

1. Basic information of the researcher

Tsubono Keisuke

The Department of Contemporary Literary Studies

M 2

2. The theme of study

A Study of Representations of New York City as the Origin of Fantasy

3. Research activities

(1)

United States

New York

New York Public Library

Professor Pedro Ponce

(2)

3/25

4/16

23 days

4. The research outcome

(1)

The main purpose of my study is to survey the relations between the representations of New York City at turn-of-the-century in Steven Millhauser's works and a mechanism of the fantasy appeared in it. I will collect articles and illustrations about New York City in historical news papers, magazines, or study books in New York Public Library and museums, and then, compare them to Millhauser's works: *Martin Dressler* and "Paradise Park." Also, I will interview Professor Pedro ponce, who is a specialist on Millhauser, and discuss with him about Millhauser's works and my research about New York City.

(2)

Firstly, I collected various materials about representations of New York City at turn-of-the-century. As a result, I found strong similarities between how Steven Millhauser uses images of amusement parks or skyscrapers in New York City in his fantastic stories and how historical sources actually represented them. By this

comparison, New York City in that time could be considered to be the one of the origin of contemporary fantasy literature. Also, through my research, it has become possible to study Millhauser's works such as *Martin Dressler* and "Paradise Park" more empirically and transversally. Finally, though I could not meet Professor Pedro Ponce personally, I have contacted him frequently through internet. I was taught present situation of the study of Millhauser, and I have been given advices on my thesis now I am writing.

(3)

According to plan, I will arrange my research in New York in a paper which is a part of my master thesis. I would like to develop the theme of New York City at turn-of-the-century as the origin of fantasy, adding other American writers to my discussion such as Kevin Baker, who depicts vividly New York City in that time in his novel *Dreamland*. In addition, I will keep researching the origin of contemporary fantasy literature from wider view points: modernity and fantasy, community and fantasy, and so forth.