

## The Pandemic Expanded My World

Takiri Chiba  
Ehime University

Since I entered university, because of covid-19, face-to-face interaction with others became difficult. At first, I was so sorry about that, but I gradually found it is fun to interact with people online by using some online meeting tools, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Actually, I had not known how to use these tools before taking online classes at university. However, as I got used to them, I noticed that they are suitable not only to take classes, but also to communicate with people living in distant places. I'd like to tell you about my precious experience interacting with foreigners online.

On May 26, 2022, I and three classmates held an exchange meeting on Zoom. About 30 participants from India, USA, and Ehime University took part in the meeting. In this interaction, two students at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) in India gave us two presentations and students at Ehime University (EU) also gave two presentations and led one activity. The EFLU students described a ritual Indian festival, *Teyyam* and Indian sweets, such as *gulab jamun*. Through their presentation, I learned a lot of new things about India. EU students talked about their school life and haiku in presentations and practiced translation of haiku as an activity. I was in charge of the haiku presentation and activity.

In my presentation, I talked about haiku rules and history, then I introduced four haiku. During the presentation, I had trouble with my powerpoint slides. The notes to myself also showed on the Zoom screen so I was embarrassed. However, they listened to me carefully and wrote in the Zoom chat after my presentation, "Thank you Takiri-san, your presentation was informative for me". I was very glad to see the comment.

Then, we were separated into five breakout rooms and we translated haiku into English. Contrary to the presentation, the activity went well. In my group, members tried to translate the following haiku;

匙なめて 童楽しも 夏氷(山口誓子)

*Saji namete warabe tanoshimo natsugori* (Yamaguchi Seishi)

All members gave many ideas, and we could make a good translation of the haiku;

Kids having fun licking shaved ice off the spoon

I think this translation is excellent for not only the content, but also the rhythm. I like this translation very much.

We had enjoyable online interaction with participants from different countries. I realized communicating with people online is really fun. I wouldn't have known this if there were no pandemic. Of course, I think we could enjoy our exchange more if we had met in person, but I'm happy to find a new joy in communicating with friends online.