言語学

（１）日本語では自分がウナギを注文したいときに「ぼくはウナギだ」と言うことができる，主語や目的語が頻繁に省略される，などの現象をもとに，「日本語は（例えば英語に比べて）非論理的である」という意見がある。この意見が妥当であるか否かについて，具体的な根拠とともに自分の考えを述べなさい。

（２）次の文を読んで，下の問いに答えなさい。

Some elements of languages, however, are more prone to change than others, and *stable* is the best term for those that are least prone to change. Most Indo-European daughter languages preserve the suppletive[1] stems of the first person pronoun *eĝō : *me. Fewer, but still a good many, preserve the inherited[2] gender system or a collapsed version of it with merger of the old neuter and masculine genders. Still fewer preserve the original system of noun declension classes or even the major classes. We can say that the first person pronoun stem suppletion is very stable in Indo-European, gender is fairly stable, and the declension classes are not particularly stable.（中略）

Ergativity[3] provides another example. As will be discussed in more detail below, ergativity is a *recessive* feature, that is, a feature which is almost always lost by at least some daughter languages in a family and is not readily borrowed in contact situations. Thus, though not always inherited, when found in a language it is more likely to have been inherited than borrowed. Therefore, ergativity can be an important component of the grammatical signature of a language family: not every daughter language has it, but its mere presence in several or most languages of the family helps characterize the family and identify languages belonging to the family.（中略）

The normal state of affairs in language transmission is that all elements of language are transmitted, and therefore that they are *inherited* by daughter languages from ancestral languages. Of course, in reality not everything is inherited. In addition to being inherited, elements of language can be *acquired* from various sources in various ways: by borrowing, through substratal[4] effects, and as a result of what I will call *selection*. Selection is the process whereby elements that embody language universals, cross-categorial harmony, unmarked terms, and other typological desiderata[5] are incorporated into a language. An allophone[6], allomorph[7], word order variant, etc. may either expand or retract in function, and evidently the universally preferred, unmarked, and otherwise favored variants are most prone to expand and have a good chance of eventually ending up as the main or sole variant.

An element is *lost* if it is not inherited. A lost element may be replaced (with an acquired one, or with an extended or reanalyzed one), or it may go unreplaced.

In linguistic transmission, unlike biological transmission, acquired elements are inheritable. Whether the ancestral language obtained a given trait by inheritance or acquisition is immaterial as far as further transmission is concerned: the expectation is that new traits as well as old ones will be inherited. For example, Proto-Slavic *melko- 'milk' was borrowed from Germanic, but it was a Proto-Slavic word nonetheless and was inherited by the Slavic

daughter languages just as the ultimately native vocabulary was.

(Johanna Nichols, Diversity and Stability in Language から)

¹⁾suppletive「補充による」²⁾inherited「（祖語から）継承された」³⁾ergativity「能格性」⁴⁾substratal「基層の」⁵⁾desideratum「ぜひほしい物」⁶⁾allophone「異音」⁷⁾allomorph「異形態」

（ａ）語族の記述において，ergativity はどのような点で重要だと著者は考えているのか，本文をもとに説明しなさい。

（ｂ）言語の特徴の継承は，生物の遺伝とどのような点で異なると著者は考えているか，本文に基づいて説明しなさい。

【以上】