

英語上級者への道～Listen and Speak

第2回 男女の性差についての再評価

Script

■ Dialogue for Introduction

E: Hello, Tets.

T: Hi, Edward! How was your weekend?

E: I enjoyed cleaning my house, cooking and doing a lot of household chores.

T: Your family must be ideal from a gender-equality standpoint.

E: I don't know that it is actually ideal... but I feel tired! On weekdays, I leave all the household chores to my wife and I have to work out of my house.

T: The same is true for me. Women stay home and keep the house and men go out, this idea is a matter of course to us who are in our 60s. The prior generation believed that women should become dutiful housewives and devoted mothers rather than pursuing a college degree.

E: True. And that stereotype has weakened women's social position.

T: I know. Look at [this statistic](#).

<http://www.oecd.org/els/familiesandchildren/39696303.pdf> (OECD: 経済協力開発機構より)

It shows that women's income is two thirds that received by their male counterparts and more women are working as non-regular employees than men.

E: Laws for Equal Employment Opportunities for Men and Women have been enacted over the years and many movements toward a gender-free society have gained some real momentum. Despite all this, does the labor market remain unfavorable for women in Japan?

T: I should say, much to my sadness, yes. I think male dominance in the workplace in terms of number and remuneration will continue in Japan.

E: Now, Tets, I know you must be on fire to ask me about the U.S.! Let's listen to this month's passage!

T: Yes. Shall we?

■ Listen to the passage and answer the two questions that follow.

Re-evaluating the Gender Divide 【2012-1 1st A】

Some observers in the U.S. are predicting the end of male dominance in the workplace. American women do better in school than men, are more likely to earn a college degree, and live longer. Now, for the first time in U.S. history, they form the majority of the workforce. In the modern workplace, there is less emphasis on physical size and strength and more on

communication, social interaction, and concentration skills. Jobs traditionally done by men, such as construction and manufacturing, are in decline. The fastest-growing sectors, such as insurance, nursing, and food preparation are considered by many to be more suited to women's abilities. Some business experts are calling this a turning point for gender relations.

Caryl Rivers, a professor of journalism at Boston University, cautions otherwise. She notes that 85 percent of the top 500 CEOs in the U.S. are male, as are most American billionaires, and more than two-thirds of U.S. senators. Women also earn on average just 80 cents for every dollar earned by men. Despite the changing balance in the workforce, there is still a long way to go before a real shift in power occurs.

【Questions】

Answer the following 2 questions in 30 seconds for each.

No.1 What change has occurred in U.S. society?

No.2 What does Carol Rivers believe about working women in the U.S.?

■Let's study vocabulary and expressions

Listen to my Japanese and repeat after Edward.

1	男性の優位	male dominance
2	労働力	workforce
3	～を重要視すること	emphasis on～
4	減少、衰退している	in decline
5	部門	sector
6	～に適している	be suited to～
7	岐路、転機	turning point
8	警告	caution
9	別の、違うように	otherwise
10	最高経営責任者	CEO
11	上院議員	senator
12	力関係の変化	shift in power

■Listen to the passage and once more answer the two questions that follow!

Re-evaluating the Gender Divide 【2012-1 1st A】

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【Questions】

Answer the following 2 questions in 30 seconds for each.

No.1 What change has occurred in U.S. society?

No.2 What does Caryl Rivers believe about working women in the U.S.?

■Repetition and Interpretation Drill

The passage is read with pauses and Japanese interpretation.

- 1) Repeat during each pause. Practice again and again until your repetition becomes perfect.
- 2) Listen and interpret during the pauses. You should finish your interpretation before the model interpretation starts. Practice again and again.
- 3) Shadowing and Interpretation. While listening to English, shadow the part in English. During the pauses, interpret into Japanese.

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■ Model answers

Listen to the models and compare with your answers

T: Now Edward, what are your answers? 'No.1 What change has occurred in U.S. society?'

E: Women now form the majority of the U.S. workforce.

T: Thank you. How about 'No.2 What does Caryl Rivers believe about working women in the U.S.?'

E: While women are in the majority, the best positions still go largely to men.

■ Challenge 1

T: Now, Edward is going to ask you some questions. Please answer his questions. You should continue to speak for at least for 30 seconds.

E: Do you think the fastest growing sectors, such as insurance, nursing, and food preparation are more suited to women?

E: Model

Now, let's listen to Tets. He will show you a model. Listen and compare with your answer.

T: No, I don't think so. I know a lot of people say that those sectors are more suited to women. However, generalizations are always risky. People also say that we live in an age of diversity. Personalities, characters, all sorts of behaviors have also become diversified. It must be likely

that we can find men who are good at taking care of the elderly, good at communicating with a variety of people, good at food preparation, and so on. They may in fact be suited to these tasks as well as women. Women may as well be suited for traditionally male roles.

■ Challenge 2

E: Please listen. Disagree with the following statement for at least one minute. Your statement should include some points introduced in the passage that you have listened to. Ready?

T: The unfavorable condition of the job market for women should be left unchanged. The income gap will make women more likely to marry. It will lead to a decrease in single people and slow the downward trend in the birthrate.

T: Model

Now let's listen to Edward, he's going to show you a model, listen and compare with your statement.

E: You may think that the job market is unfavorable to women, but this is perhaps untrue. In the modern work place, there is more emphasis on communication, social interaction and skills involving concentration. I don't think women are inferior to men in these arenas. Actually, women in the U.S. form the majority of the workforce, especially in sectors such as insurance providers and nursing. I think this is true in Japan as well. However, there is still a pay gap in both Japan and the U.S. Improving this unfair condition for women in Japan will make it possible to raise the birth rate. The lower income for women is partly the result of the difficulties women face in returning to their regular positions in the workplace after raising their children. Also, it may often be the case that it is difficult for women to take maternity leave. It is very important for Japan to consider what is lacking in maternity leave as well as making it easier for women to go back to their former positions.

■ Closing Dialogue

T: Well Edward, that finishes our work today. Why don't we go out for a cheering glass of wine?!

E: Ah! I would love to raise a glass of Burgundy with you but I have to make dinner for my son which inevitably leads to dishes to wash which is followed by helping with his homework and... as a grand finale... I shall help him with his bath and see him to bed!

T: You are doing chores most men expect their wives to do!

E: True! But my wife works late teaching an English class of her own so I become a House Husband every Monday night.

T: I'm sorry you must work so hard!

E: Thanks but I'm actually very happy about it! You see, our lesson today mentions some hard truths about women in the workforce. I, however, see it as a great opportunity for males!

T: How so?

E: I think many men, especially here in hard-working Japan, miss some wonderful moments with their children. When my son was born, I decided to always put parenting very high on my list of priorities.

T: So you are a happy dishwasher?

E: To be honest, I hate doing the dishes! But it is a fine feeling to know I'm being a direct care-taker for my son!

T: And yet many people still believe the old adage "A woman's place is in the home." This really is a complicated issue, isn't it? How do you listeners feel about it? Can you express your opinions in English?

E: And on that note we will say:

T & E: SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!

★講師陣プロフィール★

◇中西 哲彦 (Tets Nakanishi)

日本福祉大学国際福祉開発学部准教授、アルファ英語会顧問、NPO 愛知善意ガイドネットワーク理事。

愛知教育大学出身。三重県立高校、大手英語学校を経て、現在、小学生～社会人まで幅広い層を対象に英語を指導している。英検セミナー派遣講師として各地の特別授業や英語教育セミナーにて活躍。2007年度まで、5年間にわたって三重県英語教員集中研修講師も務めた。

◇エドワード・スクラッグス (Edward Scruggs)

テネシー出身。比較文学の分野で博士号、音楽の分野で修士号。

翻訳、英語教授に大活躍し、現在、椋山女学園大学国際コミュニケーション学部准教授を務めるほかアルファ英語会（津市）アドバイザーとしても活躍中。