

## IHARA SAIKAKU THE NOVELIST OF GENROKU PERIOD

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### ABSTRACT

Ihara Saikaku (1642-1693) is one of the greatest writers of Japanese literature. The master of short stories, Saikaku, who in his works embodied the unique, new artistic ideas about the world and the place of man in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, remained in Japanese literature as the founder of the ukiyozoshi prose. The article is devoted to the analysis of Ihara Saikaku's oeuvre as a novelist of Genroku period and its prose works. Through the analysis of Saikaku's works the author illustrates the stages of development of his novels and their poetic features.

**Keywords:** Genroku period, urban townsmen literature, Ihara Saikaku, ukiyozoshi, koshokumono, bukemono, choninmono.