

My First Motivation to Learn English

—Conclusion: 英語は日本語で考えるな！—

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My first motivation to learn English dates back to my high school days, in which my future was already determined to study electronics at college. To tell the truth, my weakest subject at high school was English so that made me have a sense of inferiority with English even after going to college.

In my college days, the Japanese economy was just getting rid of the postwar confusion and many major Japanese manufacturers were in a mood that they could overtake US manufacturers in high technology. In such a circumstance, I realized the importance of English and my inferiority complex with English drove me to learn English intensively. I took more English classes than the minimum required, joined an ESS club, attended weekly bible classes offered by an Australian Father at a nearby Catholic church, and started to listen to a NHK English radio program instructed by Professor Toru Matsumoto.

My English learning hours exceeded that of electronics in my college days. Then I faced a contradiction with how compatible my English and my specialty of electronics. I concluded that I should learn electronics in English. Unfortunately, however, my college did not have any courses in English. Even in English language classes, all were taught in Japanese. That seemed to me that I was studying Japanese language through English textbooks. I now condemn the method teaching English in Japanese because it seems to disturb the way of thinking in English and to guide students in a wrong direction of fool's errand, I

believe. That's why I insist, "Do not think English in Japanese".

Immediately after my graduation from college, I entered a manufacturer where I was lucky because my first section manager (KACHO) allowed me to go to an evening English school after work (without having to do the usual overtime), which led me to be an international business engineer throughout my career. ■

SCRAP

フランスの大学入学資格試験問題

今年六月に行われたバカロレア（高校修了時に受ける大学入学資格試験）の古典的ともいえる哲学のような次ぎの問題を見て、あらためて人間とか文化とかについて考えさせられた。

A①同一言語を話すという事実は、話す人間間に特別の関係を生むか。

②人間とは何か、と言う問いは哲学の根本問題であるか。

③アリストテレスの一節より哲学的重要点を引き出せ。

B①歴史とはわれわれの集団的記憶であるか。

②数学は論理学に還元し得るか。

③ルクレティウスの一節より哲学的重要点を引き出せ。

C①芸術とは外見が支配する世界であるか。

②時間には始まりがあるか。

③デカルトの一節より哲学的重要点を引き出せ。

ここでは日本の大学入試問題との比較など、しないほうが賢明というものだろう。

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