

Critical Terms in Japanese Poetry

semantic: having to do with the meaning of a literary work

syntactic: having to do with the grammar and/or position of words and phrases

yūgen: aura of mystery, allusiveness and depth of symbolic meaning

sabi: an effect of loneliness, especially associated with *yūgen*

yojō: overtones; usually arising from allusions to works from the courtly past or connotations surrounding courtly words and images

en: rich, romantic beauty associated with atmosphere of court tradition

ushin 有心: style of intense feeling (see also below)

ushin no jo 有心の序: indicates that a natural image or place name in a *jo kotoba* is meaningful (has a semantic connection) in relation to the meaning of the poem as a whole

mushin no jo 無心の序: indicates that the *jo kotoba* has only a syntactic connection (via a pun or repetition) to the meaning of the poem as a whole (and might therefore be ignored in translation).