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The importance of speaking English

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Today, I would like to talk about the importance of speaking English and the current situation of English education. I will introduce the necessity of English at first, and then talk about the problem of current English education in Japan and propose the English education in the future.

The ability of English become more and more important in Japan. There are some reasons for that. Firstly, a lot of companies need people who can speak English, in order to expand market or trade with corporations or in foreign countries. Companies expanding overseas are increasing. A lot of companies expand abroad not only to get production market which can get inexpensive labor but also get new consumption market. Therefore, you have more opportunity to play an active role abroad. Also, there are a lot of companies in Japan which do business with foreign companies. If we are good at speaking English, you may be able to engage in the works. These opportunities will lead to our growth, more to the point, getting a promotion. Moreover, more and more foreign people are in Japan to sightsee or work. Working around the town, we often hear English conversation. Even if you do not plan to live or travel overseas, there are many situations when English is required. Sometimes you communicate in English even though both you and the other person are not native speakers English. for these reasons, the skill of speaking English is very important for every people.

However, I think the English education in current Japan is not enough. Most English studying in Japan is not for our actual life, but for our high-school or university entrance examination. We study English grammar, reading, or Japanese translation. Also, we memorize a lot of words using reference books or vocabulary notebooks. But we do not study enough English conversation. Of course, these studies are necessary for active English using. However, the time used for these is too long, I think. We also do not practice pronunciation enough. Because of that, some Japanese people have complex to their English speaking. These education lead to the result that a lot of students who learned English words or grammar but cannot use English actively, include me.

The English education in Waseda university is exactly for addressing the challenges as above. We learn English conversation which is useful for our daily lives in Tutorial English. Also, our usual English classes are not passive ones, but active ones, which write essays or make presentation in English.

I think there should be more classes of learning active English using in junior high school or high school. Of course, there some problems like the budget of learning English conversation in small groups, or the burden of teacher who have to correct English essays of all students. But these studying must be useful for the student in the future. So, I hope the renovation of how to study English come true.

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