How to interact with English

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In this essay, I write about English learning. We gave some presentations in groups and wrote essays this semester. Through these experiences, my way of thinking about English changed.

 First, do I think it is going to be important for us in the future to be able to communicate in English? I think that it has already been important for us to be able to communicate in English. In this world, more and more people learn English. By studying English and being able to speak, we can get some advantages.

One is that we can communicate with people coming from English-speaking countries. A lot of people speak English as Chinese or French in this world. If we cannot speak English, we cannot communicate with a lot of people. Being able to communicate with foreign people allows us to help them in Japan. In Japan, there is a proverb, “mercy is not just for others” which means that we can improve our lives by being kind to others. Therefore, we can improve ourselves by helping foreign people to speak English.

 In addition, we can learn other ways of thinking that come from English by studying English. The ways of thinking depend on languages. Some words are peculiar to a language. For example, comparing English and Japanese, the word, ”Itadakimasu” cannot translated into English. Such a fact means that some concepts are also peculiar to their languages. If we do not study English, we cannot learn the concepts that belong to English.

 However, we should learn Japanese before learning English. When we communicate with foreign people in English, we must keep our own identity in our minds. If we cannot do so, we cannot engage in cross-cultural exchange. Realizing one’s national or cultural identity and expressing it to each other is necessary to materialize true diversity. Therefore, people should study not only English hard, but also their own languages.

 Second, do I think the way you have been studying English until you entered the School of Law was very effective? I think it was not effective to be able to communicate in English. I had been studying English only to enter the university. I did not think about getting the practical skills to communicate in English. Therefore, I mainly studied reading and writing and practiced listening and speaking just a little.

 However, after taking some English classes at this university, my way of thinking changed. As I wrote above, I think the skills to communicate in English are important now. Therefore, I think that I should practice speaking and listening harder than ever. I am a lazy person but If I can continue practicing, I may be able to communicate in English. Then, I decided to begin practicing speaking and listening in the next semester. Even after graduating from the university, we have to do with English. Therefore, we should improve our English skills as early as possible.

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