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**Mock(ing) English in Japanese political satire**  
**Kuwata Keisuke's *Abe Road* reimagining The Beatles' *Abbey Road***

Code ambiguation is a type of bilingual punning that uses expressions (e.g., usually a single word or a short phrase) meaningful in two languages simultaneously. In Japanese pop song lyrics, code ambiguation usually masks or mollifies transgressive messages. Ambiguated lyrics that might otherwise be interpreted as aggressive or crude are instead regarded as clever or a joke. Perhaps because of its ludic function, code ambiguation is not normally associated with political discourse or satire in Japan, and Japanese pop musicians rarely release politically-oriented content. Nevertheless, Kuwata Keisuke's 2009 performance of *Abe Road* is an eerily accurate cover of The Beatles' *Abbey Road* that relies upon ambiguation of English lyrics to develop satirical statements about the state of Japanese politics. This paper will examine both the linguistic structure of the English-Japanese code ambiguation used in the performance as well as the sociolinguistic meanings related to English in Japan.