

東京医科大学(推薦) 小論文解説

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日本語小論文

<解答例>

お婆さんが嫌だったのは、排泄というきわめて個人的な行為を他人に見られ、手を貸されることだった。自分の身体が自分の思い通りにならないだけでなく、職員に下着を脱がされ、拭かれるという行為は、「自分で自分を保てない」屈辱として受け止められた。特に、複数の利用者や職員がいる空間で介助を受けることは、まるで自分の尊厳を失うように感じられたのだ。一方で、排泄を我慢することもできず、お漏らししてしまえば服が濡れ、結局は人の手を借りるしかない。お婆さんはその矛盾の中で、恥ずかしさと諦めの狭間にいたと考えられる。

そこで考案された「秘密のパンツ」は、見た目には普通の下着でありながら、内側にパッドを仕込むよう工夫されたものだった。職員の支援を直接受けずとも、お婆さん自身が“失敗”を他人に知られずに済む。つまり、それは「他者に依存しながらも、自分の体面を保つ」ための装置であった。「秘密のパンツはうまくいった」とは、たんに尿漏れを防げたという介護業務における成功ではなく、お婆さんが人前で恥をかかずに過ごせるようになり、介助者との関係が緊張から安心へと変わったという意味である。介護が一方的な「世話」から、尊厳を支える「協働」へと変化した瞬間だったのだ。つまり、「秘密のパンツ」とは、人が老いや介助を通してまなお、自分の「人間らしさ」を取り戻すための象徴なのである。(579文字)

英語小論文

<解説>

★形式は昨年度と同一で、「与えられた Question に対し、本文中の記述に依拠しつつ 3 つの理由を挙げて論ぜよ」というものであった。

★設問指定が細かく、自分の考える理由の 3 つを、本文中の情報を参照して語る必要があるため、英文内容を読めていなければ設問条件を満たさない。また、導入段落と結論段落を書くことを求めているという点で、記述形式が絞られる。

★できるだけ簡単な英文、内容で書くように心がけたい。

<解答例 1>

Some people think we do not need to learn foreign languages because AI translation is getting better. However, the article says that learning a language is still important. I also think learning a foreign language is necessary to understand other cultures. AI can help us, but it cannot teach us everything about people or culture.

First, learning a foreign language helps us understand different ways of thinking. In the article, Professor Fujita says that a translator changed the Cambodian language (Khmer) phrase for “the color of a leaf” to “green,” but native speakers used a word meaning “blue.” This shows a cultural difference. I had a similar experience when I learned another language. Some words did not translate well, and studying the language helped me understand the culture more deeply.

Second, language learning helps us talk to people more naturally. The article explains that small talk outside meetings can create new ideas and relationships, and translation tools cannot do this well. I also saw this when a friend studied abroad. When he used a translation app, conversations were slow and strange. But when he learned more of the local language, he could talk easily and made real friends.

Third, knowing a foreign language is useful when working with people from other countries. The article says that multinational teams need detailed communication without translation tools. I experienced this during an online group project. Sometimes AI translation gave the wrong tone. When I learned a few simple phrases in my teammates’ languages, communication became smoother.

In conclusion, learning a foreign language is important because it helps us understand culture, make real connections, and communicate well in global situations. AI is helpful, but it cannot replace the deeper understanding that comes from learning a language. (292 words)

<解答例 2>

Even in this era, when AI translation has become prevalent, I believe learning foreign languages remains essential for understanding other cultures. Here are my reasons why I think so.

First, AI is limited in its ability to accurately translate the subtle nuances inherent in each language. For example, in Japan, perhaps due to a strong curiosity about food, fish and mushrooms have been given a vast array of names. It may be difficult to translate all of these accurately into other languages. The article cites a similar example where Cambodian expressions for leaf colors cannot be adequately translated into English. Such culturally unique expressions cannot be mastered without immersing oneself in the language.

Second, learning a foreign language facilitates communication with its speakers. While AI may enable basic communication, relying on machine translation results in delays, hindering smooth conversation. As the article quotes the saying “big decisions are made in the smoking room,” it’s crucial to remember that significant decisions, both domestically and internationally, often emerge from seemingly trivial, everyday conversations.

Third, in an increasingly globalized world of the future, building a foundation for accepting diverse values and cultures is vital. The article states that experiencing life as a minority holds enormous value. It is important not merely to acquire a foreign language as a skill for paper tests, but to immerse oneself in environments where it is actually spoken. This involves learning through live experience, sometimes agonizing over the inability to express oneself.

For the three reasons above, I believe learning a foreign language significantly contributes to understanding other cultures. Immersing oneself in environments where the language is spoken must be the first step toward cross-cultural understanding. (279 words)

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