言語学

（１）日本語の表現は，英語の表現と比べてコンテクストへの依存度が高い傾向があると言われる。この主張について，自分の考えを述べなさい。

（２）次の文章を読んで，下の設問（ａ）から（ｄ）に答えなさい。なお語形の前の ＊ は祖語に想定される語形であることを表す。

Why would some languages and dialects change faster than others? As Blust says, “sound change[1)] proceeds at very different rates in different languages,” and although “given enough time, language change is inevitable … this inevitability does not explain radical differences in rates of change within any given language family.”

Blust’s paper then helps to shed some light on this problem. Blust cites cases of languages which in terms of linguistic change are widely considered to have “run wild”, such as Armenian within the Indo-European family—noting that Armenian *erku*, *erekh* are cognate[2)] with English *two*, *three*—and French amongst the Romance languages. (It does not require massive computational skills to appreciate that French *août* /u(t)/ has diverged further from Latin *augustum* than has Italian /agosto/.)

But Blust’s focus is on what he calls “hot spots” of phonological change, with particular reference to the Austronesian languages of Borneo (右図を参照). His observation is that north-central Borneo south of Sabah is a phonological “hot spot” within the Austronesian language family: “a wide swath of languages extending across northern Sarawak far into Kalimantan show an exuberant efflorescence[3)] of phonological innovations”; and they are characterized by “more disfiguring types of sound change”, i.e. changes which are so extensive that they totally conceal the etymological origin of the items in question. For example, Proto-Malayo Polynesian[4)] **duha* ‘two’ has given rise to forms in the languages of the Philippines such as *dua* and *duah*, while in the relevant “hotspot” area of Borneo reflexes[5)] are found such as *ba*, *lugwa*, and *wëh*.

Then, having linked the rapid linguistic change that has occurred in these contiguous areas of North Sarawak to the sociolinguistic-typological insight that, in areas such as this, “some small but not insignificant subset of sound changes may be driven by social forces” as opposed to being “the products of phonetic or phonological causation”, Blust proceeds towards an explanation. He suggests that “contact[6)] may have played a role” in the genesis of this phenomenon. Contact, then, is in his view a key factor, with higher levels of contact leading to faster rates of change.

It is not difficult to find supporting examples for this claim. The contrast between the continental and insular[7] Scandinavian languages that we discussed above makes the point very nicely. The Faroe Islands and Iceland lie far out into the Atlantic Ocean, away from the European mainstream, and have experienced relatively low levels of contact, while the continental Scandinavian languages experienced considerable levels of contact, notably with the Low German[8] of the Hanseatic League[9]: Jahr (1995, 2001) talks of the "heavy influence of language contact between Norwegian and Low German." Similarly, the more conservative northern English dialects mentioned above are clearly geographically more peripheral than the innovating southeastern dialects. And the conservative Greek dialects cited by Newton as having retained geminates all come from geographically peripheral areas of the Greek-speaking world such as Italy, the eastern Aegean, central Turkey, and Cyprus.

(Peter Trudgill, *Sociolinguistic Typology* から)

[1] sound change「音変化」
[2] cognate「同語源の」
[3] exuberant efflorescence「さかんな開花」
[4] Proto-Malayo Polynesian「マレー・ポリネシア祖語」
[5] reflex「反映形（対応する同語源の語形）」
[6] contact「（言語同士の）接触」
[7] insular「島嶼部の」
[8] Low German「低地ドイツ語」
[9] Hanseatic League「ハンザ同盟」

（ａ）Blust が hot spot と呼ぶ地域の言語はどのような特徴が見られるか，本文に即して述べなさい。

（ｂ）そのような特徴が生じる原因として本文中で挙げられていることは何か，簡潔に説明しなさい。

（ｃ）最終段落で著者は（ｂ）で挙げた原因を支持するものとしてどのような根拠を挙げているか，本文の内容を踏まえて答えなさい。

（ｄ）本文の主張に関して自分の考えを述べなさい。その際，必要なら例を挙げても構いません。

【以上】