

英文和訳道場 第21回 比較表現(2)

組() 番号() 氏名()

(1) Can one write the history of art 'up to the present day' as one can perhaps write the history of airplanes? (2) Many critics and teachers hope and believe that one can. (3) I am **less** sure. (4) True, one can record and discuss the latest fashions, the figures who happen to have caught the limelight at the time of writing. (5) But only a prophet could tell whether these artists will really 'make history,' and on the whole critics have proved poor prophets. (6) Imagine an open-minded and eager critic in 1890 trying to bring the history of art 'up to date.' (7) With the best will in the world he could not have known that the three figures who were making history at that time were Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin; the first, a crazy middle-aged Dutchman working away in southern France, the second a retiring gentleman of independent means, who had long ceased to send his paintings to exhibitions, and the third a stockbroker who had become a painter late in life and was soon off to the South Seas. (8) The question is not so much whether our critic could have appreciated the works of these men as whether he could have known of them at all.

(3)

(4)

(5)

(7)

(8)

解説

(3)がいわゆる less を使った劣勢比較です。つまり、This book is more difficult than that を優勢比較、That book is less difficult than this を劣勢比較と呼びます。これは as 原級 as を使った That book is not so difficult than this と同じです。でも、-er、-est と活用する tall などには使えません。つまり、優勢比較の文 He is taller than she を劣勢比較 She is less tall than he とはできないわけです。

比較につきものなのが省略です。than 以下を省略するのは当たり前で、場合によっては目的語でさえ2度目は省略してしまいます。(3)がそれですね。前文に戻って見て、何の繰り返し省略されているのかを考えて訳出しましょう。

そして(4)は(a+b)Xの共通関係、同格のコンマに、(4)(5)は譲歩表現 It is ture ~. But . . . に、(6)は imagine O+Cing に、(7)は be 動詞の省略に、(8)は not so much A as B の訳出に注意が必要です。特に、(8)の could have+過去分詞が「強い疑い」を表現するって知っていた？

見取図

(1) Can one write the history of art 'up to the present day' as one can perhaps write the history of airplanes?

One	(can) write	the history of art
S	V	O

↑
up to the present day

as	one	(can) write	the history of airplanes
	S	V	O

- * up to now や up to the present day で「現在まで」。
- * as は「～なのだが」の逆接。分からなかったら「ルール16」に立ち返ること。

【全訳例】飛行機の歴史は書くことができるのだが、今日までの美術史を[人は]書くことが出来るだろうか。

(2) Many critics and teachers hope and believe that one can.

Many	{ critics and teachers }	{ hope and believe }	that	one	can [write	the history of airplanes]
	S	V			O	

- * one can 以下の省略に注意する。前文に one can と同形を探すのが早い。

【全訳例】多くの批評家や教師たちはそうできることを期待し、またそうできると信じている。

(3) I am less sure.

I	am less sure	[that one can write the history of airplanes	than many critics and teachers]
S	V	O	

- * be sure that 文で「～を確信している」、「～であることに自信がある」。
- * 目的語と比較対象が省略されている。前文から省略箇所を補って訳出してやるのが肝心。

【全訳例】(だが)僕は批評家や教師たちほど確信が持てない。

(4) True, one can record and discuss the latest fashions, the figures who happen to have caught the limelight at the time of writing.

[It is]	true
A	= B

that+文

<文>

one	(can) { record and discuss }	the latest fashions =the figures
S	V	O

↑
who happen to have caught the limelight at the time of writing

- * ture = It is true that A. 先に but 節があることで確認できる。
of course
indeed
to be sure
It is true that
- * latest fashions = 最新の流行
- * , the figures のコンマは同格。figures は関係代名詞 who の先行詞だから「人」。そこで「人物」と訳出。
- * catch the limelight で「スポットライトを浴びる」

【全訳例】確かに、最新の情報、つまり書いている時にたまたまスポットライトが当たっている人物を書きとどめ、議論することができるのも事実である。

(5) But only a prophet could tell whether these artists will really 'make history,' and on the whole critics have proved poor prophets.

But

only a prophet	(could) tell	whether	these artists will really 'make history'
S	V		O

and on the whole

critics	have proved	poor prophets
S	V	O

- * only は否定語。「～しか・・・ない」の訳語を当てはめてみる。
- * on the whole で「概して、大体は、総合的に見ると」
- * poor は「下手な、得意でない」

【全訳例】だが、その芸術家が実際に成功するかどうかは占い師しか分からないし、だいたい評論家は自分たちの中率の低い占い師であることを証明しただけである。

(6) Imagine an open-minded and eager critic in 1890 trying to bring the history of art 'up to date.'

[You]	imagine	an { open-minded and eager } critic	trying to bring the history of art 'up to date'
S	V	O	C

- * imagine O Cing = O が C しているのを想像する
- * open-minded = 先取りの気性に富む、目先の利く、頭の柔らかい
- * a, an, the が出てきたら、セットの名詞を探す。そうすれば、ここでは、a + critic がセットで、その間に形容詞が2つ挟まっているのが分かる。
- * bring O + C で「O を C の状態にする」。

【全訳例】先取りの気性に富んで熱心な評論家が美術史を新しく書き改めようとしているのを想像してみると良い。

(7) With the best will in the world he could not have known that the three figures who were making history at that time were Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin; the first, a crazy middle-aged Dutchman working away in southern France, the second a retiring gentleman of independent means, who had long ceased to send his paintings to exhibitions, and the third a stockbroker who had become a painter late in life and was soon off to the South Seas.

With the best will in the world

he	(could not) have known	that+文
S	V	O

<文>

the three figures	were	{ Van Gogh Cezanne and Gauguin }
A	=	B

who were making history at that time

the first	[was]	a crazy middle-aged Dutchman
A	=	B

working away in southern France

the second	[was]	a retiring gentleman of independent means
A	=	B

who had long ceased to send his paintings to exhibitions

and

the third	[was]	a stockbroker
A	=	B

who had become a painter late in life
and
was soon off to the South Seas

- * 同形反復のキレイな構造を確認すること。
- * with the best will in the world で「心がけがどれほど良くても、いくらその気になっても」
- * could not have known that ~ は仮定法過去完了で「~を知ることができなかつたろう」
- * work away で「せっせと働く」
- * retiring=retired で「退職した」
- * independent means は「働かなくても暮らせる財産」の意味。
- * have long ceased to do で「~しなくなってもう長い、とうの昔に~しなくなった」
- * off to A で「Aへ出かける、出発する」

【全訳例】たとえ彼にその気があっても、次のような事を知ることはできなかつたろう。すなわち、当時活躍していたのはバン・ゴッホ、セザンヌ、ゴーギャンの3人で、ゴッホは南フランスでせっせと仕事をしてきた変わり者の中年オランダ人、次のセザンヌは作品を展覧会に出品しなくなってもう長い財産持ちの引退おやじ、最後のゴーギャンは晩年に画家になりすぐに南太平洋へ出向いていった株のブローカーであるという事だ。

(8) The question is not so much whether our critic could have appreciated the works of these men as whether he could have known of them at all.

The question	is not	so much whether 文①	as whether 文②
A	=	B	

<文①>

our critic	(could) have appreciated	the works of these men
S	V	O

<文②>

he	(could) have known of	them	at all
S	V	O	

- * be not so much A as B で「AというよりもB」
- * our A で「当のA、話題のA」。これは知らなきゃ訳せない。「僕らの評論家」では変だと分かったら、工夫すること。
- * 疑問文+at all / whether ~ at all は疑問文の強調で「そもそも~」
- * could have 過去分詞で「強い疑い」や「否定的な推量」を表現する。
 - ・ Who could have born to see such a scene? (強い疑い=誰が~したろう)
 - ・ You could not have seen Bill because he is still abroad. (否定的な推量=~したはずがない)

【全訳例】問題は、当の評論家が3人の作品を評価できたかどうかではなく、そもそも彼が3人を知っていたかどうかなんてきわめて疑わしいのである。