

20年の時を経て、和文英訳問題が復活した。2019年以降も継続して出題されるかどうかは現時点ではわからないが、その前提で「難関大学英作文解答例」に取り上げる。なお、下線部英訳問題だが、解答例を提示する以上は下線部以外も英訳する。

[2018年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

「現在の行動にばかりかまけていては、生きるという意味が逃げてしまう」と小林秀雄は語った。それは恐らく、自分が日常生活においてすべきだと思いついでいることをやってそれでよしとしているようでは、人生などいつのまにか終わってしまうという意味であろう。

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

*下線部前 「かまけていては」→「気を取られていれば」→？

「意味が逃げてしまう」→「意味が掴めない」

*下線部 「それでよしとするようでは」→「それだけで満足していれば」

「いつのまにか」→「気がつかないうちに」(or「人生の意味を知る前に」)

"If you only focus on your behavior at the moment, you will fail to catch the meaning of life," said Hideo Kobayashi. His phrase probably means that if you are satisfied just with doing what you assume you should do in (your) daily life, you will find yourself at the end of your life without knowing it.

*you will find yourself at the end of your life before you know its meaning
 としたいが、そこまで求められてはいないだろう。

[A予備校・解答例1] It probably means that if you are happy just doing what you assume you should do in your daily life, before you know it, you'll be at the end of your life.

[A予備校・解答例2] This probably means that your life will be over before you know it, if you are satisfied with just doing what you assume you are supposed to do in your everyday life.

[B予備校・解答例1] That might mean that, if we are satisfied just by doing what we believe we have to do in everyday life, our life will be over before we know it.

[B予備校・解答例2] This probably means that if you believe that it is enough to just do what is expected of you in daily life, your life will come to an end before you realize it.

[C予備校・解答例] That probably means that if you feel you have only to do what you think you must do in daily life [each day], your life will come to an end [be over] before you know it.

2019年も2018年に続いて和文英訳が出題された。ただし下線部は昨年よりもかなり平易である。点を取らせる問題といってもよいだろう。特に日本語の言い換えが求められる訳でもないし、書けないレベルの単語もひとつもないはずだ。全文英訳であれば別だが、この程度の英作文で大きく減点されることは絶対に避けなければならない。

[2019年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

世界中でプラスチックごみを減らす動きが活発だ。食品などのプラスチック製容器や包装をなくしたり、レジ袋を有料化したりするのはもっとも容易にできることだろう。それらを紙製品や生分解性の素材に変えたりする動きも目立つ。しかし、もっとも重要なのは、プラスチックごみによってかけがえのない自然環境を汚染しているのは私たち自身であると、私たちひとりひとりが日々の暮らしのなかで自覚することである。とはいえ、そうした意識改革が難しいことも確かで、先日もペットボトルの水を買った際に、水滴で本が濡れてはいけなと、ついレジ袋をもらってしまった。

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

Around the world, movements for reducing plastic waste have been more active. Stopping producing plastic containers and packages for food, or stopping providing customers with free plastic shopping bags, will be the easiest way to achieve this purpose. On the other hand, movements to substitute paper products or biodegradable materials for these plastics have been notable. However, what is most important, each of us should realize, in our daily lives, that we are the very ones (that are) polluting our valuable natural environment with plastic garbage. Nevertheless, such a change in (the way of) thinking is not easy. The other day, for example, when I bought a plastic bottle of water, I almost unconsciously received a plastic shopping bag so that beads of water (formed on the the bottle's surface) would not wet the book I happened to have in my hand.

*一部 rewrite

[A予備校・解答例1] the most important thing is for each of us to be aware in our daily lives that we are the ones that are polluting our precious natural environment with plastic waste

[A予備校・解答例2] what is most important is that each one of us realize in our daily life that it is we ourselves who are contaminating our irreplaceable natural environment with plastic garbage

[B予備校・解答例] the most important thing is that, in daily life, each of us should realize that it is we ourselves that are polluting the precious natural environment with plastic waste

[C予備校・解答例] What matters most is for us to recognize in our daily lives the fact that it is us who are polluting the precious environment by creating plastic waste.

下線部は大手予備校の解答例で十分だと思われる。なおC予備校以外は文末のピリオドを打っていないが、問題文を見ると、最後の句点まで下線が引かれている。やはりピリオドを打つべきであろう。ただしC予備校は書き出しも大文字になっている。こうしたことは採点には影響しないのだろうか。

[2020年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

生きてゆくためにはまず若干の自信を持たなくてはならぬ。しかし自信ばかりで押し切っては、やがていつかは他人を害する立場に立つ。自分たちは、いつも自分たちの信念がある程度までまゆつばものだと悟り、かくて初めて寛容の態度を養うことができる。自信と疑問、独断主義と懐疑主義との二刀流によって、われわれは世界と渡り合うことにしたい。(鶴見俊輔『アメリカ哲学』)

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

* 「自信ばかりで押し切る」と「まゆつばもの」は当然、言い換えが必要。

To live in this world, you must first have some confidence. However, to be confident, at anytime or anywhere, will eventually make enemies and hurt others. Until you realize the imperfection of your beliefs, you cannot develop an attitude of tolerance. We should cope with [cross swords with] other countries, both with self-assurance and question, dogmatism and skepticism.

[A予備校・解答例] But if you are too confident and always do things the way you think is right, you may someday hurt others. You can only be tolerant of others when you understand that your beliefs may be wrong to some degree.

[B予備校・解答例1] However, being always confident will someday put us in a position that hurts others. We can't develop tolerance until we recognize that we cannot put complete trust in our confidence.

[B予備校・解答例2] However, if we always confidently push forward, someday we'll end up finding ourselves hurting others. We cannot nurture a tolerant attitude unless we realize that our beliefs are, to some extent, questionable.

[C予備校・解答例] Yet, if you only live with self-confidence, you will someday end up harming people around you. We all need to realize that our beliefs aren't perfect. And that is when tolerance and generosity arise.

[2021年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

私が遊び好きだと言うと、欺されたような気になる方がおられるかもしれない。たしかにギリシア語やラテン語をモノにするには、一日七、八時間、八十日間一日も休まずやらなければならなかった。基本的テキストを読むときは、毎日四、五ページ、休まずに読みつづけなければならなかった。それでは遊ぶ暇なんかないじゃないか。何か遊び好きだ、と。

いや、別に嘘をついているわけではない。たしかに大学に入ってしばらくのあいだ、語学を仕込む期間はこんなふうにはやらなければならなかった。だが、語学の習得は自転車に乗る練習のようなもので、練習しているあいだは大変でも、一度乗れるようになってしまえばなんでもない。あとはいつも乗ってさえいればいいのだ。

(木田元『新人生論ノート』を一部改変)

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

* 下線部前の「基本的テキストを読むときは」はおそらく「基本的なテキストを読むときは」の意味だと思われるが、「基本的にテキストを読むときは」の意味に解することも可能である。あえてそう解釈して英訳する。

* 下線部で英訳に工夫が要るのは「なんでもない」と「いつも乗って」だけだろう。昨年より易化したのは明らか。

When I say I am playful, some may feel I am not telling the truth. To be sure, to master Greek or Latin, I had to work seven or eight hours a day for eighty days without a day off. When I read texts, I generally had to read four or five pages without a break every day. Then, you must think that I could have no time to play, so I was far from playful.

Nevertheless, I am not telling a lie because I had to make such efforts to learn the language for more than two months after entering the university. However, learning a foreign language is like learning to ride a bicycle. It is hard while practicing, but once you have learned it, it becomes effortless. All you have to do is (to) continue it.

[A予備校・解答例1] However, learning a language is like learning how to ride a bicycle: while learning, you may find it difficult, but once you can do it, you won't have any more trouble. You just have to try to ride whenever you have time.

[A予備校・解答例2] However, learning a language and learning how to ride a bicycle are similar in that you may have great difficulty while learning, but once you have learned to do it, it will be quite easy; you have only to ride one as often as possible.

[B予備校・解答例] However, learning a language is just like practicing riding a bicycle. You may have a hard time while practicing, but once you have learned to ride it, you will have no problems. After that, all you have to do is keep riding.

[C予備校・解答例] But learning a foreign language is just like learning to ride a bicycle. While learning, you may find it difficult. Once you become able to ride, however, you may wonder why you ever found it difficult. All you have to do after that is keep riding.

[2022年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

旅人は遠い町にたどりつき、街路樹や家並み、ショーウィンドウの中の商品や市場に並べられた野菜や美術館に飾られた絵画を眺めて歩き、驚き、感心し時には不安を覚える。旅人は、その町に長年住んでいる人だちよりもずっとたくさんものを意識的に見るだろう。しかしいくら大量の情報を目で吸収しても旅人はあくまで「よそ者」、あるいは「お客様」のままだ。外部に立っているからこそ見えるものがあるのだから、それはそれでいいのだが、わたしなどは、もし自分が旅人ではなく現地人だったらこの町はどんな風に見えるのだろうか、と考えることも多い。

(多和田葉子『溶ける街 透ける路』)

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

*そこそこの英語力と国語力(言い換えの力)があれば書ける平易な問題。

Travelers arrive in a distant city. They walk through the streets, viewing various things. For example, they look at trees and houses, goods in show windows, vegetables in the market, paintings in the museum. Sometimes they get surprised, impressed, or uneasy. Travelers will consciously look at far more things than people living in the town for long. However, no matter how much information they absorb with their eyes, they are 'strangers.' That is all right because some things are just visible to outsiders. On the other hand, I often wonder how this city would look if I were not a traveler but a resident.

[A予備校・解答例1] That is fine because there are things you can only see when you are standing on the outside. However, I often wonder how this town would look to my eyes if I were a local instead of a traveler.

[A予備校・解答例2] There are things that you can see precisely because you are an outsider, so being an outsider is not always a bad thing. I often imagine what the town would look like if I was living there and not just traveling there.

[B予備校・解答例] That's all right as there are some things you are able to see because you are an outsider, but I often wonder how this town would look [what this town would look like] if I were not a traveler but a local resident.

[C予備校・解答例] That in itself is not a problem, for there are things we can see because we see them as an outsider. As for me, I often wonder what this town would look like if I were not a traveler but a local.

[2023年 前期] 以下の下線部を英訳せよ。

なぜ歴史を学ぶようになったのか、理由はいろいろあるのだが、いまの自分たちの住む世界について、それがどのように出来上がってきたのか、なぜいまのような形になったのか、ということにぼんやりとした関心があったことは確かだろう。さらにもう少し掘り下げてみると、日本の近代化がヨーロッパの影響を受けながら辿(たど)ってきた道筋を考えるには、そのヨーロッパのことをもっと知らなければならない、といったことも感じていたのだった。高校時代はアメリカにあこがれていた。当時流行っていたフォークソングに惹かれていたし、西部劇や東部の有名大学の学生たちのファッションにも夢中になっていた。それが大学に入ってからヨーロッパ、最初はドイツ、やがて英国に関心が移っていったのは自分でもはっきりと説明することは出来ない。

(草光俊雄『歴史の工房 英国で学んだこと』)

[阿佐谷英語塾・解答例]

*下線部前には、あえて簡明直截な訳例を当てたが、今回は下線部以下の訳は省きます。本書の序文からの抜粋「...やがて英国に関心が移っていったのは自分でもはっきりと説明することは出来ない」は、正しい日本語として成り立っていない。英国の経済史と文化史に造詣が深く、英語で文章を書くことに慣れている人が、肝心の母語・母国語で書くと、なぜこうした文章になるのか実に不思議である。

I cannot single out the reason why I chose to study history. However, I am almost sure that I had a vague interest in the process of our modern world's formation and the way of its transformation into what it was. Thinking of this more deeply, I also felt I had to learn more about Europe to consider how Japan had modernized (itself) under its influence.

[A予備校・解答例1] If I dig a little more deeply into the reasons, I think it was also because I felt I had to know more about Europe to consider how Japan came to be modernized under its influence.

[A予備校・解答例2] And if I give a little more thought to it, I realize I was also feeling that, to reflect on how Japan modernized under the influence of Europe, I needed to know more about Europe.

[B予備校・解答例] Thinking about it a little more deeply, I realize that I also felt that I had to learn more about Europe in order to think about how Japan, influenced by Europe, had achieved modernization.

[C予備校・解答例] On further [deeper] reflection, it was because I felt that I had to learn more about Europe in order to think about the path Japanese modernization followed under the influence of Europe.