Expanding Universe of English

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The Expanding Universe of English II

Preface

本書は、東京大学教養学部 2 年生全員を対象した統一授業(英語 I) のリーダーである。 The Expanding Universe of English (1994) の全章が新しくなった。英語学習の刷新を図って7年前にスタートした私たちの授業は、これで1,2年全セッションの入れ替えを終えたことになる。

限られた回数の授業で何を読んだらいいのか。私たちの Universe シリーズでは、現代の知的話題を盛り込んだ、ナチュラルで活きのいい文章を、できるだけ広い分野から集めてくることを目指してきた。その基本方針は変わっていないが、ただ今回は、「雑多」であることのメリットよりも、各章に内容的なつながりをもたせることの価値を意識した。結果的に(生物・医学以外の)理工学系トピックがやや後退し、代わりに認知科学(心のメカニズム)・現代社会・表象文化史を扱うものが増えた。全体に生態学的・脱欧米中心主義的な視点が色濃く出たのは、私たち自身の関心がありようが率直に反映した結果だと思う。

現代のポピュラーな書物から食いつまんで作ったとはいっても、語彙的にも内容的にも、大学教養課程に学ぶ学生にとっては、かなりの難物であることだろう、補注にあたっては、何よりも読者各自が一人で自然に読み下していく助けとなることを心がけた。CDをかけながら読む方もそうでない方も、なるべく段落途中でポーズを入れずに、まずは文章の流れを追ってほしい。そして段落の要点がつかめてから、注で細かな点をカバーし、その上でもう一度同じパラグラフをできるだけ一気に読んでみることをおすすめする。シリーズの伝統にならって、注の中にa/b選択問題を含めたが、これは文意の流れに正しくのっているかどうか自己チェックするためのもので、巻末の答えをそのつど参照する必要はないだろう。(なお、英米で異なる綴りや表記法については基本的に原著に拠った、発音表記は、英米の違いにあまりこだわらず、単純明快であることを旨とした。)

全章を刷新したと書いたけれども、実は東大の授業では 1997 年以来 Expanding の 半分の章を入れ替えた『学内版』を使っており、その版で新しくした章のうち 7 本を 本書にも採用している (SESSIONS 5. 6. 9. 13. 18.19 & 21).

今回新たにエントリーした15本は、みんなで持ち寄った題材を、編集班(河合祥一

郎、西村義樹、Brendan Wilson & 佐藤)が今年度の英語 I 運営班(大堀壽夫、中澤恒子、坪井栄治郎、小林宜子、寺澤盾、恒吉僚子)からのフィードバックを受けながら選定した。(SESSION 15 のテクストは、慶應義塾大学の大矢玲子氏から提供されたものである). 注つけ作業は、編集班 4 名に、矢口祐人、寺澤、恒吉が加わって書いた第一稿を、英語部会の比較的年長のメンバーが分担して補うという形で進め、最終的な統一(およびテクスト本文の画定)は Wilson と佐藤があたった。『学内版』から引き継いだ 7 課分は、英語 I 発足時より事実上の編集長を務めてきた柴田元幸(現・文学部)に多くを負っている。CD 添付版 CD の収録ディレクターは西村、吹き込み者は私たち英語部会のメンバーおよび非常勤講師である。

英語圏の言語・文学・文化・地域研究の一介の「専門家」にすぎない私たちが、総合大学の学生に「一般教養」を提供するというのは、ずいぶんと背伸びした話である。インターネットの時代に入って広い領域の知識がずいぶん楽に手に入るようになったとはいえ、今回のこの教科書も、部会外の助っ人を必要とした。とりわけ経済関係のことでは、日本政策投資銀行の花崎正晴氏に大変お世話になった。それでもまだ、編者の力不足から、不備が残ったかと思う。題材の新鮮さを売りにしたテクストを作り続けるのは、ある意味で怖い。だが鮮度を失ってしまうことは質の下落を容認することだ。情報化時代の教養教育は、楽しさも大きいとともにつらい面も多い。が、尻込みしてはいられない。

今回も,東京大学出版会の後藤健介氏の,優美にして高品質なサポートを受けることができた.4ヶ月間に及ぶ,氏のマルチレベルの活躍が,時間に追われた私たちをどれほど助けてくれたことだろう.

2000年2月

編者を代表して――佐藤良明

なお、注の作成にあたっては以下のレファレンスとウェブサイトを活用した.

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Part I

SESSION 1

Why Do We Laugh?

V. S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee

F an alien ethologist were to land on earth and watch us humans, he would be mystified by many aspects of our behavior, but I'll wager that laughter would be very near the top of the list. As he watches people interacting, he notices that every now and then we suddenly stop what we're doing, grimace and make a loud repetitive sound in response to a wide variety of situations. What function could this mysterious behavior possibly serve? Cultural factors undoubtedly influence humor and what people find funny — the English are thought to have a sophisticated sense of humor, whereas Germans or Swiss, it is said, rarely find anything amusing. But even if this is true, might there still be some sort of "deep structure" underlying all humor?

Consider the following two jokes.

A fellow is sitting in a truck stop café in California, having lunch, when suddenly a giant panda bear walks in and orders a burger with fries and a chocolate milkshake. The bear sits down, eats the food, then stands up, shoots several of the other customers and runs out the door. The fellow is astonished, but the waiter seems completely undisturbed. "What the hell is going on?" the customer asks. "Oh, well, there's nothing surprising about that," says the waiter. "Just go look in the dictionary under 'panda."" So the guy goes to the library, takes out a dictionary and looks up "panda" — a big furry, black and white

「紳士は金髪がお好き」というマリリン・モンロー主演の映画があるが、本論の著者ラマチャンドラン教授は、かつて医学雑誌に「なぜ紳士は金髪が好きか」と題する論文を発表した。① 相手が寄生虫に感染していないことが確かめやすい、② 出産にとってマイナスとなる老齢の印が見えやすい、③ 顔面の紅潮や瞳孔拡張など性的興奮のようすが明らか、の3点を骨子に、金髪色白の女性を選ぶことが進化上有利にはたらくことを論じていくものだが、実はその論文、「進化心理学」につきまとう思考のいかがわしさを皮肉るパロディだった。

ここに展開される議論も、ほんの「試論」でしかないが、ひらめきに満ちた論の運びの軽やかさに啓発される読者も少なくないのではないか。著者は切断された手足の感覚が残る「幻影肢」の研究で知られる神経生理学者。1998年の話題の書 Phantoms in the Brain からの抜粋である。

[Notes]

- [1] ethologist: 動物行動学者
- [3] I'll wager: I'll bet
- [6] **grimace** [gríməs, griméis]: (to make) a twisted expression on the face that usually shows disgust or pain
- [15] truck stop café: アメリカの高速道 (interstate highways or freeways) には「トラック専用」とは言えないにせよ、トラック(これがとてつもなくでかい)の運転手を主要客層としたサービスエリアがよくある. café という言葉は、アメリカでは手軽な食堂を指すことが多い.
- [17] **burger with fries:** hamburger (cheeseburger, etc.) with French fries. 日本語の「フライドポテト」に当たるものを北米では (French) fries, イギリス・オーストラリアでは chips という. 北米で chips というのは「ポテトチップ」のことで,これをイギリス・オーストラリアでは crisps と呼ぶ.
- [22] go look: go and look. cf. Come see me tomorrow.



During the chaotic years of the late 1960s, Rober Crumb (1943–), an "underground" comic artist, had cult popularity among young and rebellious Americans. These cartoons are from his very early work, *The Sad Book: A Collection of Sad Stories*. © R. Crumb

SESSION 1

animal that lives in the rain forest of China. It eats shoots and leaves.

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again. There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once it understood, it started shouting out in the middle of the show: "Up his sleeve! Up his sleeve!" (when the magician was about to produce a rabbit from a hat), and "Slipped [10] out the back! Slipped out the back!" (when the magician was about to saw his assistant in half). The magician was furious but couldn't do anything; it was, after all, the captain's parrot. One night, the ship's main boiler burst, and the ship was blown into a thousand bits. When morning came, the magician found [15] himself adrift on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean with the parrot. They glared at each other with hate. Days passed. Neither spoke a word. After a week, the parrot looked the magician straight in the eye and said: "OK, you win. Now tell me — where's the ship?"

[20]

Why are these stories funny? And what do they have in common with other jokes? Despite all their surface diversity, most jokes and funny incidents have the following logical structure: Typically you lead the listener along a garden path of expectation, slowly building up tension. At the very end, you introduce an unexpected twist that entails a complete reinterpretation of all the preceding data, and moreover, it's critical that the new interpretation, though wholly unexpected, makes as much "sense" of the entire set of facts as did the originally "expected" interpretation. In this regard, jokes have much in common with scientific creativity, with what Thomas Kuhn calls a "paradigm shift" in response to a single "anomaly." (It's probably not coincidence that many of the most creative scientists have a great sense of humor.) Of course, the anomaly in the joke is the traditional punch line and the joke is "funny" only if [35]

- [1] **shoot(s)**: 名詞としては「芽」の意. a bamboo shoot (タケノコ)
- [3] A magician was...: このジョークは、実はもともと著者が選んだものがあまりに面白(?) すぎて授業に支障をきたすだろうという判断から著者の許可を得て編者が差し替えたもの(courtesy Derek Pell).
- [9] "Up his sleeve!": "Up one's sleeve" は「何かを隠し持っている」という意味の決まり文句. ここでは帽子から出すと見せて,文字通り袖の中に入れているのだろう.
- [22] surface diversity: superficial differences; apparent variety
- [26] entail(s): to result in
- [27] critical: essential; important
- [31] Thomas Kuhn: アメリカの科学史家 (1922-96). ヨーロッパ近代科学の言説が どのような知の再編過程の中で生み出されたかを論じる『科学革命の構造』 The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (1962) は「近代西洋」からの脱却が叫ばれてい た60~70 年代には広く読まれ「パラダイム・シフト」という言葉を定着させた.
- [32] **paradigm** [pærədaim]: a set of accepted concepts **anomaly** [ənáməli]: something abnormal; something that doesn't fit the expected order
- [35] punch line: 最後のキメ台詞; オチ



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