English Reading II 事前課題

情報科学類2年 201811395

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(1)

There are around 6,000 living languages in the world and at least half of those are under serious threat. At present, 10 languages disappear every year. Where once languages flourished in small isolated areas, there are now very few that are not in regular contact with the rest of the world.

People have some different opinions for the extinction. But everyone recognize the value of these languages, so we need to stop the extinction.

At last the value of these languages is being recognized, and that is the first step to stemming the tide of loss.

(2)

Some say that the disappearance of language is merely the result of species evolution, and that homogenization of language in a world where universal communication is important is simply a side effect of evolution.

In today's globalized world, the language barrier is a major communication barrier. That opinion is a very natural if we consider globalization as the evolution result of mankind.

On the other hand, some people say that language is a symbol of regionality and national character, and those who have grown up without being able to speak their own language will not understand themselves. I don't think so much. Although there are many dialects in Japan, there are some areas where people who have been raised only in standard languages ​​without using dialects or dialects have been lost. However, it is not that such a person becomes indifferent or lacks regionality.

(3)

(2)

言語の消滅は単なる種の進化の結果でしかなく、普遍的なコミュニケーションが重要な世の中で言語が均質化されていくのは単なる進化の副作用である、という意見がある。

グローバル化が進む現在において、言語の壁はコミュニケーション上の大きな壁となる。グローバル化そのものを人類の進化と捉えるならばこの意見は極めて自然な意見に思う。

一方で、言語が地域性や国民性を象徴するものであり、自分の言語を話せないまま成長してしまった人は自分が分からなくなってしまうという意見もある。私はあまりそうは思わない。日本には多くの方言があるが、最近ではそもそも方言を使わず標準語のみで育てられる人や方言が失われてしまっている地域もある。しかし、そのような人が無個性になったり地域性が無いということはない。