

言語学

(1) 英語の “John called me yesterday” に直訳的に対応する「昨日ジョンが私に電話しました」という表現は、大多数の日本語母語話者にとって不自然である。より自然な表現を示した上で、なぜこの表現が不自然であるかを説明しなさい。

(2) 次の英文を読んで、下の設問に答えなさい。

Words in a public language act as a mental prop, helping us, and in harder cases even enabling us, to think more abstract thoughts. Some thought is possible without language, and languageless animals can think about things up to a point. Humans, with language, can think beyond that point. This suggests a co-evolutionary spiral between the rise of public language and the capacity for more complex thought. The facilitating effect of public words on abstract thought is another strong argument against the theoretical claim that language evolved as a purely internal private means of carrying out complex thought, unrelated to its public function of communication.

Not all prelinguistic concepts are affected by getting words for them. Concepts of basic emotional facial expressions such as anger and disgust are not affected by words, as psychologist Disa Sauter and her team have shown by studies with speakers of Yucatec Maya, a language that has no separate words for these emotions. Yet the Yucatec speakers make the same categorical distinctions between faces showing these emotions as do German speakers. In other cases, as we have seen above, even at the simple level of vocabulary, having a word for something may sometimes affect how we conceive of it. Originally private concepts, once attached to a public label used by other people, are no longer completely one's own. They become standardized and tweaked and refined in subtle ways. Concepts preceded words in evolution, and languageless animals are able to think in even some quite abstract ways about the world. But once words enter the scene, words and thoughts become intertwined. Universal emotions such as anger or disgust, and the conceptual recognition of these, including the facial expressions for them, are not affected by words, and there is good translatability between languages for these emotions. But other concepts are more specific to particular cultures, having been moulded by their languages, and there is only clumsy translatability between languages for such concepts. There is no exact German word for English *kindness*, and no exact Arabic word for English *interesting*. In particular contexts, one can find words that do the job acceptably, but the same word will not work properly in all the contexts in which the English words are used. Conversely, there are words in other cultures that have no exact equivalent in English.

(James Hurford, *Origins of Language: A Slim Guide* から)

(a) 言語は複雑な思考の他に人間にとってどのような働きがあると筆者は考えているか。本文に基づいて簡潔にまとめなさい。さらに、筆者のこの考えについて論じなさい。

(b) 異なる言語における概念と語の関係について、筆者の主張を簡潔にまとめなさい。さらに、筆者のこの考えについて論じなさい。