

JUDIT VIHAR
Literary translator

“Translation is like a bowl of cherries.”

/Judit Vihar/

Judit Vihar literary translator was born in 1944. His father was Béla Vihar poet. As many of her family members were teachers her parents wanted her to pursue a teacher's career as well but her talent as a literary translator was already noted during her university studies and she fell in love with the profession. She declared that she wanted to be a literary translator. This is how she became familiar with Oe Kenzaburo's works who was the second Japanese writer who was awarded the Nobel Prize. She translated his works and soon they became published in Nagyvilág Journal. She studied Hungarian, Russian and Japanese at Eötvös Loránd University. At present she is working at the Japanology Institution of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary. She is the president of the Hungary–Japan Friendship Society (HJFS) since 2001.

She has been always interested in languages and literature, therefore she started to learn Russian long before she began her studies. She was always fond of Japanese and during her university studies she put a lot more effort in studying Japanese as she did in Russian or Hungarian. In 1986 she continued her studies at the University of Tokyo. As a literary translator she translated works of many Japanese poets, including Oe Kenzaburo's novel entitled *The Silent Cry*. In the meantime she worked as a teacher as well since she loved and still loves teaching. Her research and teaching specialty is haiku poetry especially comparing different haiku translations: she was interested in the methodology of translation.

Haiku is a 17-syllable long verse. Her favourite poet is Matsuo Baso whose journal of travel entitled 'The Narrow Road to the Deep North' was also translated by her. She sees every single translation task as a new challenge; she speaks about her profession with deep humility and respect.

Other translations include:

- Birds. Banja Naciusi's 50 haikus about birds in Japanese, English and Hungarian language;

- The world of the sea. Umi no sekai. 50 haikus in Japanese, English and Hungarian language. Banja Nacuisi's haikus;
- Matsuo Baso's haikus. Buson's and Szaigyo's tankas. Napút 2009/5 120-122.
- Oe Kenzaburo: Human Sheep. Novel. Nagyvilág, 1968/12 1763–1772;

At the moment she is working on the translation of two Misima Jukio plays. In the future she will be translating Banja Nacuisi's haikus about dogs.

During her career she received many awards, including the Pro Universitate award by Eötvös Loránd University as well as a Japanese award: The Order of the Rising Sun with golden sunbeam and neck-ribbon.