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Why do we need to learn English？

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Why do we need to learn English? Here are three reasons why I think so. Let me introduce them with some examples.

First, when looking for a job, you may be asked to speak English. Thirty years ago, the ability to speak English was not required except for special jobs. However, these days, even shop clerks encounter situations where they must speak English. The other day, when I went shopping for clothes, many foreigners also came to buy clothes. The clerk was responding to them in English. Are they special clerks? Probably not. They are part-time university students like me, and despite this, they are required to speak English. Some jobs require you to be able to speak English as a condition for applying for the job, while others require you to respond in English after you start working. In any case, not being able to speak English will greatly limit the range of career choices.

The second reason is that English is very convenient when connecting with people from overseas. Recently, social media has made it possible to connect with people from all over the world. There are also comments from foreigners in the comment section of YouTube. When I look at them, I rely on translation, but I can't understand them accurately, so I feel that I want to be able to read and understand English by myself. Also, when playing multiplayer games, it is becoming more common to play with foreigners these days. When I chat with them, I often wonder what to write, so I feel that I want to be able to communicate in English. In either case, you need to be able to speak English to enjoy conversations when you can connect with people from abroad.

The third is to understand the way of thinking of people overseas. There are 1.5 billion English speakers in the world, which means that one in five people in the world speaks English. Language contains many of the ideas that form the basis of the people of a country. Do you know Sapir-Whorf hypothesis? This hypothesis proposes the theory of linguistic relativity. In other words, the idea is that language influences human thinking. For example, Inuit use more than 50 different words to describe snow. There are also people who don't have the left-right distinction that we take for granted. Some Aboriginal tribes do not represent left and right, so they all perceive space based on their bearings. In my experience, when writing an essay while thinking in Japanese, I often wonder how to write the subject. Languages are not completely compatible with each other, so it is difficult to translate them as they are. In this way, language has a great influence on the perception of the people who use it. Therefore, learning a language will lead to learning the mindset of the person who uses the language. Learning English is also useful for learning the way of thinking of English-speaking people.

In conclusion, the reason we need to learn English is that getting a job, connecting with people from overseas, and understanding the way of English-speaking people. There are many benefits to being able to speak English.

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