

♡ The difference between "ai" and "koi" ♡

We usually hear "Ai" or "Koi" when the character talk about love stuff.
Both "ai (愛)" and "koi (恋)" can roughly be translated as "love" in English. However, they have a slightly different.
Some people say

"seriously" different.



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In this article, I will consider a question in three view-points.

- 1.Target**
- 2.Needs of response**
- 3.Kanji meanings**



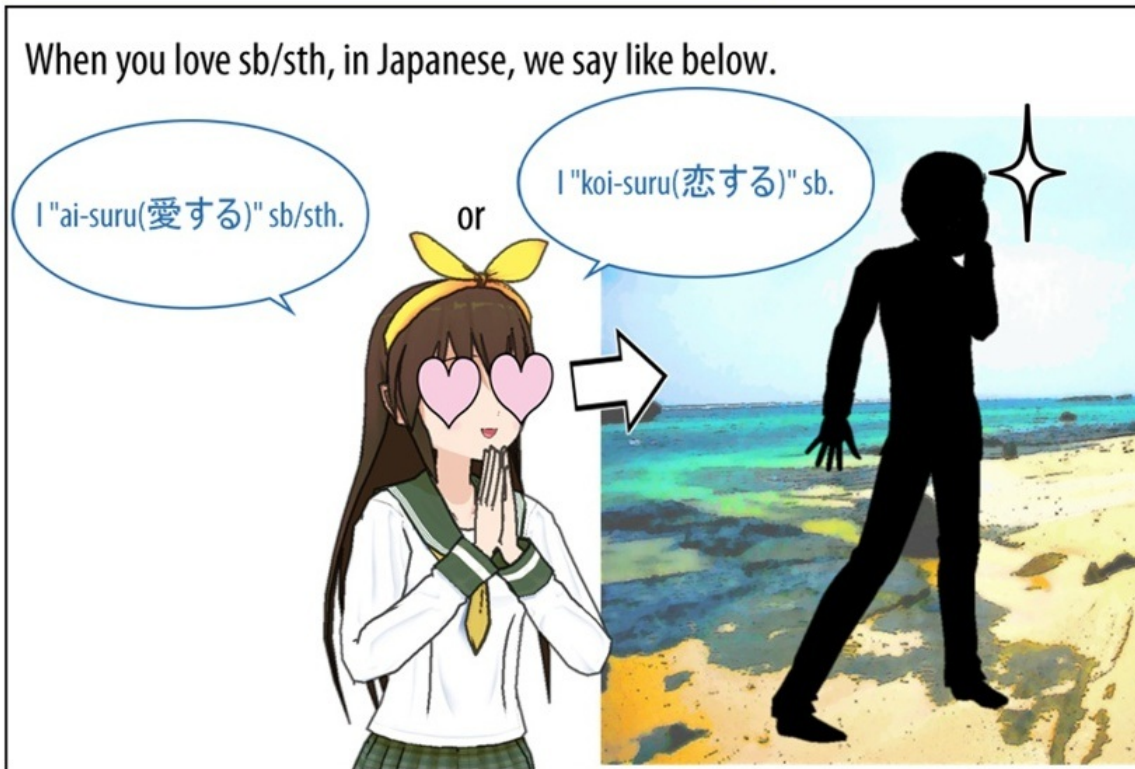
1. Target

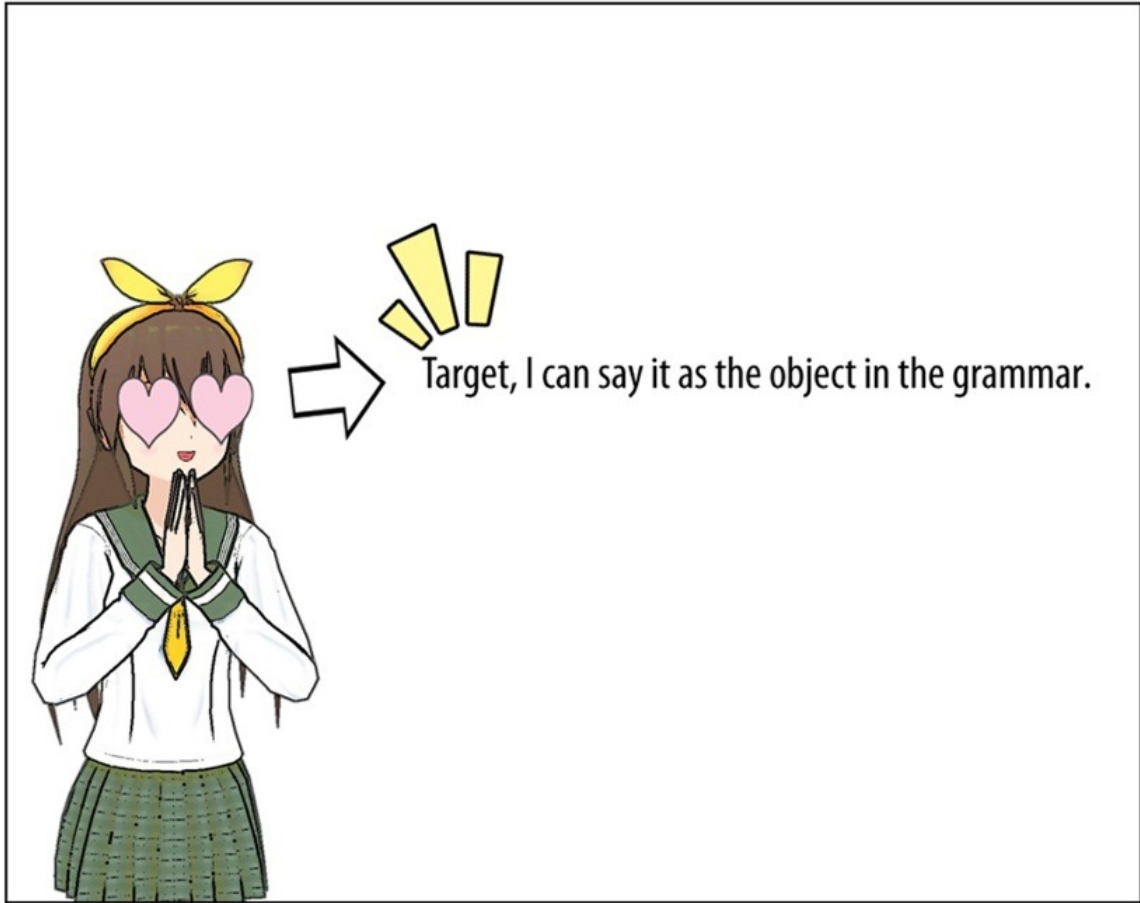
When you love sb/sth, in Japanese, we say like below.

I "ai-suru(愛する)" sb/sth.

or

I "koi-suru(恋する)" sb.





The idea "ai" involves wide target range.
It can be ...



Target range can be two or more, not only one target.



I love my cat.
I love fruits.

And the range can be widen
to inorganic matter.

...And I love car.

In Japanese language, we can use the word

"ai-suru(愛する)"

as the word "like", instead of using

"konomu(好む)"



On the other hand, the idea "koi" takes single target.

Normally



When Japanese says

"koi-suru(恋する)"

She/he is thinking about one person in mind.

When I think somebody as special person

in my heart, I may be

fall in "koi(恋)"

not "ai(愛)".

2. Needs of response



When parents "愛する" their children, their first purpose isn't a "response" in money, act or words.

Parents just think their children must be "ai-sareru(愛される)".

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That is natural feeling,
not a trade.

It is similar Greek word "Agape".



How about to "恋"?

When someone "koi-suru(恋する)" sb, she/he wants sb's response.



The Japanese words like homonymous expression.

In the word "koi" has such a expression, too.

The homonymous (word has same sound) is



The verb "kou(乞う)" means "beg sth".

When we fall in love with sb, we beg sb's special concern with this phrase.



That is serious difference.

You can "ai-suru(愛する)" sb/sth with no reaction.

It's okay.

You can go merry.



But if you can't get reaction from someone you "koi-suru(恋する)"?
You will be suffered from it.
"Kata-koi(片恋), one way love starts.



3.Kanji meanings



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Kanji tells us good information.
“ai(愛)” has meaning
“the feeling that filled heart,
and spilled from” in old letter-style.

The feeling has more meaning,
it is related to sorrows, and to ungenerosity.
That is why Japanese word
"ito-oshimu(愛おしむ=いと惜しむ)"
has meaning
"value something very high".
Also has meaning
"someone miss something when lose it."



How about “koi(恋)”?

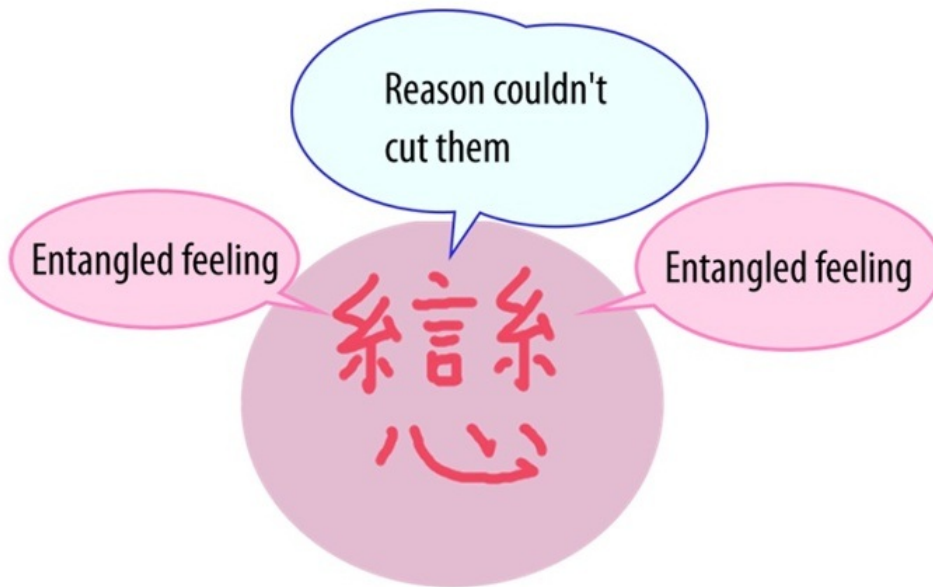
It has meaning “entangled mind or feeling” in kanji letter.
Feeling, passion, fever or emotion are entangled in mind.

Entangled feeling



Entangled feeling

People can't decide nothing with the reason.
Can't stop thinking.
Can't cut the emotional link with something/someone.



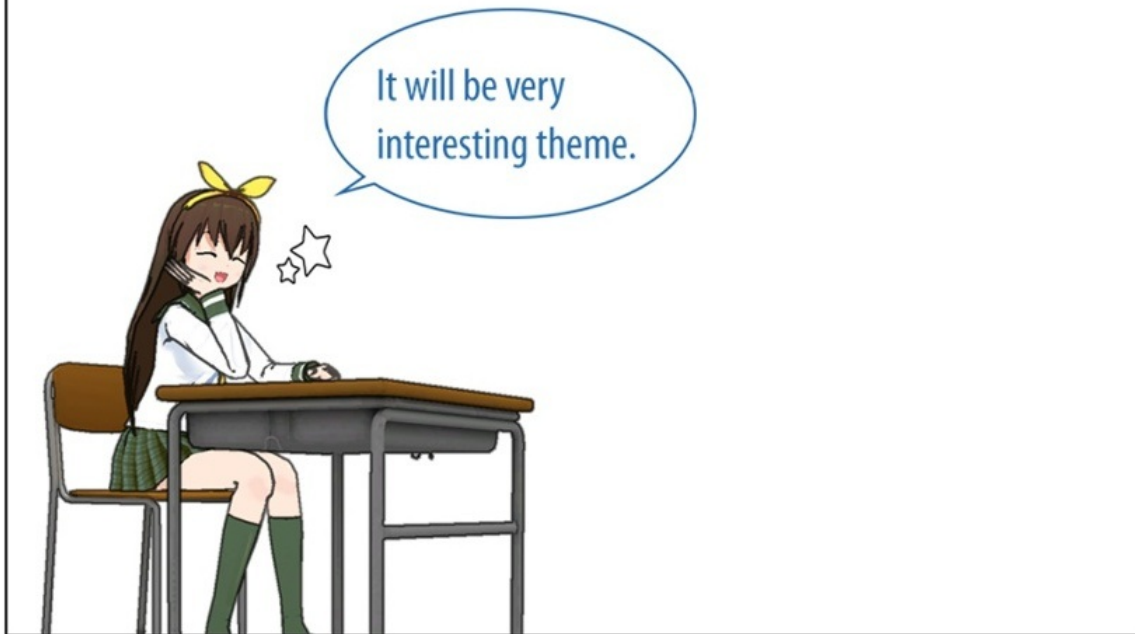
Conclusion

My niece (12 years old) says.



If I decide to 'ai-suru(愛する)' someone/something, I can do.
But I can't decide to 'koi-suru(恋する)' someone, much less to do.

I wrote about difference between “ai” and “koi” from three view-points.
You know, this is the general image of “ai” and “koi” .
When you read/watch about love stuff in Japanese,
take a look in difference of “ai” and “koi” .



Administrative

This article is written by 切身魚/Kirimisakana, who blogs at <http://nekomimi.staba.jp/blog/>.

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That's all. Thanks for reading.