

## まえがき

本書では、一般の日本人、とりわけ日本人の大学生が書く（ときに話す）英語に見られる特徴的なミスや誤解を指摘し、その解決方法を提示してみたが、それだけが目的ではない。英語のネイティブスピーカーと、共通語として母語ではない英語を使いこなしている人たちの世界観を理解し、感じてほしいと思って作った一冊でもある。そこで、各レッスンを、映画や文学、音楽、歴史、現代社会を特徴づけているトレンドなど、それぞれ異なる文化的テーマを中心にすえた読み物にしてみた。

私の経験に限っていえば、確かに昔に比べれば現在の大学生の英語の発音と聞き取りはだいぶよくなっているが、同じ大学生が書いた英作文を添削してみると、訂正が必要な箇所は昔と一向に変わっていない。これは、主に中学校・高校で教わったはずの英文法を忘れている、もしくは無視していることが原因のように見える。しかし、「ルール違反」だからまずいとかが、与える印象が悪いからよくないとか、そういったことよりはむしろ、誤った書き方によって伝えたい意味が伝わらない、ということこそが問題で、実にもったいなく感じてしまうのだ。

文の構成と表現の仕方の基礎となる英文法は、英語の論理を理解し、英語を効率よく運用するためのガイドラインとして覚えれば、大いに力になってくれるはずだ。執筆にあたっては、なるべく硬い文法用語を使わないようにしながら、日本語には存在しない時制や冠詞の使い方、正確な前置詞の選択、そして、日本語とは異なる英文の構造などについて、これまでの授業での具体例を交えつつ考えてみた。各章に設けられたエクササイズも解きながら、英語のリアリティを理解し感じていただきたい。

日本語を母語とする大学生にとって、英語のように根本的にまったく異なる言語を習得することの困難は、長年日本に住んでいるのにいまだに日夜日本語と格闘し続けている「永遠の日本語学習者」である私には痛いほどよく分かる。しかし、この難しさゆえに、伝えたいことが正しく伝わったときの喜びがひととき大きいことも事実だ。本書を教材にする英語学習者にも同じような喜びを味わっていただければ幸いである。

2022年 秋

マーク・ピーターセン

# Contents

|           |   |    |
|-----------|---|----|
| Lesson 1  | A Place in the Sun.....                         | 1  |
|           | ★『陽のあたる場所』で考える冠詞                                |    |
| Lesson 2  | What We Talk About When We Talk About Love..... | 7  |
|           | ★ we の用法について考える                                 |    |
| Lesson 3  | Matasaburo the Wind Imp.....                    | 13 |
|           | ★「の」をどう英語に置き換えるか？                               |    |
| Lesson 4  | The Logic of Descartes.....                     | 19 |
|           | ★ 論理的な英語を書くために                                  |    |
| Lesson 5  | As High as the Fence Tops.....                  | 25 |
|           | ★『怒りの葡萄』で学ぶ比較級                                  |    |
| Lesson 6  | You've Got Mail.....                            | 31 |
|           | ★ 映画のタイトルから考える現在完了形                             |    |
| Lesson 7  | So Many Worlds, So Much to Do.....              | 37 |
|           | ★ 小さな副詞“so”がもつ意味と効果的な用法                         |    |
| Lesson 8  | Gender-neutral Expressions.....                 | 43 |
|           | ★ 性的に中立な表現を考える                                  |    |
| Lesson 9  | Commas and Facts.....                           | 49 |
|           | ★ コンマと事実  |    |
| Lesson 10 | Since I Don't Have You.....                     | 55 |
|           | ★ since と because を使いこなす                        |    |
| Lesson 11 | That's All He Did.....                          | 61 |
|           | ★ 1つだけではない only の意味と用法                          |    |
| Lesson 12 | The Turn <i>in</i> the Weather.....             | 67 |
|           | ★「の」を表す in と of の違い                             |    |
| Lesson 13 | Find My Tokyo (Part 1).....                     | 73 |
|           | ★ 代名詞の所有格、そして冠詞の意味                              |    |
| Lesson 14 | Find My Tokyo (Part 2).....                     | 79 |
|           | ★ my の用法を通して英語の感覚にせまる                           |    |
| Lesson 15 | Love and Sexuality.....                         | 85 |
|           | ★「愛と性」の英語                                       |    |

# Lesson 1 『陽のあたる場所』で考える冠詞

## A Place in the Sun



アメリカ映画 *A Place in the Sun* の邦題『陽のあたる場所』には、不定冠詞の *a* の意味は表現されていない。しかし、日本語には存在しない冠詞の意味を理解しないと、英文を正確に理解できない場合は頻繁に起こりうる。定冠詞 *the* も合わせて、冠詞の意味を考える。

### Grammatical Points

- 日本語訳で表すことが難しい *a* と *the* の意味と用法
- 関係代名詞の限定（制限）用法における冠詞の選択方法

### Vocabulary Check

以下の単語の定義を下から選び、その番号を [     ] に入れよう。

|                             |                           |                              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>appreciation</b> [     ] | <b>attain</b> [     ]     | <b>conceal</b> [     ]       |
| <b>distinction</b> [     ]  | <b>prominence</b> [     ] | <b>refer to ~ as</b> [     ] |

1. a difference or contrast between similar things
2. to keep something from sight, to hide
3. to succeed in achieving something
4. to describe or denote someone or something in a certain way
5. the state of being important, especially noticeable, or famous
6. a full understanding of things or situations

## A Place in the Sun



The phrase “a place in the sun” is a metaphor commonly used throughout the English-speaking world. It means “a very successful, desirable, or advantageous position.” This metaphor attained particular prominence with the success of the award-winning 1951 American film of that title, *A Place in the Sun*, but it was already somewhat well-known for a similar phrase used in the English translation of an infamous statement made in 1897 by the German Foreign Secretary Bernhard von Bülow. In pushing for the establishment of an expanded German Empire that would rival those of France and Great Britain, von Bülow stated “We wish to throw no one into the shade, but we also demand our own place in the sun.”

Among the many possible ways to translate “a place in the sun” into natural Japanese, I cannot think of any that would fully reflect the distinctions in meaning to be found here in the use of “a” and “the.” Here, “the sun” means “the one and only sun” in our solar system, and “a place” refers to one place among all the other places that are under light from that one sun. There are, however, countless other suns in the Milky Way that have their own solar systems. If we were speaking of “our sun” as one among those other suns, we would refer to it simply as “a sun.”

In this regard, I recall once being requested by a Japanese friend to confirm the grammatical accuracy of the following three example sentences for use in an English class:

- ① He saved the boy who everybody thought was dead.
- ② The woman who we thought was Eri’s sister was her mother.

### NOTES

- 1 **metaphor** 「比喩」
- 4 ***A Place in the Sun*** 『陽のあたる場所』1951年に公開されたアメリカ映画。監督はジョージ・スティーヴンズ、主演はモンゴメリー・クリフト、エリザベス・テイラー。監督賞、脚色賞など、6つのアカデミー賞を受賞している。
- 6 **infamous** 「悪名高い、評判が悪い」
- 7 **Bernhard von Bülow** 「ベルンハルト・フォン・ビューロー」(1849–1929) ドイツの軍人、外交官、政治家。イタリア大使、外相、ドイツ帝国宰相などを務めた。
- 7 **push for** ~ 「~を強く求める、急き立てる」
- 7 **establishment** 「樹立、設立」
- 14 **solar system** 「太陽系」
- 18 **confirm** 「確かめる、確認する」

③ He concealed something in the place which he thought might be safe.



2

As individual sentences isolated from any specific context, each was certainly grammatically possible. Nevertheless, I suggested the replacement of the “the” in each of them with an “a.” 25

Specifically, with respect to ① “He saved the boy who everybody thought was dead,” I explained that the use of “the” would be appropriate only in the following odd and unlikely context: There were some number of boys whom he might have saved, but only one of them was thought by everybody to be dead. He saved that one. 30

By way of contrast, “He saved a boy who everybody thought was dead” would be appropriate in the following much more likely context: He saved one boy (among all the other boys in the world). It was a boy who everybody had thought was dead. 35

With respect to ② “The woman who we thought was Eri’s sister was her mother,” in a way similar to that in the previous case of “the boy,” the use of “The” here would be appropriate only in the following odd and unlikely context: There were some number of women who might have been her mother, but only one of them was thought by us to be her sister. Her mother was that one. 40

In contrast to this, “A woman who we thought was Eri’s sister was her mother” would be appropriate in the following much more likely context: There was a woman (among all the other women in the world). We thought that woman was Eri’s sister, but, actually, she was Eri’s mother.



3

Finally, with respect to ③ “He concealed something in the place which he thought might be safe,” I explained that (once again, similarly) the use of “the” here would be appropriate only in the following somewhat limited context: There were some number of places in which he considered concealing something, but only one of them was thought by him to *possibly* be safe. He chose that one and only place. 45

Once again, by way of contrast, “He concealed something in a place which he 50

#### NOTES

- 25 **nevertheless** 「それにもかかわらず、それでも」
- 25 **replacement of ~ with ...** 「~を…と置き換える」
- 27 **with respect to ~** 「~に関しては」
- 29 **odd** 「変わった、奇妙な」
- 32 **by way of contrast** 「対照的に」
- 37 **previous** 「前の」

thought might be safe” would be appropriate in the following much more likely context: There were a number of places which he thought *might* be safe. He concealed something in one of them.

The film *A Place in the Sun* was based on the famous Theodore Dreiser novel *An American Tragedy*, which is about one tragedy among many tragedies<sup>55</sup> that had happened to have occurred in the United States. Its Japanese-language translation is entitled simply *Amerika no higeki* (『アメリカの悲劇』), but, with a basic appreciation of the use of “the” and “a/an,” a Japanese learner of English should easily be able to understand why the original title is *An American Tragedy*, not *The American Tragedy*.<sup>60</sup>

#### NOTES

54 **Theodore Dreiser** 「セオドア・ドライサー」(1871–1945) 米インディアナ州生まれ。アメリカ自然主義文学の代表的小説家。『アメリカの悲劇』のほかに、*Sister Carrie* (『シスター・キャリー』) などの作品がある。

## Exercises

### **Revise the Sentences**

以下の文の冠詞に注意して、正しく書き直してみよう。

1. Once upon a time, there was the young woman who lived alone near a beach.

.....  
 .....

2. Do you like a hotel that you have been staying at for the past week?

.....  
 .....

3. Ukraine is the country in which two languages are widely used. Most native speakers of Ukrainian also speak Russian as a second language.

.....  
 .....

4. The Moon is thought by many scientists to contribute to maintenance of a magnetic field of the earth.

.....  
.....

5. One especially tragic outcome was that the number of people, unable to escape the tsunami, died that day.

.....  
.....

### ***Translate into Japanese***

次の名言を和訳してみよう。

1. The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.

(Vince Lombardi)

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Tragedy is like strong acid - it dissolves away all but the very gold of truth.

(D. H. Lawrence)

.....  
.....  
.....

3. A man willing to work, and unable to find work, is perhaps the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under this sun. (Thomas Carlyle)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

## ***Translate into English***

以下の文を関係代名詞を使って英訳してみよう。

1. 私には秋田に住んでいる弟が（1人）いる。（弟は合計3人）

.....  
.....  
.....

2. 今のケイトは、20年前の彼女とはまったく別人だ。

.....  
.....  
.....

3. 火星は太陽系内で2番目に小さい惑星である。いちばん小さいのは水星だ。

.....  
.....  
.....