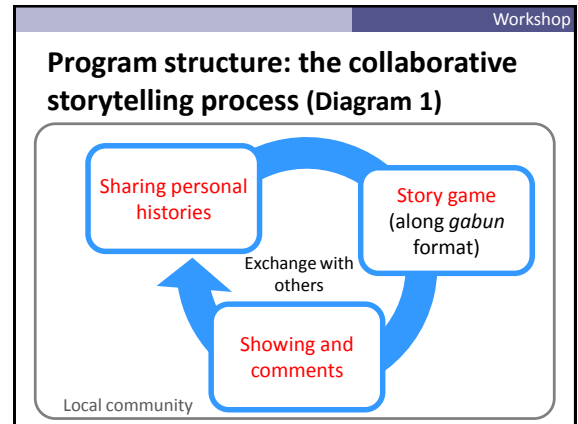
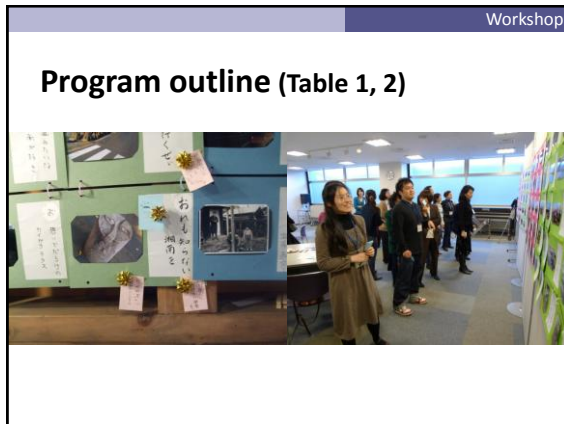
Program outline (Table 2)

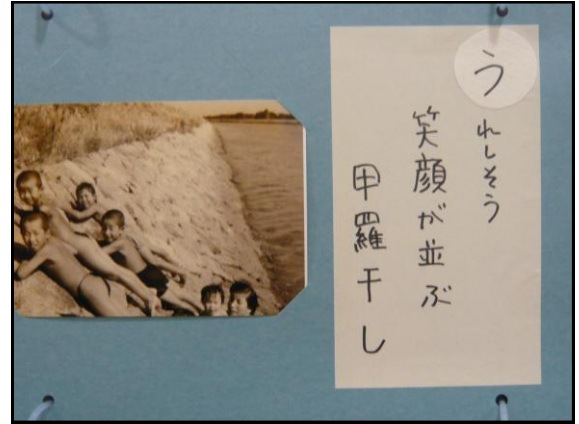
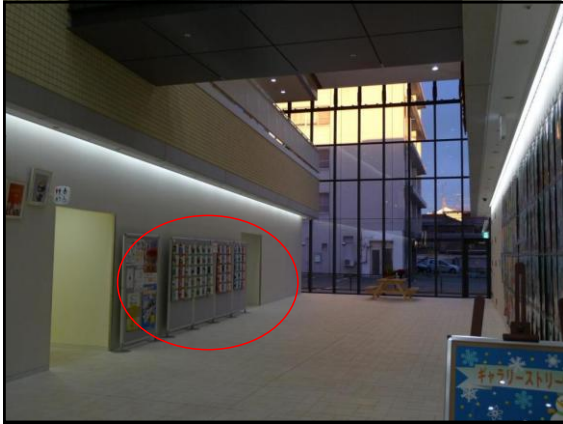
Workshop

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Conclusion and future research

Conclusion

1. **Potential usage of *gabun*** format in different situation and themes.
 - local archives with workshop activities
2. **The analytical framework** for collaborative storytelling process needed to be refined.
3. **Future-oriented outlook** needed to be transmitted to participants and cooperating organizations.
4. **Future plan** collaborating with multiple local institutions to go beyond a single workshop.

Conclusion and future research

Recent project after *gabun* workshop

Toyama photo-senryu (satirical 17 syllable poem)
 Area: 4,247.55km² Nov. 2009 ~ Mar. 2010
 Population: 1,091,955

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toriumi.kiyoko@iii.u-tokyo.ac.jp