English lesson #10 (10/05/2022)

【article】  
Title: “How does Northern Ireland's power-sharing government work?”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-57583168>

【summary】

Sinn Féin party\* won a historic victory in the Northern Ireland Assembly elections and it has become the largest party.

Northern Ireland's government works by a system of power sharing.

DUP\* (Democratic Unionist Party) had been the largest party and the first minister has been chosen by them since 2007.

According to the system of power sharing, the deputy minister has been drawn from the nationalist party.

But, after this election, the first minister will be drawn from Sinn Féin party.

It means that a reversal of power between the nationalist and the unionists may occur.

\*Sinn Féin party belongs the nationalist and supports unification with the Republic of Ireland.

\*DUP belongs the unionists and wants Northern Ireland to remain part of the UK.

【my comments】

Northern Ireland's government has the system of power sharing because of its historical background.

There is not such a system in Japan because Japan is racially homogeneous country and there are not parties that claim independence from the country.

So, I was interested the system of the Northern Ireland and searched it on the Internet.

Then I realized there are almost no Japanese documents about it, and even if I could find, it was too difficult.

But this article explains the system very clearly.

I felt that one of the advantages of studying English is that I can have more choices of documents and can find clearer one.

【unknown words：Japanese translation】

assembly election：議員選挙

principle：原則

vested：既得の

vested interest (in)：既得権

constituency：選挙区

single transferable vote (STV)：単記移譲式投票

deputy：副の

vice versa：逆もまた同様

be in office：役職につく

cabinet：内閣

non-aligned：非同盟の、無党派

appoint as~：~として任命する

exercise one's power：権力を振るう

predominantly：主に

peace talks：和平会談

culminate in ~：ついに～となる

endorse：支持する

referendum：国民投票

endure：耐える、我慢する

suspend：停止する、延期する

a number of times：何度も

ruling party：与党

resign：辞任する

in protest：～に抗議して

Brexit：イギリスのEU離脱

aligned with：～と提携する、～に足並みを揃える

perceive：気づく

street protest：街頭講義

stand to：～する立場にある

nominate：指名する

【Questions】

Q1：In Japan the cabinet consists of the largest party only.

I heard that the Japanese political system is modeled after the UK.

Is it same in England?

Q2：I feel the system of power sharing is a good idea considering their historical background, but It looks a troublesome system practically.

If the first minister tries to do something, someone in the cabinet would oppose it.

What do you think about it?