



Suzi
if you are at work, please don't check this Gerdha
 Thu Mar 20 23:10:23 2003
 210.8.232.2

AAh! what can say Gerdha. You are freaking me out, I don't know if I will be able to sleep tonight, I hope I will. In fact I am still shaking with surprise, I am still asking my self is this real? Well, if you are wondering what is this all about I will explain. I was rewinding the forum to find the posts about Hikaru and I came across the interesting discussion you, Agnes and Jerome had in early December about the analysis of Daisuke character..and guess what Gerdha? These were exactly my reflections about him with very minor differences...which I cannot remember now because I am still overwhelmed. Do we have common genes or what? I know that you are Italian and I am originally Egyptian. I just can't believe that there is someone who is a complete stranger to me can think more or less like me as if we were twins. God, this is scary! I guess my role in the jury will be very difficult.

Jerome, I haven't met you yet but I am quite impressed with your analysis of Japanese culture and tradition. It was terrific (I believe your worship will be the Judge).

Now, here is a few remarks about the names that the characters were addressed by in the Japanese and the Arabic versions if you are interested. I have both the Arabic and the Japanese versions.
 The name "Duke Fleed" is the name used to name the protagonist by the Vegans, the people from his past, and occasionally by his friends during combat after he transforms into "Duke Fleed"...applies to both Japanese and Arabic versions. He was never called Daisuke by the above.
 The name "Daisuke Umon" is his adoptive earthling name and is used only by earthlings most of the time to call him except in battle or when he is wearing his classic red costume. Actually in the Japanese version they call him "Daisuke-san" during conversations., and in Arabic he is called "Daisuke" during conversations.
 Maria never called him during conversations by either "Duke Fleed" or "Daisuke" except in very few occasions. In fact she always addressed as "Messa" in the Japanese version. "Messa" in Japanese is a respect title meaning "older brother/ big brother" and it is customary there for siblings to address each other with titles that reflects who is older and who is younger.
 In the Arabic version (which is faithful to the Japanese) Maria always addressed him "brother" except in few occasions where she called with both Daisuke and Duke Fleed. Addressing a sibling with titles like brother and sister is acceptable in the Arabic culture depending on the country. However we don't do that on daily basis in the spoken Arabic (except of course for some dialects depending on the country) but the series was dubbed in classical Arabic so the above was acceptable. In fact even Goro/Mizar addressed Hikaru with "sister" and forgive me I cannot recall the Japanese word he used.
 Gerdha, I need some more clarification about the time lapse (4 years) that Duke has spent as a fugitive. Your calculation does not fully convince me because in ep 28 during a conversation between Koji and Daisuke at the Institute there was a remark that "it had been a long time since the last Vegan attack" (in which Blaki was killed) and this time frame was not specified. It could have been a few months or even a year or more (another MM).
 Anyway, I think I better go to sleep now.
 Wish you all a good weekend.

Suzi

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Gerdha
YOU are freaking me out, Suzi
Fri Mar 21 04:29:07 2003
80.116.18.196

Dear Suzi,

I hardly resisted to open your post during the coffee break, and now I am at home looking at my PC screen with nearly tears in my eyes. I am so happy, it's really thrilling and wonderful to find such a deep connection with complete strangers. Yeah, I believe that when we talk about something which owns such a big part of our hearts (like Grendizer) in reality we speak about ourselves and show a very deep part of us. So it's a fantastic gift of life to have the possibility to share our thoughts and – in the end – a very important part of ourselves even without knowing personally each other and furthermore coming from such different cultures and probably personal backgrounds. These are the good things which enlightens a day and can give hope in such bad moments. Ah, it's really incredible, I am listening to my favourite piece of music and writing this post while the sunset is fading. Unbelievable.

Thanks for your words Suzi, you made me so happy. Have a good night. I am sure we will have a fantastic time here together with TCT and all the other people. :-))))

GRENIZER FANS RULES !!!!!!!

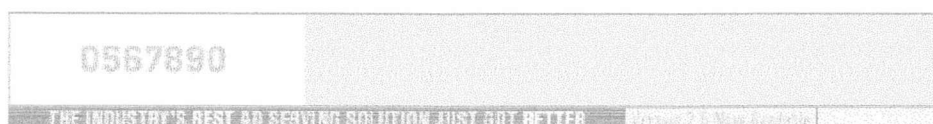
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Gerdha

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- [About names & timelines](#) — Gerdha, Fri Mar 21 04:57
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Gerdha

About names & timelines

Fri Mar 21 04:57:00 2003

80.116.18.196

About names, I thank you Suzi for the information about Maria; it was the only piece of the puzzle of the names I still missed. Anyway, I am doing a particular job with my stepsister and your news are totally coherent with what she told me. I would really like to reprise the topic of the names, but honestly I would like to concentrate the efforts now on TTOC – I am sure we will have major fun with it!

Regarding the timeline, my assumptions are related to the fact that the anime schedule is coherent with the dates of the airing, at least up to ep 71. If you know the original airing dates you will notice that the serie timeline follows exactly the real japanese calendar and its seasons; for example ep 14 and 66 were really aired the first Sunday available after New Year's Eve. The timeline is totally coherent until ep71 for sure; then I think instead something changes but this could be a part of the ep72 discussion and I don't want to anticipate any of my evidences now...;-))) Hope it helps.

Ciao for now.

Gerdha

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- [Re: About names & timelines](#) — Agnès, Fri Mar 21 06:56



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Agnès

Re: About names & timelines

Fri Mar 21 06:56:29 2003

212.24.201.230

Hi all!

Jérôme is back - let the trial begin! Thanks, Jérôme, for your contributions to our thread on ep.72. I'm looking forward to some more active contribution from our judge ...

One question: if the prosecution has the jury on their side, can I have the judge?!?

Just kidding, of course. I would want us all to be as fair and impartial as possible, and just to prove my good faith, let's just say that I did not hear your comments on the airing schedule, my dear Prosecutor General :-))) (Indeed, I'm very curious about this too, but I'll wait for the surprise).

Thanks for the additional remarks on the names, Suzi. I think that this is really fascinating because it shows how problematic (literal) translations can sometimes be.

Phénicia/Maria sometimes refers to Actarus as "little brother" despite the fact that he is obviously her elder.

One of the reasons is presumably that if she referred to him as "grand frère" all the time, it might sound utterly ridiculous to a French audience, instead of being a mark of respect for one's older sibling. In the case of Phénicia/Maria, it also adds a certain touch of humour, which may be absent from the original version (do you know?), and which counteracts Actarus' rather stern behaviour towards his sister. (He is a bit severe, at times). On the other hand, she has a very enticing way of saying ("singing", almost) his name, when she wants something from him. Is this character trait also present in the original, Arabic and Italian versions, or is it another French invention? (BTW, I suspect that this is partly responsible for Phénicia's success with some of the male audience in France ... Right, I'm running for my life now, girls! :-)))

However, it is perfectly acceptable to refer to one's siblings as "soeurette" or "frérot" without referring to any real age difference, and this is then a term of endearment, which is also the case in the FV of the Actarus/Phénicia relationship.

This does point to the fact that "age" does not play as important a role in French hierarchical structures and it suggest how "untranslatable" some social codes are. In this connection, what you say about the different uses of Duke Fleed and Daisuke-san in the original version, leads me to believe that the distinction between Prince d'Euphor and Actarus is also a very interesting example of an attempted transfer of social codes (cf. earlier discussions about names). Is this the case in the Arabic version too?

Many questions, I know, at the start of the weekend, but as Gerdha says, I am like a child in a Luna Park. You should never have said that you had seen the original and Arabic versions, you know. Just tell me to stop if you haven't got the time ... :-)))

Thanks anyway for all these details, Suzi.

Talk to you all soon, I hope.

Ciao, ciao,

Agnès.

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Suzi

Re: About names & timelines

Sun Mar 23 12:02:09 2003

149.171.96.35

Hi Agnes,

The impression I got from both the arabic and the japanese versions is that "Duke Fleed" is his real name and it was also intended to reflect his social status. "Daisuke Umon" is his adoptive name. I was under the impression that yes, Duke Fleed is a social codec for his status, but in the case of close friends, relatives and lovers, you expect them to call him by his first name (in many instances, he was only called Duke not Duke Fleed by them, e.g Morros, Koji, Hikaru, Prof Umon).

The other thing that makes me believe the above is the title bestowed to Maria. In the arabic version the name/title "Grace" was never mentioned. In episode 49 when her adoptive carer (and she called him grandpa) revealed her real identity telling her that she was the daughter of the King of Fleed, and therefore she would be "Al-sayedah Al-aazhema Maria Fleed" which is literary translated to "The Great Lady Maria Fleed"- I have not seen this episode yet in japanese.

The word "Grace" was never mentioned as her second name at all in the arabic version.

In ep73 (in arabic version), however, when Daisuke reflected on his hope that she would be able to return to Fleed to rebuild it after giving her the pendant, he used the phrase "Amira Maria Fleed" to declare her social status and that literary translates to "Princess Maria Fleed".

In the same scene in the japanese version he referred to her as "Grace Maria Fleed", and note the sequence that Grace came before Maria, which makes me think that Grace is more of a title of respect/honour rather than a second name of Maria, e.g. when you refer to someone of special social status as Your Honour/Your Grace/ Your Worship/ Your Highness, etc..).

So reflecting on the above I would assume that "Duke" was his real first name (some people in the arabic world call their children Amir and Amira which literally mean prince and princess and they don't necessarily have to be of royal status). Besides, don't forget that they are aliens and therefore our earthling rules of naming may not apply after all (1+1 in some instances will never make 2, because the 1 we are adding is not a complete 1 in the first place, it is actually a fraction of the 1).

That is my theory anyway, it could be right or wrong, just like everything we are discussing here.

By the way, Agnes, although I happen to agree with most of what Gerdha says, I promise to be a fair jurer (I sided with you in the matter of objectivity and subjectivity and you got a good deal..didn't you? I think I deserve some credit from you on this one, or don't I?)

Good Luck and I'll see in TTOTC.

Suzi

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Gerdha

Re: About names & timelines

Sun Mar 23 21:18:35 2003

57.67.17.3

Dear friends,

I cannot still reveal what parallel task I have undertaken, but I feel I am entitled now to say something more about names used in the original Japanese version.

I have asked for my Japanese stepsister's support to understand better the names issue. Duke Flead (Duku Furido) and Maria-Grace Flead are both written in the Japanese official data in Katakana, which is the alphabet used by Japanese for stranger names. I have asked her if in her opinion Duke is a name or a social status definition, and she told me that it's really a strange case.

Japanese has a specific definition of the title "Duke" (Jerome, I don't recall what it is) and it's written in Kanji (the ideogram alphabet). The fact that the word Duke is written in Katakana let her suppose that it is a choice to remark a social status in a foreign country. For example, Japanese would use the same Katakana word to write the Duke of Edimburgh, for example. My stepsister cannot exclude completely that Duke Flead could mean Duke as first name, but she thinks it's very unlikely.

Instead Maria-Grace is a name. Mari is a typical Japanese first name, and has a specific Kanji symbol; my stepsister thinks it's likely the "a" and Grace were added to remark her coming from a foreign country, with the consequently need to write the name in Katakana. Grace is anyway not a social status definition for sure, but a second name without any doubt. Why was chosen a French second name for the character is a total mystery.

Please be aware that Japanese write and appeal names "at contrary": first come the last name then the first name is inverse order. Only Duku Furido comes in this order both in the official notes of the anime and characters phrasing; this reinforces the idea that Duke is a social status definition instead of a first name: in this latter case, the Japanese word would have to be "Flead Duke" (Jerome, what's your opinion?)

I hope to be able to add more information on the use of names and appealingings in Grendizer in a few weeks (grrr, I want a day of 48 hours, dammit!). I think this is one of the most intriguing topics of all, and could enlight better character personalities.

@+

Gerdha

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Agnès

Re: About names & timelines

Sun Mar 23 21:48:07 2003

193.168.1.253

Hi Suzi,

Thanks for your reply and wishes. I hope you didn't take my remark about the trial seriously, and I apologise if you did. I never doubted your integrity and impartiality, nor Gerdha's for that matter. In fact, we were both slipping into our skins as prosecutor and defense attorney, and joking around a bit.

However, the fact that your interpretation of the story is more in tune with Gerdha's and Jerome's probably closer to mine is a real advantage, as it will allow us to be critical about our own perspectives within a general interpretation shared by at least one other person involved in the trial. That to me is a real plus.

Re: Naming

Your analysis confirms what I suspected about this whole title business, especially in the case of Maria/Phenicia.

It also explains why Actarus is sometimes referred to as "Prince" by his close earth-friends (especially in dramatic combat situations), but never as Prince d'Euphor. This indicates, I think, that in the French version, "duke" was sometimes literally translated into "prince", though I remain convinced that in French the word "prince" refers to his title, and not his Fleedian first name. Other such traces of the original Japanese can be found in episodes where he meets people from the past, like Aphelie/Naida, for instance, who calls him by all his names, including "Prince".

However, she also calls him "Actarus" (I think), and this episode seems to suggest that this was also his first name on Fleed/Euphor. In fact, he often introduces himself to non-earthlings as "Actarus, Prince d'Euphor".

This is really problematic in the French version. There is no consistency about calling him "Prince" in battle situations either, where he is also referred to by his earthling first name. These inconsistencies create some logical problems regarding his secret identity. Procyon, for instance, introduces him as his son named "Actarus" to a Vega agent masquerading as an Earth scientist, and you have to wonder why the spy does not make the connection.

I was wondering whether the Japanese ambiguity about these characters' names, where first names also suggest titles, cannot be taken to indicate both alien origin (as "Duke" and "Grace" are both linguistically though not conceptually "alien" to Japanese culture) and alien/alternative power structures and hierarchies as you suggest (an "alien" use of an "alien word"). What do you think?

Good luck with your MM project, which sounds wonderfully fascinating. Do ask if you need any contributions on the French version. I'd love to participate if you need anybody (once this trial is over and done with!!!)

Cheers,

Agnes.

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Suzi

Re: About names & timelines

Mon Mar 24 10:42:59 2003

210.8.232.5

I was just kidding Agnes, thanks for your help. I'll let you know if I need help.

After Gerdha, made her point about names in the japanese culture what do you want me to say.

I feel comfortable however thinking that Duke is his real first name and probably because they are aliens then our earthling rules of names don't necessarily have to apply. You see they tried to portray them wearing costumes from long time ago to indicate that they are foreign, and excuse me, I don't know much about relation of particular costumes to a particular period in history like you. But I would just wonder, if we ever live in the 22nd century what kind of clothes are we going to wear (like cave men/woman ep25 or like medieval ages or perhaps something utterly different). You see because we don't really know what it is like to be an alien or what do they wear(that if they exist), when humans create sci-fi they implement the existing knowledge to make something that looks unusual and irrelevant to the earthlings at the time of the events.

I think there is lots of inconsistency about their Fleedian costumes, but it might help to think about it just as fashion which changes with time (in ep 25, they were definitely younger than in ep71 and the season is different too. So names, fashion and other factors were used to stress the alien origin of the characters involved.

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