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論文題目	<p>Mark Twain's Image of African Americans : Jim as "Natural Man" in <i>Adventure of Huckleberry Finn</i></p> <p>(マーク・トウェインの描く黒人象 : 『ハックルベリー・フィンの冒険』における自然人ジム)</p>
論文審査結果の要旨	<p>Maeyashiki San conducted extensive research into Twain's life, the critical response to Twain's work, interpretations of <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>, and was extremely resourceful in coming up with little known sources. In close readings of several key chapters and in his explanation of the key role played by the escaped slave Jim, Maeyashiki San has come up with an innovative and insightful reading of the novel, and suggests that despite characterizations of Twain as 'realist' and 'satirist,' the writer shared certain views which align him with writers associated continental, English and American Romanticism—Rousseau, Wordsworth, Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman. In this sense, Maeyashiki San argues it is necessary to distinguish between Twain's disdain for the sort of 'romanticism' associated with Sir Walter Scott, with its medievalism and ideas of feudal honor, or Tom Sawyer's 'romantic' pursuit of adventure, and attitudes we now regard as central to the Romantic outlook.</p> <p>This is a generally strong thesis which offers a provocative but well-argued and well-documented case for situating Twain's novel in a somewhat different tradition from that in which it has been most commonly viewed ('American realism,' 'American humor,' 'satire'). The sections on historical background, Twain's life, and critical debates cover essential points and help the reader to appreciate those aspects of <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>—celebration of nature, the sense of serenity found in nature, the experience of freedom, the comradeship established between Huck and Jim once they are free of social constraints—which align it with the 'Romantic' impulse in American literature. Maeyashiki San convincingly demonstrates Jim's central place in the novel, his characterization as a 'natural man,' and how Huck manages, in Jim's company, to enjoy a certain sense of security and to overcome the social prejudices and cruelty of the society of his time.</p>