

学位被授与者氏名	渡邊 壽康 (わたなべ かずやす)
論文題目	A Study of Edgar Allan Poe: Biography and the Question of the Self (エドガー・アラン・ポーの一研究：伝記と「自己」の問題について)
論文審査結果の要旨	<p>Mr. Watanabe San's broadly conceived study contains numerous insights, many of them innovative and thought-provoking. The thesis displays Mr. Watanabe's considerable knowledge of Edgar Allan Poe's life and his many and quite diverse writings. While arguing that Poe has been perceived by his biographers in a variety of ways, Mr. Watanabe suggests that this fact in itself points to a feature of Poe that has been lost in the caricatured image we have of Poe as an "eccentric genius"—namely, that Poe was in some way conscious of himself as possessing a divided personality, and that this is a key to understanding Poe and his 'modernity.' The discussion of Poe's "William Wilson," the key work in which Poe explores this aspect of a 'divided self,' is meticulous and shows a keen grasp of the psychological dynamics which inform the story (although the diagrams which accompany the discussion are somewhat difficult to understand). Mr. Watanabe connects in a generally persuasive manner this discussion to his reading of the "death of a beautiful woman" stories, in which he sees the narrators as 'doubles' of the author.</p> <p>If I have a criticism of the thesis, it is that one comes across occasional repetitions. I also believe the discussion overall could have been strengthened by more extensive consultation of critical work on individual stories.</p> <p>There are, in addition, some occasional lapses in English usage.</p> <p>This is a generally strong thesis which comes up with some innovative views of Poe's work, a genuine accomplishment given that Poe has attracted a vast amount of critical attention. With additional work, in particular with respect to critical discussion of individual stories, this study has the potential to become a publishable piece of criticism and research.</p>