

## Global Vision Talks 15th week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University)

### 1/30 Brazilian Soft Power: The Relationship Between Brazil's Cultural Resources and its Ability to Seduce, Attract and Influence Others

英米 2年

Today, I learned about Soft Power. According to Professor Melo, it is persuasive power relying on non-material power. Various things can work as soft power, for example, policy, culture, political values, and so on. In the case of Japan, food, fashion, anime, and cosplay are famous, and it affects other countries and foreign people. In Brazil, soft power is divided into three groups: foreign policies, political values, and culture. Culture is the strongest soft power among them. Carnival is the most famous cultural event in Brazil, and it helps build an image of friendly and tolerant Brazil. When I saw the video of the carnival, I was really impressed, and I felt how friendly Brazilian people are! Therefore, culture works as an important aspect of soft power. Hard power can harm someone, but soft power doesn't, so I think people should use soft power effectively and make the world coexist more happily.

スペイン 1年

Thank you for your presentation. First, I have never heard the words of "Soft power" and "Hard power". I learned that hard power is related to political groups or interests, such as strong military forces or economic sanctions. Soft power is the ability to gain support and sympathy for a country's culture, political values, and policy appeal without relying on military or economic power, and to gain trust and the right of utterance from the international community.

Also I have hoped that I become a person who can influence many people. In order to do this, I need soft power then hard power.

Also I am in department of spanish and learn Brazil too, so I want to listen your story about Brazil more. Obrigado.

ドイツ 2年

Thanks for the great presentation. In this lecture, I learned about soft power. In general, hard power is more known to the general public and has been regarded as more important until now. However, in this lecture, I was able to learn about the strength of soft power and what kind of situations it can be used in, and I was able to learn many positive aspects. Soft power is

related to humanity, politics, the environment, etc., and is one of the factors that are directly linked to the happiness of the nation's citizens. Especially in the coming age of globalization, it is necessary to flexibly respond to various different cultures and promote communication. Soft power is very useful in such cases. The content of this lecture was quite abstract, so it was difficult, but I learned that it will be important for the future. I will continue to learn about soft power and make use of it.

#### 中国 1 年

Firstly, thank for your exciting presentation. I learned the words soft power and hard power for the first time in this lecture. Soft Power "is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments. It arises from the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals, and policies." From this, I felt that soft power was stronger in a country where there were no government regulations and people could live freely and the economy was developing. And, as mentioned in the introduction during the lecture, I felt that Brazil had a strong soft power in terms of "fun." Now that we are in the global age, I think soft power is important for the connection between countries. I wanted to know the soft power of various countries.

#### 国際関係 2 年

Initially, I thought it was most important for a country to be militarily and economically strong in order to gain the trust of the international community and its ability to communicate to the world. Although those hard powers are very important, I found that Japan has a big boom in anime and manga around the world, which is certainly boosting the country's (soft) power. Not only in Japan, but also in Korea K-pop and dramas, the beautiful cityscapes of Europe, and the samba and music of Brazil, we are subconsciously fascinated and interested in those countries. I thought it would be desirable for the world to focus on and evaluate a country's culture, educational policies, and technological capabilities rather than only its violent, non-peaceful military power.

#### 国際関係 2 年

I had not known that there is the phrase, "soft power" before today's lecture. I understood that Brazilian soft power refers to the cultural, economic, and political influence that Brazil wields around the world, beyond the use of military or coercion and each country has it, not only Brazil. Brazilian soft power has been seen by many as a valuable tool for the country to build relationships and exert its influence in the international community. I think that its soft power has allowed it to leverage these assets in a positive and non-coercive way. However, like with any other country's

soft power, I think that there can also be criticisms or limitations to its effectiveness.

## 国際関係 2年

In this lecture I learned the term "soft power" for the first time. In today's world, there is a great disparity between countries, which inevitably leads to a hierarchical relationship in terms of economic and military power. However, every country has its own wonderful culture, such as the Brazilian Carnival that we learned about in class today from Professor Melo.

Therefore, I believe that it is an admirable task for a nation to strengthen its economic and military power, and at the same time, to promote its own culture to the world. Just as Japanese anime and manga culture is spreading throughout the world, I think it is important for the citizens of a nation to actively embrace the culture of other countries. I hope that soft power will work among various nations.

## 国際関係 2年

I have often heard the words "soft power" and "hard power" but I did not know what they meant. Therefore, I learned the fact for the first time that "hard power" refers to the power of military force, etc., to let others to obey and move as a country wishes, and "soft power" refers to the power of culture, people, and education, etc., to move others naturally by attracting and fascinating them. Brazil has samba, soccer, and bossa nova as its soft power, and I was particularly attracted to bossa nova in the video in class. I was also happy to know that the Japanese culture of anime and manga is strongly popular throughout the world. I thought that for the same power, I would rather have "soft" that everyone can keep peaceful and it has more positive aspects, than "hard".

## 留学生

### Brazilian Soft Power: The Use of Cultural Diplomacy to Expand Global Influence

Brazil is known for its vibrant culture, dynamic economy, and growing political influence in the world. One of the ways the country has leveraged this is through the concept of soft power, which refers to a nation's ability to influence others through its cultural, political, and economic appeal. This essay will examine the various aspects of Brazilian soft power and its role in shaping the country's image on the global stage.

Culture: Brazil has a rich cultural heritage that includes music, dance, festivals, and cuisine. The country is famous for its Samba, Bossa Nova, and Forró music genres, which are enjoyed by millions of people around the

world. Festivals like Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, attract millions of tourists every year, providing a platform for cultural exchange and diplomacy. Moreover, Brazilian cuisine is diverse and flavorful, reflecting the country's history, geography, and cultural mix.

Economy: Brazil is one of the largest economies in the world and is home to some of the largest multinational corporations. The country's economic stability and growth have made it an attractive destination for foreign investment, and its position as a major exporter of commodities such as soybeans, iron ore, and petroleum has further enhanced its economic influence. The country's economic strength has allowed it to play a more active role in international organizations such as the BRICS group, where Brazil has leveraged its economic weight to promote its interests and influence global economic policy.

In conclusion, Brazilian soft power is an essential aspect of the country's global influence. Through its rich cultural heritage, strong economy, and growing political influence, Brazil has leveraged its soft power to shape its image and promote its interests on the world stage.

#### 留学生

I found the last conference of the semester very interesting. To be honest, I didn't think that Brazil was a country with such a strong soft power. Personally, I didn't know much about Brazil apart from the Rio carnival and the Amazon forest. So it was a great opportunity for me to learn more about this country. As far as soft power is concerned, I understand what the guest meant when he mentioned that the exchange students had certainly come to Japan because of its soft power. The soft power of a country is everything from culture to influence in the world to technology. Japan is very strong in this area because it knows how to sell its pop culture abroad. By this I mean everything that is manga, anime and even Jpop. Then, we already know that Japan is very strong in the field of technology. We can already quote the famous Nintendo which remains one of the most outstanding examples. It is all these elements of Japanese soft power that make the popularity of the country rise and that makes foreign professors or students like me want to come to Japan. So it's the same thing for Brazil: if its soft power only gets stronger, the country will attract more and more students and teachers.

Global Vision Talks 14th week Best Essays  
(Aichi Prefectural University)  
1/23 Rakugo in English

国語国文 3年

Thank you for funny performance. Actually, I have watched some kyogenn performances, but it was my first time to watch rakugo. I felt a little difference between them which is because of the types of tools he used. I mean Kimochi used only tenugui and sensu in rakugo, though more tools are used in kyogen I watched. For example, Japanese traditional mask, long stick and bell. From this, I learned we use our imagination more in rakugo than kyogen. I know imagination has huge power. I have played football for ten years and always imagine my good play before a big match. If I do so, I feel I can do it. That's why I mentioned imagination 's power. I think rakugo has big possibility to use our imagination and enjoy imagining the scene. I had a great time to imagine some stories in Kimochi's class. Thank you!

英米 1年

Thank you for your great performance. I missed a chance to raise my hand, but this wasn't the first time I enjoyed "Rakugo" in English. When I was 2nd high school student, our high school invited both English and Japanese "Rakugo" speakers and we have an opportunity to enjoy it. However, I had never enjoyed "Rakugo" so close up thus I felt happy that I could feel the breath, the emotions, the funniness of today's speaker Mr Kimochi. I thought the tale of "a zoo" was so funny because in the end there was also a man in a lion suit and that was "Inkyo San". I could't help laughing at this ending. The most surprising fact for me was that Mr Kimochi only started to learn English when he was 30 years old. This made me feel that I also should try to study English harder.

英米 2年

I was very impressed by his performance. There were not a lot of sets, costumes and tools when he did Rakugo. However, he took us to another world like novels and comic books by his speaking style, movements, facial expressions, and skills of making a towel so-called Tenugui and a fan so-called Sensu look like various tools such as a mirror. In particular, I liked his voice and atmosphere changing by each character when he acted as English teachers. I was also impressed that Rakugo in English has the same interests compared to Rakugo in Japanese. I thought Rakugo was Japanese culture, and it was difficult to attract people from other

countries, but he did it considering customs or cultures of the country he performed.

#### 英米 2年

Thank you for today's presentation. It was the first time for me to see rakugo. When I entered the classroom, there was a stage for rakugo, and I was very excited to see what going to happen. The teacher's performance was so amazing. He expressed various facial expressions by moving all parts of his face. Also, it was amazing to express various things only using sensu and tenugui. Even though there was only Kimochi-san and the stage on the spot, I could easily imagine the situation. These days, it is difficult to express my feelings with a mask. I feel sad because sometimes misunderstanding occurs because of masks. Although, I think that if I move my eyebrows like Kinmochi-san, I will be able to convey my feelings better. In addition, I want to use English-English dictionary to study English hard.

#### フランス 2年

Today was the first time I heard Japanese Rakugo. It was very interesting to see how they used eye movements to show the length of a sword, and how they used only a fan and a tenugui (hand towel) to show various objects. I was especially amazed at the perfect heartbeat. Also, it looked like he was really eating and throwing apples. He used simple words in his rakugo performance, so it was easy for me to understand. I thought it was a great entertainment for both Japanese and foreigners to enjoy the 400-year-old Japanese tradition. The wordplay between Japanese and English was the main focus of the story, and when everyone laughed in unison, it felt like everyone in the classroom at that moment was united as one.

#### ドイツ 1年

Today's class was the first time that I saw Rakugo. It was very interesting. Mr.Kimochi acted as many characters and used his body so I could image each situation easily. I was surprised by his performance because he used only two tools, Sensu and Tenugui to express many things. For example, a mirror, a wallet and a smartphone. It was wonderful that he used not only his voice to act as many characters but also his expressive reaction. He said in order to enjoy Rakugo, it is important to collaborate with the audience. I agree with him. He showed us the example using imaginary apples. He ate an apple and passed it to the audience. I thought he really ate the apple and threw it. His action was very natural. I really enjoyed today's Rakugo performance and I hope to see it again.

## ドイツ 2年

I had been looking forward to this lecture very much. Because when I was in junior high school, I liked "Shoten" and once went with my friends to see a Rakugo performance. I have wanted to go and see Rakugo again, so it was very new for me to see Rakugo in English this time. I realized that the fact that Japanese culture can be "interesting" even when it transcends language is proof that the appeal of rakugo is so great that it is not affected by language.

I especially liked the "zoo". The sounds, the actions, and the way Mr.Kimochi performed were all so attractive that I found myself looking at the rakugo and laughing a lot. I enjoyed this lecture so much that I regretted not sitting in front part of the classroom.

## 中国 1年

Thank you for your rakugo performance, Mr Kimochi! I have never heard rakugo in Japanese before so, today was the first time to hear rakugo in my life. To listen to rakugo in English I was worried if I could understand but Mr.Kimochi told story with facial expressions and gestures so, I could imagine the situation and I could enjoy listening to rakugo.

The story of the tiger is my favorite. This situation was unbelievable, but Mr Kimochi told it as if it were true. Therefore, I was drawn into the story. I was amazed at his eloquence.

Rakugo is Japanese traditional culture. Thanks to Mr.Kimochi, I learned the fascination of rakugo today. Like Mr.Kimochi, I think to promote rakugo not only in Japan but also around the world is very important. I want Mr.Kimochi to promote rakugo more. Also I want to do something that I can do to promote it as well.

## 留学生

Today's talk, or rather, today's performance, was very unique and amusing. I didn't expect to ever attend a rakugo performance, so I was pleasantly surprised. For me, it was most interesting to see something so traditionally Japanese translated into English. It's not at all easy to translate certain jokes from one language to another, let alone taking into account so many other norms and the general sense of humor of a certain culture. That's why I think that it is important to research one's audience and to prepare accordingly. I believe that the performance we saw today was a successful merge of cultures. It made me more curious about traditional Japanese rakugo as well, which I'm definitely going to research some more.

留学生

Rakugo is a unique and captivating form of storytelling that I recently had the opportunity to experience. I was impressed by the skill and artistry of the rakugoka, Mr Kimochi, who was able to bring the story to life with just a fan and a small cloth as props. The performer's use of different voices and expressions to portray the characters added an extra layer of depth and humor to the story. I was also struck by the way rakugo provides a glimpse into the culture and history of Japan. Overall, my impression of rakugo is that it is a charming, funny and a beautiful art form that I would highly recommend experiencing.



## Global Vision Talks 13th week Best Essays

(Aichi Prefectural University)

### 1/16 Creative Writing: Well-being, Identity, Empathy and Pleasure

英米 1年

Thank you for your presentation. I am interested in creative writing. It is so free that I thought I could also use it. Creative writing includes fiction, poetry, drama and creative nonfiction. In academic writing, people have to write instructional facts and logically, impersonally. On the other hand, people are able to write aesthetic imagination and intuitively, personally in creative writing. In addition, you told us creative writing is very useful in terms of employment, self-expression, language acquisition, communication, well-being and mental health. I agree with this. This is because I had an experience of a nonfiction novel making me relieve a bad feeling. When I broke the window glass in my school, a teacher scolded me for that as if I were in the hell. Then, I read a nonfiction book as an assignment. After I read it, I became happy and could forget that bad feeling. From this experience, creative writing is an amazing thing for me. Finally, I was also interested in no rules in it like haiku 5-7-5. So, whoever can make a sentence use creative writing. I came to want to do it myself.

スペイン 1年

I enjoyed today's talk so much since I am so tired of doing academic writing. My Spanish class should involve this activity. I think it is important to make our thoughts into sentences using certain language. Also, it seems to be challenging to some of us how we have to make a story from zero. Though, some of Mr. Maloney's methods required little effort in order to make one. Especially when I made a story with Google, I felt as if I was a literary master. I agree so much with him that it depends on those who teach a certain lesson whether it turns out boring or interesting.

ドイツ 2年

Unlike academic writing, I realized that creative writing emphasizes how to convey one's feelings and how to express one's enjoyment of playing with words. I would like to play with words and nurture my creativity richly.

The acrostic was especially difficult to come up with ideas for, but I was very happy when I found the most suitable expression, and it was a lot of fun. So, I would like to describe today's lesson in acrostic. I will challenge it in the name of today's teacher.

Monday afternoon  
About creative writing  
Learned a lot  
Of course there were  
New things and discovery  
Enjoyed today's class  
Yeah!

国際関係 2 年

Thank you very much for today's wonderful lecture.

In today's lecture, I was especially impressed by the statement "Children are doing poetry when they make up songs and chats." Surely, I loved writing when I was a child, and even wrote a picture book by coming up with unique sentences by myself as a free project during my summer vacation. However, recently, the only time I write is for school assignments, and I no longer try to write creative and interesting texts. But today, after listening to the lecture on creative writing, I really wanted to try my hand at some creative writing. In this spring vacation, I will try to write a short story by myself like when I was a little, and I'll use what I learned today.

国際関係 2 年

Speaking of creative writing, I love fictional works. This is because it allows me to enjoy a world that does not exist in reality and to broaden it as far as my unlimited imagination allows. For instance, one of my favorite works of fiction is the Disney movie "Enchanted". This is a story in which the characters of a fairytale jump into the real world, which is impossible in real life, but the unthinkable development in a normal fairytale makes it very thrilling and interesting. I believe the good thing about creative writing, which is fiction, not (necessarily) non-fiction, is that you can pursue new and fun things wherever your imagination takes you. I like to use my imagination and I'm always doing creative thinking in my head, so now I want to try that writing myself.

国際関係 2 年

Thank you for your presentation, Professor Maloney.

I strongly agree with your words that creative writing is good for us, especially for our mental health and self-expression. I write in a diary as one of my habits whenever I experience interesting things, feel excited, fascinated and even sad or depressed. Especially, when I'm feeling down, writing what I'm thinking helps me feel as if someone is listening to me. Also, reading back through the diary later can help me remember previous events and past emotions. Of course, I consider it is important to write

academic writing in terms of our knowledge. However, I think creative writing is also helpful for us to enhance our daily lives.

### 国際関係 3年

Creative writing is anything that is not considered academic writing and there are no rules. Creative writing is important to enrich our lives for our well-being, language acquisition, expression of yourself and opinion. It is like playing with language. By using Google predictive conversion, we can see what people are thinking. Also, acrostics is one way to play with language, which I've used to hide my message in my letter. Today, I made it with KENDAL.

Knowing my school is so far from my house,  
Every day, I go to school,  
Nevertheless too crowded train refuses to get on.  
Do not let me sleep again my pillow.  
Alarm clock tells the time.  
I must go to school.

### 留学生

When I was in elementary school, I wrote several short stories and dreamt of becoming an author. The stories were only a page long, didn't have any plot, so they weren't any good of course, but I had fun writing them. I also wrote poetry and liked making up puns with my older brother. In the end it wasn't really the result, but the creative process that I enjoyed most. I wrote for the sake of writing and for the sake of being creative, and because of today's talk I am once again reminded of the importance of it. I really want to get back to writing more, even if they are only scribbles, because one day I might regret not having written down my thoughts anywhere.

### 留学生

Before writing this essay I found a quote that made me think about this week's talk: "Nothing gives me more freedom than a blank page". Before listening to this Monday's talk, I wouldn't have agreed with it. When I had to write something "creative" for class, my mind used to become blanker than the page! I love reading, but I always thought that writing was 10 times more difficult, that it required a lot of rules and skills. But thanks to Iain, now I feel different about it. The activities we did, like the acrostic poetry, were very fun! It made me feel like I could actually write something good (with a little bit of help from Google). I realised that the more we think about it, the harder it becomes. So instead of worrying about writing the perfect text, the best thing is to just do it without giving it too much thought. That's what I have been doing with these essays since the course started, so I guess

thanks to Global Vision Talks I have been practicing creative writing!  
Definitely, one of my favorite talks.

留学生

Writing, that boring task we have learnt to hate because of teachers and professors. But why? that's my question?

Many people see writing in this way because, since very little, they have been taught on how to properly write, rules to follow, how to develop a plot, etc. But the only thing you are going to be extracting from that experience is a bad impression, the one you could also subtract from homework.

In fact, as someone who writes, (not a writer) I consider writing a way to express myself, I find it a way to unleash my creativity, even if it doesn't make any sense, I see as a way to connect with myself and others.

And that's what today's talk was all about. About busting myths about writing, about showing us that, even if we don't have experience, we can do art by writing.

That's what I learnt today.

## Global Vision Talks 12th week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University)

### 12/26 The Power of your Story: Anecdotes in an L2

英米 1 年

In this lecture, I learned that a story changes greatly depending on how it is told. In particular, if you pay attention to three points, you can become a good speaker. First, set the scene. Who is in this story? Where were you? When did it happen? Next, built the action. What happened next? What did the person look like? What did the person do? What did the person say? Finally, tell the result. What was the result? Why was it unusual, notable, or memorable? I learned that if you master these three points, you will become a good speaker.

英米 2 年

I'm not good at storytelling, so this class was so helpful for me. I learned various tips to tell stories, and I thought "changing my voice" is particularly important. If I don't change my voice while telling the story, the story will be monotonous, lack depth, and be boring. It will be difficult to convey my emotion. However, by changing my voice, the story becomes more lifelike and more interesting, and I can easily convey my emotion. Besides, I think "adding quotes" is also effective. By quoting an actual conversation, the listener feels a sense of presence (more realistic) and can easily understand the content of the story. Comedians are really good at telling stories, so I would like to learn from them. I love a TV program called "Hitoshi Matsumoto no Suberanai Hanashi", and I recommend watching it because all the comedians who appear in it are very good at telling stories. I learned a lot of effective ways to tell stories, so I want to improve my storytelling skill with awareness of those ways.

フランス 1 年

Professor Castellano's lecture was very interesting. I think the ability to speak is one of the most important skills to learn in recent years. It is an ability that is necessary, of course at university and even after entering society. In particular I think that Japanese people are often not good at speaking in public and communicating. The way to use the voice that I learned in today's lecture is difficult to use in Japanese. This is because Japanese does not have much inflection in the first place. However, I think there are elements in Japanese that make it interesting and enjoyable without adding intonation. Most of the presentations I give at university now

are in English, and I've never given one in Japanese, but I want to use what I learned today in my future presentations.

#### フランス 2年

It is always difficult for me to tell an anecdote in foreign languages. As for funny stories, it is difficult even in Japanese. So, this presentation was informative. In his lecture, I focused on "How to tell an anecdote." He mentioned three important points, but I think there are more important things. What I think is particularly important is the 'pause'. This is not the speed of 'pause' introduced in the "Presentation Voice" in his lecture, but something that is used throughout the story. It is something comedians often pay attention to. I think this can only be learned by habit. So, I think the key to become being good at telling anecdotes is to do it a number of times.

#### フランス 2年

Thank you for your presentation.

This lecture made me realize how difficult it is to tell a story. When I talk to my friends in Japanese about what happened today, I talk about the process, the content, and the conclusion in stages without thinking about anything else. However, when I try to do the same thing in English, I don't know where to start or what I want to talk about in the end. I feel that it is often the teachers who are good at speaking who give lectures that attract us students in class. I have learned the importance of speaking with an awareness of first telling the origin of the event, the date, time, place, and people who were there, and then going into more detail and finally telling the end of the story. I also think that teachers who are good in the classroom are very good at accents and intensity of speech. I learned from this lecture that this is why they are able to give classes that draw students in.

#### 中国 1年

Thank you for your presentation. I'm not good at telling stories. After listening this presentation, I decided that I would like to be conscious of these things in my stories: "set the scene", "build the action", "tell the result". I thought Japanese schools should teach more practical tips of telling anecdotes. If I was taught such tips in my school, I would be a better storyteller. I also think Japanese people are often too obsessed with grammar. If there are some grammar mistakes in the conversation, we can still communicate. In my opinion, we should learn more how to tell a good story instead of only grammar.

## 国際関係 2年

I really agreed with what you said about stories being easier to retain in memory. In my English classes, when we learn a new word, we come up with our own sentences or stories that use the word. I feel that learning in this way is more memorable than just memorising the meaning of the word. I also learnt a lot about how to construct a story when telling it to others. I think that if I don't give basic information first, such as who, when, where, etc., then the subsequent information and interestingness of the story will not be conveyed well. In fact, I have experienced disappointment when a story I thought was interesting was not understood by the other person. From now on, I will make use of what I have learnt and try to speak better. I also think it will help me in making new friends.

## 国際関係 2年

I would like to listen to stories of adults who have much more experience than I have. Listening to them broadens my perspective and that makes me feel like I've entered their world and experienced the same thing. Guest speakers that give presentations at Global Vision Talks usually specialize in expressing their ideas. They attract our attention easily with their techniques such as emphasizing and slowing down when saying something important. Therefore, I'm always very chipper to come to this class and broaden my horizons. They also make me want to improve how I tell my story. So, I believe that today's lecture would help me a lot in the future.

## 留学生

The thematic of anecdotes is an interesting point when we talk about language. The anecdotes are means of communication important and necessary between individuals to build a relationship more intimately. The speaker explained there are rules for telling anecdotes, like casual language and tone. These two things make it possible to create a more friendly relation between individuals.

Now, I want to talk about the 4 ways to change our voice. For me, it's the most point for telling a good anecdote, because of that, we transfer our own emotion for the attention and the sensitivity of listener. Playing with empathy and emotion keeps the listener interested because he identifies himself in the story through the emotions transmitted by our voice.

But this technique has a limit. When we are telling anecdotes in other languages, this is more complicated. Even if grammar doesn't matter, I think the vocabulary and the nuances in the sentence can change the story a lot. Moreover, each language has its own intonations which also makes the exercise more complicated

留学生

What is involved on being a good teacher? Or a good orator? To know the topic you are teaching or speaking about? Or being insistent about the key points? No, not at all. Though knowing your topic and being insistent are perks that may help your message to be understood, it is not even a fraction of what is involved.

Many men and women throughout history have been followed because they knew how to be assertive and convincing. They knew how to tell stories. By modulating their voices and making their speeches more appealing, those people changed the world.

That also applies to modern teachers, orators, salesmen and even you and me. It is not only about being followed, or understood, but also to submerge and be submerged into other worlds through stories, to express our feelings, to pass down our traditions and cultures.

This what I learned today.



# Global Vision Talks 11th week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University) 12/19 What's Involved in Knowing a Word?

英米 2年

The topic in this lesson was so difficult for me to understand. However, I could catch some interesting information. For example, "Arubaito" in Japanese derives from "Arbeit" in German. The word means to earn income as a side job apart from the main business or to work as a short-term worker in Japanese. On the other hand, in German, the word means labor, work, or research. I learned the meaning of some words change while introducing one language to another.

Also, that the meaning and image changes depending on who says the word and who listens to the word was interesting. When I heard the word "Karaoke," I imaged a room, there is a screen and microphones in it, and we can enjoy with only people who go together with us. However, in Australia, people imagine a stage with microphones in a bar. Those two images are greatly different. Such meaning changes for various reasons was interesting for me.

英米 2年

Today, I learned about what's involved in knowing a word. There are a lot of elements which make people recognize words. They are categorized in three groups: form, meaning, and use. Furthermore, each language borrows some words from other languages. These words become a part of the other language through food, sports, culture, and technology. When I hear the phrase "borrowing words", I imagined the scene of trading in the Edo period in Japan. In that period, few Japanese people could understand foreign languages. Therefore, the pronunciation of loan words is different from their actual pronunciation. However, I think it is interesting and thanks to their efforts, today we can use a variety of words comfortably.

フランス 2年

I like to study and think about languages, so this topic was especially interesting for me. Among them, I am very interested in untranslatable world words. Prof. Dave Bollen talked about genki, and in this connection, I would like to mention the words after the greetings. In English and French, after a greeting such as "Hello", they ask "How are you?" In Korean, Chinese and Taiwanese, it is "Did you eat (Have you eaten)?" So, when I talk with foreign students from Korea or from France, I am asked "How are you?" or

"Did you eat?" in Japanese, but it is weird for me. When I thought about what it would be like in Japanese, I thought it would be about the weather. I know it weird for foreigners, but I think Japanese people like this expression because it is innocuous. I think it is interesting to recognize the culture of country and the thoughts of its people when thinking about words.

#### フランス 2年

Thank you for your presentation. First of all, it gave me a good opportunity to think about the depth of learning a language itself. I felt that learning a language is not only learning words, not only learning meanings, not only learning pronunciation, but it is an action that enables us to develop various abilities using that language. I started learning English when I was four years old, and it was not until I entered college that I began learning a new language other than English. In the beginning, I was quickly confronted with the difficulties of learning a language. You can learn a word, but if you don't know the grammar, you can't use that word, and even if you knew both, if you can't pronounce the word, you can't have a conversation. Also, if you were in the position of learning Japanese, there are more difficulties such as several meanings of one word, different intonation, and so on. Difficulties such as these led me to think about the very idea of learning a language.

#### スペイン 1年

Thank you for your lecture! I'm interested in "gairaigo". Especially, I was surprised that "Shabon-dama" come from Spanish! My major is Spanish but I didn't know that! Spanish pronunciation is similar to Japanese! It might be easy for Japanese to say the sound of words! And I'm interested in the relationship between the meaning and the sound! There are various kinds of onomatopoeia in Japan! And they are used in manga. I wonder if its meaning and sound can be understood by foreign people. There is onomatopoeia without real sounds like "pyon pyon", the sound rabbit hopping. I think it is hard to remember all patterns.

## スペイン 1 年

My department is foreign language, and my major is Spanish, but I didn't know that what makes the word as a word. Today, I learned words are distinguished by form, meaning, and use. Of course, I know that words have forms, meanings and use but I could learn the detail of this thinking. I think Japan has more loan-words than any other countries because Japan is an island, so we have so many strange cultures to others. Furthermore, compared to other island countries, Japan has many relationships with overseas. Mr. Bollen said that if there is a gap between the culture and the culture, people use loan-words. Japan has a big gap between many foreign countries and itself but, to close the gap, we have a lot of katakana loan-words. It means our unique culture helps to understand other cultures. I think we should proud our wonderful culture. I have never thought that "version up", "skin ship", "short cut" and "baby car" are "Japanglish". I want to study abroad someday, so as not to use "Japanglish", I will search them before I go abroad. Moreover, when I go abroad, people there maybe ask me about Japanese culture because they know the words "karate" or "futon" and something like them. I think I should understand our culture too.

## 国際関係 2 年

It was interesting to see that even though the words were the same, the pronunciation, intonation, and accent position were completely different in each language. There are interesting lessons to be learned by comparing languages. When Japanese people say Japanese English, sometimes the Japanese pronunciation does not convey its meaning. For example, the pronunciation of "McDonald's" is a good example. I knew this would happen between English and Japanese, but I did not know that the same thing could happen in other languages. I thought that in addition to the different ways of saying things in each language, there may be regional differences in the same language. I would like to compare and investigate this in regards to Japanese dialects.

## 留学生

Yesterday's discussion was particularly interesting. Indeed, I agree with what the presenter said in his presentation. When we speak in our native language, we use words without really thinking about the meaning and form of these words because we already know them. However, when we speak in a language other than our mother tongue (for example, English or Japanese) we tend to think more about the meaning and the words we use. As given with his example of the dog, when I speak in French, I would tend to use synonyms of the word dog depending on the context and the depth of the term I would like to give to the word dog. However, if I speak in Japanese, no matter what the subject

is, I will use the word Inu because I don't know any other synonym that can be given to the noun dog. So I think from the moment we realize that we don't speak and use the same words in our mother tongue and in a foreign language, we won't be able to pay attention to the words that we use correctly. Knowing this also allows you to diversify your vocabulary in order to improve your command of the language you are studying. Thus, I found this reflection very interesting.

留学生

As I am a language student, I really appreciated this topic about words.

Form, meaning and use. These three categories follow a logical path of learning a word and therefore a language. At the beginning, we recognized the sound of the word by associating it with an image. After, we can writing this words and memorized the way it is written. And finally, we can use this words but this is a most difficult part I think. Because the use need to applied grammatical functions, associated with others words, understand the context of the discussion, understand of a nuances, etc.

This is why to learn a new language is very complicated. The words are different, but for using the words correctly, the biggest obstacle is a understanding of nuances and so, an understanding of the culture of this country. The Japanese language has a lot of nuances which are very difficult to understand because often, we don't have a real tradition in our country. This is why I really like Japanese language and culture.

So, now I think untranslatable words are important. Trying to understand the sense of these words, I think is more important, in first time, to be detached with the native language. For learning a new language, it's a bad habit to want translate everything and everytime. It's necessary to learn the word in this langage. So, it's better to associate the words with an image and no with a translation in our native language.

To talk about translation now, I think it's a very complicated job. Because we must translate different nuances and words which maybe don't exist in our language for the public who don't know the original language. For me, I think is very important to conserve the real sense because the language is also a part of a culture so I want to convey the real meaning. But, sometimes, for example jokes or references, we can move away from translation because it would make no sense in another language.

留学生

I found today's conference once again very interesting. Since I started learning Japanese, I noticed that there were many expressions that could not be translated into French or even English. This was sometimes a problem for my translation assignments and I tried to find alternatives. These are expressions that you can find every day and that sometimes don't make sense when you try to translate them into another language. And this is not only true for Japanese but for all languages. I think that the culture of a country is intimately linked to its language and that you cannot learn a new language without knowing a little bit about the country where it is spoken. Those expressions that you only use in Japanese to mean that you are leaving the house for example or that you have worked well as soon as the day is over are part of the Japanese culture. And you need to know this culture if you want to understand the language better.

Global Vision Talks 10th week Best Essays  
(Aichi Prefectural University)  
12/12 Climate Change Impacts and Human Rights

英米 1 年

Firstly, thank you for your interesting presentation. As we saw in the power point, the temperature and the carbon dioxide level is rising every year. When I saw this result, I felt like there is nothing we can do, but after class I found that there are still many things we can do to protect our environment. For me, I sometimes forget to bring my eco-friendly bag and buy plastic bag when I go to grocery store. I will get in habit of carrying an eco-friendly bag, so that I can avoid wasting plastic. Also, we should use no more energy such as electricity than necessary. We must understand that we are making global warming worse. I can't imagine Japan with no cherry blossom or sushi. To prevent this, I will start from what I can do now and protect our future environment.

英米 2 年

I have heard the word "climate change" or "global warming" many times, but honestly, I couldn't feel it an urgent or serious matter that closely relates to me. However, today's talk made me realize that it is something that really connects to our lives. First of all, I didn't know that climate change has a direct impact on humans like the spread of disease. From this, I thought the pandemic that is occurring now might be caused by this climate change, and I felt the real presence of this problem. Second, I'm also surprised by the situation in Japan. I was not aware of Japan being the 5th most emitting country in the world, and despite the fact, the country is trying to build new coal units. I think there needs to be a greater raise of awareness about climate change in Japan and therefore, the organization like Kiko Network and Fridays for Future are taking significant actions. I would like to be more aware of this global matter, and cooperate in my own way.

英米 2 年

Today I thought about climate change with Dr. Evan. Climate change is not always simple and we need to consider this issue from many different aspects. My father is a captain of a recreational fishing boat and has been fishing in the ocean for more than 10 years, but in recent years he has not been able to catch as many fish due to climate change. This has made my family's finances difficult and at times my family has become concerned about our future, but we have somehow managed to overcome this

problem. The effects of climate change are becoming closer to us by the minute. Japan is participating in the environmental conference as a developed country, but we are burning a lot of coal and spreading it to developing countries. I was disappointed by this fact. For a better earth, I usually conserve electricity and water, carry my own bag and water bottle. In the future, I would like to donate to climate change organizations and send out information through sns. Even if it is a small thing, it will send a strong message!

#### フランス 2年

Climate change has been a global problem for several years. The damage to nature and creatures caused by climate change is reported every day. For example, rising sea levels, droughts, floods, storms, etc. Climate change, such as threatening historic buildings such as World Heritage Sites, is not just a climate-related issue, but has a broader impact on different areas. It is also causing a difficult situation in the economy and society. Here's an experience I had when I was young. There was a river near my house, and there were always a few turtles there in the summer. Every day, my grandmother and I went to the river to see turtles and looked forward to counting their numbers. I still have fond memories of my grandmother. However, six or seven years ago, the turtles disappeared altogether. At that time, I could only feel that it was strange that the turtle was gone. However, this can also be explained by considering that it is one of the forms of climate change. Realizing that I had experienced the effects of climate change so close to me made me feel more urgent than ever. Finally, I would like to mention what I keep in mind every day. When I go out or shop, I always take an eco-bag with me and avoid buying plastic bags. I also bring lunch boxes and water bottles that can be used many times to use reusable products. I hope that this will have a positive impact on "world problems" even a little.

#### スペイン 1年

The fact that the extent climate change is already happening shocked at me. Of course, I knew that, but I'm not always conscious of the fact. Climate change is increasingly getting worse and it is affected by human activities. We humans can't stop the climate change, but there are many things we can do to reduce it. For example, we can save electricity. To save it, we can go library and cafe when we study and not use the air conditioning in our house. We also can transport by train or bus instead of our cars. It results in reducing emission of CO2. In order to spend our lives comfortably, to protect our planet and the lives of next generations and to protect habitat for animals, we must make an effort.

## ドイツ 4年

Firstly I would like to thank to Mr Gach for bringing up this significant topic. It's embarrassing that I barely thought about what we do to stop the climate change or discuss with someone around me. It is just because I felt like there's nothing much we can do as a person to stop it unless the government or some organizations which are arranged worldwide act spontaneously as a first step. Even though I actually recognize that the abnormal climate or disasters are getting worse today, I was concerned about what's been happening only when I studied in school. And, indeed, all we can do to get the government's or the world's attention about the problem is to be loud and let them hear us.

One of the thoughts I have to keep down the polluted air is to reduce cars. Since Japan is a huge car producing country with a large population, it would be great if each one of us could switch the way of commuting from car to train. So I would like to ask for installing electronic buses in all the areas not only in big cities. I hope we can be part of the voice of the public.

## 国際関係 2年

I have been reading and hearing about climate change and their impacts many times, but Mr.Gach's lecture was the first lecture that was connected with human rights. I agree that poor countries and people are vulnerable to climate changes and we have to think and do something about it. I saw a video about an island with their sea levels increasing year by year. Few of their houses have been already sunk in the ocean. I could not even imagine how it would feel to be forced to keep moving to get away from the rising sea levels. How sad it is to just watch your hometown disappearing into the sea and having nothing to stop it.

As Mr.Gach has mentioned in his speech, it is important to speak up, and making people aware of climate change issues, but I think some people are crossing the line when they do this. Few weeks ago, I read news about activists from the campaign group Just Stop Oil were arrested after throwing tomato soup on Vincent Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting. They did this to urge people to be aware of environment problems and protect earth and people. Their ideas are completely understandable, however you can never have a good impact with the wrong attitude. As global warming is becoming a bigger problem, I assume that there will be more activists with extreme actions, which is really sad and ironic. I just hope that people will pay more attention to the environment issues and take actions to preserve our beautiful planet.



留学生

I think the subject of this presentation was very interesting and important. We have, in television for example, a lot of presentations about climate change and global warming but there is not a lot of information about the human impacts and climate justice.

I think we are in a vicious circle. To illustrate my opinion, I chose an example. Due to climate change, there is global warming, and due global warming, the earth is warming. There are much hotter summers, so humans uses air conditioners. Everyone knows the air conditioner pollutes a lot and therefore contributes to global warming. So, there are also hotter summer, droughts, and many people die because of this. But, air conditioners are now increasingly necessary. This is a very big problem. The environmental impacts generate human impacts and vice versa.

I think we can all contribute to safeguarding the environment through small daily gestures, but the governments have a big share of responsibilities.

About the climate justice, there is another problem that I want to talk about. We don't know enough the damage suffered by the most vulnerable communities. For example, if a natural disaster occurs in a rich country, it's talked about more than if it occurred in a poorer country. I think this is an injustice. Everyday many people die because of climate change, especially in vulnerable communities but this is not publicized because we are too used to it and it has become almost normal. I think the media have a very important role in the fight against global warming and climate justice.

留学生

Thank you for presentation. This topic is really important for all of us and I'm glad you did it today. Actually, I was kind of pessimistic about it because I felt like we couldn't change the multinationals and the government that fast, I also felt like people don't want to change their habits and even if they do, it won't bring a big impact on the environment, but I was wrong. If all of us, the young people, stand against this climate change maybe they will hear us. Because, this is really worrying us, I thought I was the only one who was hesitating to have a child in the future, but more and more young people think like this. If there is a water and food penury, catastrophe and insecurity then I don't want to make my children live in this kind of world. However, today's presentation gave me hope and I really want to act for our future.

留学生

As the speaker Evan Gach indicated, our lifestyle has an impact on the process of climate change, since, for example, the way we consume could provide critical forms of economic or production. Nowadays chain shops like H&M trying to integrate concepts like sustainability in their production process. According to their website, they want to become "climate-positive" by 2040. A company that is under a lot of critics is Nestle, especially regarding privatization of the groundwater. Nestle is the world's largest food company of Switzerland. Nestle's handling of groundwater, for example, has resulted in a drastic drop in groundwater level. Given these realities, it would be better to pay more attention to which brands we consume and to look more closely at (e.g. behind the packaging) which companies were involved in the production.

## Global Vision Talks 9th week Best Essays

(Aichi Prefectural University)

### 12/05 The True Gains of Study Abroad: Japanese Firms' Perspective

英米 1 年

Until now, I had felt that speaking English was a natural prerequisite for becoming a global human resource, so this lecture was a major shift in my thinking. In Japan, there are few people who express their opinions, and I am one of those who do not express my opinions, but I felt that I could create more developed opinions by actively presenting my own opinions, as they have done in other countries. In several recent lectures, even if I had an opinion I wanted to express, I was too embarrassed to say it. From now on, I would like to express my opinion.

英米 2 年

When I heard "Global human resource" I thought of the people who can speak foreign languages and make communication with people from other countries go smoothly in their job. However, I found it is also important to have cross-cultural understanding and fundamental competency of working persons. I am going to go to study abroad in Australia for a month next summer vacation. After I listened the speech, I'm motivated to communicate actively with students from various countries not only for improving English my skills, but also for learning and understanding about various cultures. We may be able to study other cultures as if we study grammar at a desk, however, when I go abroad, I can feel, experience, and compare them. I won't miss a valuable opportunity. Also, from her speech, my desire to go abroad on working holiday is getting stronger because I want to become successful overseas, and the experience will be useful in my future career.

The speaker said "If you want, do that" as an answer to a student's question. I don't have confidence to decide to do that. But I want to step out of my comfort zone.

英米 2 年

Today we had a lecture on "Global Human Resource Development in Japan." I listened with great interest and could sympathize with Ms. Motomori, as I too have had similar experiences. I too came to Japan from China when I was 11 years old and gradually lost the confidence to speak my mind and stand out in Japan's collectivist society. At first, I found it very lonely and oppressive, but I was able to overcome and get used to it

because I had my family around me. However, some of my Chinese friends were very helpless and did not fit in with their completely new environment, and as a result, they stopped their studies. I thought that Japanese society has to change to be more open to accept such helpless foreigners. The term "global human resources" is often heard in Japan, but I had never thought about what it means and what kind of skills one should acquire to become a global human resource until I heard this lecture. After hearing your words, I decided to prepare for studying abroad.

英米 3年

Thank you for your great presentation. I have heard of "Global human resources" before, and I thought that language ability is more important than other abilities, like others did. However, I found that language is not the main problem. The speaker mentioned that there is no "correct" answer or way to say something. I agree with this, but the Japanese atmosphere does not allow for this. I consider that the Japanese culture, school atmosphere or social structure affects our attitude or thought so that we do not want to express ourselves and make mistakes. For example, focusing on Japanese English education, teachers demand accuracy from students for evaluating, students need accuracy for passing entrance exam. This does not suit to current global situation. Therefore, English education needs both accuracy and attitude to try to use English. I will work as a teacher from next year, so I want to be conscious of such things.

フランス 1年

I chose French at this university because I wanted to become a global person, as I heard in today's lecture. But I still hesitate to speak my opinion in public. I thought I still have a long way to go to become a global person like she said. I think the reason why it is difficult for Japanese people to become global human resources is related to their personalities. I think we Japanese tend to be afraid of failure. And Japanese people have a high standard of "can do". That's why many Japanese don't voluntarily speak foreign languages and don't express their opinions. I think this is certainly a bad thing about Japanese people, but I think it can also be taken as an advantage that they aim for perfection and live seriously in everything they do. As we heard in today's lecture, language barriers are not really a problem. Therefore, I believe that if we can create an atmosphere in which people can use English and other languages in a more relaxed and fun way while making the most of the seriousness of Japanese people, we can develop global human resources.

## スペイン 1年

I completely misunderstood the meaning of the word of Global Human Resource. I had thought it just meant people who can speak English. My high school teachers told us a lot "You all should be the Global Human Resource to live in a diverse society", but I didn't understand what they told because they didn't teach us how to be a Global Human Resource. Today, I learned Global Human Resource need cross cultural understanding and fundamental competencies of working persons in addition to language ability. I'm curious about cross cultural understanding but I don't know anything about fundamental competencies of working persons. I think I need to have some experiences of working like a part time job. I have never had work experience. So, I thought I should do part time job before I start working at company. Furthermore, I was worried whether I should study abroad or not. However, through today's presentation, I decided to go abroad to get the skill that correspond to difficult situations and be proactive. I want to be a person that many companies want to hire. I didn't think employee who studied abroad have more strength, but 62% companies think it is right. From those reasons, I realized it's a good experience to study abroad.

Moreover, Ms. Motomori's life story was interesting too. I can only use my imagination but if I was in her shoes, I wouldn't find the way like her. However, she finally realized that there is no "correct" answer. I strongly agree with this idea. Through the conversation classes with a lot classmates, I feel there is no person who perfectly thinks in the same way as me. I think if I continue to study about English and more foreign languages, I will be shocked by many different cultures. I want to enjoy those culture shocks instead of defeated by them.

## ドイツ 1年

Thank you for your wonderful presentation. This presentation made me think deeply about global human resources. When I think about what it takes to work globally, language is the first thing that comes to mind. However, from this lecture, I was able to understand the importance of fundamental competencies of working person. I am not good at expressing my opinions or asking questions about things I don't understand, and I hate the idea that I am not good at these things because Japanese people are often not good at them. I have never lived abroad, but if I have the opportunity, I would like to seize the chance to change myself by living abroad. Even if I am unable to go abroad, I have learned that taking on challenges and expressing my opinions are required for global human resources, so I would like to take on more and more challenges from now on.

## 国際関係 2年

I could completely agree with what Professor Motomori said in the presentation. I have always questioned why Japanese people persist with English so much. In Japan, everybody thinks that being able to speak English is some sort of pride. But under the Japanese education system of teaching English, many Japanese people hesitate to speak English including myself. We learn many kinds of skills such as grammar, reading, and writing but speaking. The more we feel inferior in speaking English, the less we try to speak English. However, I don't think that speaking English is everything. I believe that what is needed in the Japanese society or any society around the world is communication skills, cross-culture understanding, and fundamental competences of working persons as Professor Motomori mentioned in the presentation. Even if someone got perfect English skills, if he or she or they doesn't have communication skills and other skills mentioned above, corporations won't be willing to hire them. Therefore, I believe that language or English is not everything. We also need to acquire other skills in order to survive in society.

## 留学生

Now that I attended Minori's talk, I understand the Japanese way of thinking and acting a little bit better. When an exchange student arrived in my class in Spain, everybody tried to become friends with them. They would invite them to do many plans together, to go have lunch, to do class projects in groups... they were never alone and the integration was fast. But when I came to Japan as an exchange student myself, I did not experience anything like that. I felt like Japanese people were scared to talk with me, but I did not understand why. I would sometimes hear them talking behind my back in Japanese saying things like "I would like to talk to her but my English is horrible, so let's just let it be". Now I understand that the main issue is that they only think about the language and about how "bad" it would be making a mistake. Since I arrived, I noticed that it is easier to be friends with Japanese people that had studied abroad before, I guess it is because they understand how it feels. When you live in a foreign country with a big language barrier, everything becomes a challenge and you have to put effort into everything, so talking to new people becomes easier. I hope things start changing in Japan, because I think that it is a great country with many beautiful things to offer. But people are so shy that they lose many great opportunities to expand their horizons.

留学生

Miori's topic, might be, so far, the most interesting one in my opinion, for one, and one reason only.

I, as an international student here in Kendai, experienced that, while working in groups with Japanese people, they tend (not all of course) to not express their opinions and thoughts and just carry on with the first idea. Coming from Spain, this behaviour seemed to be weird for me, but natural for the Japanese, and its all because of the culutre they have that doesn't allow them to have self esteem and confidence to express their opinion as Miori punctualized.

Likewise, English is not the problem to communicate with me, since, I found that many are skilled enough.

So, for anyone reading this message, don't be afraid to express yourself, people are missing out on such an important view and opinion if you don't do it. You're and important asset, know your own worth.

# Global Vision Talks 7th week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University) 11/21 An Introduction to Film Studies

英米 1年

Thank you for your presentation. I like movies, so I was so interested in your lecture.

About your question, I thought Thomas Edison made the first film. I know the importance of music, so I can understand why many choose Alice Guy. I can't choose or I don't know, like the speaker said. After the lecture, I searched about the first film in Japan. It was screened in 1896, the machine was Edison style. The first talkie movie was "Madam and his Wife (madamu to nyoubou)" in 1931. I thought Japan was delayed in making films. However, I learned that silent movies also have sound because some people play instruments or talk at the same time as the movie. After researching this, it's more difficult to choose which is the first movie.

英米 2年

I love watching movies and I have taken a film studies class at this university before, but I didn't know much about the origin of films. Although I had a little knowledge of the inventions of Thomas Edison and the Lumiere Brothers, I'd never heard of the other two. It was interesting that Muybridge did not intend to invent animation, but made it by chance. The most impactful story for me was Alice Guy's. I was surprised and impressed that one of the most important pioneers of the film industry was a woman. I did some research about her after the lecture, and I learned that she was also the first female movie director in history. I also found that there is a movie about her life that has been playing in Japan this year! Unfortunately, the screening in Aichi has already ended, but I'd like to watch the movie someday.

フランス 1年

I like movies, so this lecture was very interesting. The speaker said that film study is a place where you can learn about the history of movies, the historical background of the time, important people, and so on. I love movies and watch them a lot, but I've never seen a movie from this perspective, so it was very new to me. Whenever I watch a movie, I just think it's funny, but I thought it would be fun and educational to see it from this perspective. I believe that movies are very important in learning the culture, history and language of other countries. This is because through



movies, we can see the scenery and streets of the country, and we can learn the language of the country by listening to the lines.

#### フランス 1 年

Today, we take it for granted that we can watch movies. I cannot imagine a life without movies. Therefore, I was surprised to hear that there is no answer to the question 'what is the first movie?' In today's presentation, there were 4 people who made new technologies related to movies. I thought that it was Alice Guy who made the first movie because I think movies must be fiction, and others were just like videos. However, there is no right or wrong answer. According to a dictionary, the definition of "movie" is "a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at the cinema/movie theater". I realized that all of 4 people each accomplished a great achievement related to a part of making movies. Some students voted for 3 of them, and I was convinced for their reasons. For example, I agree with the idea that variation from Thomas Edison to Auguste and Louis Lumière is great because I think it is also important to watch movie not alone but together. I thought that what the first movie is depends on what people regard as important about movies.

#### フランス 2 年

When I'm tired of everyday life and feel like I want to get away from the real world, movies always save me. The effect of the film on me is huge. In modern times, cinema is diverse. There are various genres and they are expressed in various ways. That is why we believe that it is loved by many people regardless of age or gender. It draws the viewer from the real world to another world and captivates them. Some of the works are non-fiction based on real events, but they are also considered different from the real world because they contain ideas from various perspectives. In any case, films give viewers a variety of emotions. When you want to distance yourself from reality or stop for a moment, you can enter that world by watching a movie. In a world different from the reality of the movie, you learn, think and feel a lot of new things. That experience will surely have some impact in reality. Experiences through cinema can have an effect in reality. In fact, I have also learned many things from films, and my thinking has changed since then. Based on the above, I believe that film can heal the mind, broaden one's horizons, and allow us to experience various things.

## スペイン 1年

I have thought that the first person who invented film is Thomas Edison, but from Mr. Miller's lecture, I learned there are 4 theories. Especially, I was surprised with Eadweard Muybridge's invention story. I didn't imagine that the development of film was helped a lot by rich people's curiosity. It's so interesting. I thought everything is connecting to the future. I had already mentioned that Muybridge's invention was for rich people but, I heard in the class of the culture and literature for beginners that kinetoscope was so popular with rich to poor people because it cost only 25 cents. I realized these people were excited about new technology and felt that a new era was arriving. He made films so close to our lives by inventing kinetoscope. So, I think Thomas Edison is the first person who made films, whatever other people say. However, the film of Edison was not so interesting, so I'm grateful for Alice Guy's invention too. Actually, I couldn't understand what her film meant but, I don't know why, it was kind a funny. In addition, after listening to Mr. Miller's presentation, I'm really interested in the classes about films. I think I can enjoy watching movies more if I learn about the history of films and how to shoot films. I want to take Mr. Miller's film class someday. Also, I want to shoot a film too. I had never done this before, but I wrote a story in class when I was junior high school student. It was so fun, and my creativity was developed by this activity. It may be different from writing scripts, but I want to try writing script too and shoot film by myself. I think it would be wonderful if Kendai offered film classes.

## 国際関係 2年

I like seeing movies, so the class was so fun. About my favorite movie, I can't choose just one, too. One of my favorite movies is Coco (Japanese title: Remember me). This movie was released when I was in high school. I like playing the guitar, so I particularly like the scene where the main character plays acoustic guitar. And this movie is based on the Mexican culture of celebrating the Day of the Dead. The film gave me an insight into this culture. And thanks to this movie, I have become interested in foreign culture. The movie may also have influenced my decision to study at foreign language department. Thus, I think movie is not only make people excited, but can influence someone's life.

## 国際関係 2年

Since I'm a film lover, I was excited to listen to Mr. Miller's lecture this week. I have watched around 700 movies in my life so far, but I never studied about film, so all of the information in his lecture were new to me except the story of Eadweard Muybridge. His story was mentioned in Jordan Peele's recently released horror movie, "NOPE". I found it really interesting that the history of film started from some random scenes in people's real life. And that factor made me realize how creative

it is to make a whole new story out of nowhere and make it a real thing on the screen.

For me, film is a magical tool to escape from the reality, and be in a totally different world. It gives me various kinds of human emotions that I don't feel in my boring daily life. It gives me inspirations, new perspectives, and sometimes it changes my personality. For example, I recently watched Woody Allen's "Rainy Day in New York" and it completely altered my idea about rainy days which I used to hate so much. But after I saw this film, rainy days don't bother me anymore, it even gives me nice cozy feelings. I also thought that studying films would help me understand the deep meanings or messages hidden in a film. I believe that filmmakers are all artists, and there are always certain little details in their films, so being able to notice those tiny details would make it more enjoyable and meaningful to watch films.

## 国際関係 2年

I think it is interesting that nobody knows when the first film was made because the definition of films differs to each person. I believe that the first film is the one that Alice Guy made considering that film is something that has fiction in it. My favorite film is definitely Mamma Mia. Every time I tell people that I like Mamma Mia, people always criticize that it is not very good. I wonder why though. I love the magnificent scenery of Greece, especially deep blue colored ocean of the Mediterranean. And I am also highly attracted to its music. It makes me forget reality that is waiting for me like reports to finish, part-time job, relationship, the fact that I'm in Japan. I wish I could travel to Europe and do sightseeing, eat, drink, and go to beaches. I really hope the day like this will come soon.

## 留学生

Today we talked about cinema and its history through the various technological advancements and pioneers who made what we call today "cinema". What do we consider a movie? Is the first ever motion picture of a horse recorded by Eadweard Muybridge photographer in America in 1878 a movie? Are the short clips of the Kinetoscope or peep-hole viewer built in 1891 by Thomas Edison who made it possible to watch video alone movies? Is it the "cinematographe" built by the Lumiere brothers who made it possible to watch short movies together using a projection what we should consider the birth of cinema? This is the kind of question we argue about today and it was interesting to see that there are actually quite a lot of ways to define what a movie and cinema is. Is it just the fact of shooting a film or is it more a thought process? This is a really interesting question, where is the border between art and technology?

Global Vision Talks 6th week Best Essays  
(Aichi Prefectural University)  
11/14 America's love affair with guns

英米 1 年

Today's class was so fun! The topic was about guns which was supposed to be a very serious topic but because of the funny stories and how the guest speaker delivered the speech, I was hooked. I wanted to ask many questions regarding the topic today but there wasn't enough time. Based on the speech today, guns are too easy to buy. It is like a toy for some. I was shocked by the fact that there are more guns than the population of USA and the cause of the rising death number there is suicide. I usually don't hear about suicides in America. Therefore, this is new knowledge for me. Knowing that everywhere you go there are guns following you, I can't imagine myself living in America anymore. Mass shootings, suicides, and killings in schools are too much in my opinion. I always wanted to live in America but now, I am not sure. Is it still advisable to live there?

英米 2 年

Today's topic was serious, but one of the most important topics to think about. It was a big surprise to know the fact that there are more guns than people in the U.S., and very shocking fact that most deaths are caused by guns are by people committing suicide. From my point of view with these data, I think the American government has to work more seriously on the matter of guns. Many of the Americans buy guns for self-protection, but those guns don't actually protect people, but instead, take the lives of one's own self or innocent people. It is also clear from the graph comparing the number of gun accidents in the developed countries, which the U.S. exceeds more than most, that current gun rules in the U.S. are not enough to prevent gun accidents as in the other countries. I think it's difficult to change the constitution instantly, given America's own political, historical and cultural background, but I just can't stop hoping that more children and adults will be protected from the abuse of guns.

英米 2 年

Thank you for today's presentation. Through today's class, I felt very scared of America. I knew people could own guns in America, but I was surprised that there are so many gun-related accidents. Also, I was very surprised to learn that suicide is the number one cause of death related to guns. I think there are various reasons why people own guns, but even if it is

for self-defense, the more people have guns, the more other people cannot stop owning guns. When I go to America in the future, I want to think about such dangers. I want the world to become a place where people can live with peace of mind even if they do not have guns.

英米 4年

Thank you for your lecture. Today's lecture gave me a lot of interesting and shocking facts. I knew that many American people own their own guns, and that there are a lot of mass gun shootings through SNS and the news, but I didn't know about the specific data about gun ownership and the number of gun shootings. What I was especially shocked over is that the biggest number of deaths from guns is suicide. The speaker mentioned that children having mental issues used guns which were kept in their houses and killed themselves. When I heard of it, I wondered whether their parents didn't notice their worries and couldn't do something for protecting their lives before they died. If I were their parents, I would keep guns away from such children. It may be difficult to keep guns away in America, but I hope the number of gun deaths to decrease in the near future.

スペイン 1年

Today's talk raised an awareness of guns to me although I don't live in the United States. I remember Mr.Howrey's words at the end of the talk. Even in Japan some people can have a gun or even produce one like the case of the killing of Abe-san. There can be a possibility of us getting involved to gun issues. Also, I found the way he talks was attracting the listeners. Everyone was waiting to listen to the next words. I don't have such skill and thought it would help me much if I have it. I'd like to reflect Mr.Howrey's style to my speeches or presentations at Kendai.

ドイツ 2年

I was very surprised that every question on the quiz about the American gun society exceeded my expectations. The part that I found particularly sad was that 20 children are shot each day. As for why guns cannot be banned, I was a little convinced by the underlying reason that in the U.S., there is an independent idea that we should protect us ourselves. However, I do not think that people should hurt other people for the sake of self-preservation, and I hope that one day we will live in a world where we can live safely and peacefully without guns.

ドイツ 2年

Thanks for great presentation!! I learned today about the gun situation in America. During the first few quizzes, I was very surprised to find that there are more guns than people in America. In other words, there are more risks than lives taken. Guns are tools that can save your own life and the lives of those close to you. I'm surprised it's legal now. On top of that, I can't understand where and how to learn how to reload, how to change attachments, etc., even though ordinary people can easily buy them anywhere. It is not a tool that should be used easily by young people who are interested in guns after only seeing them in video games. I think it would be better to make the examination for possession of a gun more stringent. Other people's lives and your own life cannot be considered more lightly than owning a gun.

留学生

I really loved this lecture. The stories were interesting and funny but I became more afraid to go to the United States because of this. I understand that you want to protect yourself from others but a gun may be dangerous for you too, especially if you have kids. But this is a vicious circle because you want a gun to protect yourself from others who have guns and because of that, people will get afraid of you. I have seen "Bowling for Columbine" by Michael Moore and according to him, it's because of the television news who wants to have as much spectators as possible and talk a lot about frightening news. In Canada, for example, you can have a gun as easily as the United States, but they are less deaths by guns than in countries which guns are banned. Michael Moore said that it is maybe due to the fact that the Canadian news have not the same goal. They want to inform the citizens, not have a record number in spectators. As for me, I think that, unfortunately, the guns won't be banned even if the federal government or the state government wants to, because of the power of the guns lobby.

留学生

I consider guns as the worst invention of history. Only by pressing the trigger you can destroy so many things in so many life. Considering children in America playing with it like a toys is just repulsing me. Except this general aspect, today's talk was for sure my favorite from now. John is so good at storytelling and teaching new things without making it boring. I enjoyed his three story even if the content didn't look so funny and see more chaotic. I never been in America, but in the back of my mind, it's true that I already thought about guns and delinquent aspect who could afraid me when I'll go to America. I know it's not good to make general conclusions on a country but regarding today's talk and numbers, guns in America look more terrifying today.

留学生

Today's talk was about the relationship of the USA with guns. I don't have an interest in the USA but I knew that there is a lot of controversy about guns. I was shocked by the number of guns in the USA, there are more guns than people in this country. Also, the number of shooting deaths each day is frightening.

I can understand but don't agree with the point of view that people think guns can protect them, but with all the statistics we know we can say that people don't use guns to protect themselves. As John D.Howrey said it's almost impossible to ban guns in the USA but Americans should create much more rules and laws to protect people from guns. I was surprised by the fact that more women own guns than men. There is still one thing that I don't understand. Why are there so many children die from guns every day? Is it because of an accident as in the story of John D.Howrey with his friends?

# Global Vision Talks 5th week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University)

## 11/7 An Introduction to Photographic Composition

英米 1年

Today I learned about *making* the photograph, not taking. At first, I did not know what making a photograph is like, but I understood the meaning of "making photograph" well when I learned the seven elements of composition. Composition is like what the person who "makes photograph" takes care of. I learned perspective, fill the frame, rule of third, negative space, leading line, juxtaposition, and pattern. These seven elements are very interesting and calculating. Perspective is changing your angle or position to make your familiar object seem strange. Fill the frame is moving close to the subject to show detail. Rule of thirds is placing the subject near one of 4 intersections. Negative space is creating emptiness around your subject to change the mood. Leading lines is what connect the photo edge to the subject and create depth. Juxtaposition is creating a fun or an uncomfortable photo. Pattern is using repeating colors, shapes or objects to create interesting backgrounds. By using these seven elements, I might improve my photographic skills and become a good photographer.

フランス 2年

I was a member of the photography club in high school. So I strongly sympathize with the sentence "It is the person who makes the photograph, not the camera. Certainly, the photographic subject is concerned with the quality of photos. However, the most important thing to take an awesome photo is to be sincere about the subject. I believe the photographer must bring out the best in any subject is photographing to the fullest. "Cotton-Mill Worker" is one example of this. I expect it's a photo that focuses on people who live in the time. The technique is important, but I think the heart is more important.

フランス 2年

After listening to this lecture, I found the difference between 'taking a photo' and 'making a photo' interesting.

I think that many of the wonderful and photogenic photos we often see on Instagram are created photos.

I think we subconsciously press the 'good' button when we see photos that are more beautiful than they actually are, thanks to the various ways in which the photographer has taken them, so the world of photography is very deep.

I also think it was interesting that when comparing actual ordinary photographs with photographs taken in an ingenious way, just by changing the angle or proportions a little, the photographs look completely different.

I would definitely like to try out the photographic methods I learnt today when I take photos.



フランス 2年

I take pictures a lot. When you go on a trip, you can see the scenery, people, and things. When cooking or baking. When you want to record this moment in something tangible. I always thought it was only important to shoot the subject head-on or close-up. When I saw the sentence, "It is the person who makes the photograph, not the camera." a question arose. What does it mean to "make" photos? Isn't photography something to be "taken"? Listening to this lecture, I understood what that meant. Photography is not all about things that are "taken" well using cameras and equipment. I learned that it is possible to combine various techniques and compositions to become something that is "made". Photographs can be "made" in any way to make the viewer feel the subject and to draw the viewer into the photograph. The important thing is not good equipment or expensive equipment for taking pictures. Photography is your idea, and the possibilities of photography are endless. I wondered if I could make better and more attractive photos. In the future, I would like to try to "make" photos as a kind of self-expression, rather than simply "taking" them.

フランス 1年

Thank you for your interesting presentation. It was difficult to understand the presentation and to write an essay, but I will do my best. I learned how to take good photographs. I was surprised that there are many tricks to taking good pictures. Especially, I was surprised by the first point. Until now, I thought that the thing to be photographed should be placed in the middle, but I became convinced that placing the subject off-center allows the eye to move around and explore the photo. I know the third point, so I'm happy to know that this point was not wrong. I want to take good photographs by making use of all of the seven points I learned.

中国 1年

Thank you for your presentation. Before I heard this presentation, I had never thought about tips taking pictures. At first, I couldn't find which word seems unusual in "It is the person who makes the photograph, not the camera." But after listening teacher's explanation I could understand. I always "*take* a photo" not "*make* a photo", so from now on I will try to use these rules to make a photo. It was fun to find out what happened in the photo with friends and classmates. Especially, it was interesting and fun to look for something in common between the baby and the dog in the last picture and which rules were applied. This presentation was the most interesting presentation in this course so far.

中国 1 年

I had never really thought about photography before, so it was very interesting and informative.

I thought it was interesting, to read from a single photograph what technique was used, what emotion it evoked, and what the photographer was trying to convey. Professor Alun taught us seven photography techniques such as rule of thirds and leading lines. The most impressive is juxtaposition. By putting two opposite things together, we can create contrast. I am not the type of person who takes pictures often, but his presentation made me want to make pictures. It is autumn and the trees are starting to turn their leaves. I think the contrast between the blue of the sky and the red and yellow of the leaves is beautiful. I want to go out to take pictures.

国際関係 2 年

I had a really good time in today's class as someone who likes to take pictures. There were so many interesting new things to learn in Dr. Roger's presentation that I had nearly forgot that I was sleepy before the class began.

The seven elements that he introduced in his presentation were all simple and easy to try for a beginner, that it made me want to "make" a picture using those elements.

I agree with his idea that picture is something artistic, and it should be made with provoking details. After the class, I immediately opened my Instagram account on my phone, and studied the photographs I took before. They are all my favorite photos that I really like, and looking at them with this new knowledge made me realize that I might have taken these photos with actually thinking carefully. Even if I was not aware of it, I think I really thought about the positions, the balance, and the contrasts of colors of those objects. I am not trying to say that I am a good photographer (I hope I am though, cause I really like taking - or making - pictures), but I was glad to get to know that I wasn't taking my photos spontaneously.

I will keep pursuing the art of photography more now thanks to Dr. Roger's wonderful presentation!

## 国際関係 2年

After the lecture, I opened Google Photos app in my smartphone and looked back at photographs that I took before. I found a photo that caught my eye.

It was a photo of my father taken from a lower angle with the sun and blue sky. In this photo, I used the element of Perspective and I took my father from a position that was not the same as usual. Before taking this photo, I took my father with the landscape from the front. But I felt it was an ordinary photo and it wasn't interesting. So I came up with the idea of changing angle to take extraordinary photos and that was why the photo was made.

As you can see from this photo, I took photos with elements that I learned from the lecture unconsciously. I realized that I had "made" photographs unknowingly. Furthermore, in fact, all the photos that caught my attention were taken using the elements, so I knew that photos used these elements were impressive and people tended to like them.

## 留学生

Monday's presentation about photography was interesting. Before the presentation I felt a bit stressed about the presentation because I know almost nothing about photography. When the host told us about the rule of 3, I was really impressed by the fact that many things happen in our brain that we do not even notice. Now every time I see a picture which does not respect the rule of 3, my eyes just get triggered. It is like something that I could not see has become something that is omnipresent. I was also amazed by the rule about lines which make humans feel good. My theory is that when you follow the line, you focus on nothing else than the line and because of that your mind is freed of overthinking. For a presentation which was not supposed to interest me overall it was pretty cool.

## Global Vision Talks 4th week Best Essays

(Aichi Prefectural University)

### 10/24 It's Midnight But the Sun is Shining: The Congolese Sape and its Role

英米 2 年

I had never heard of La Sape before, so the lecture was quite new to me. What surprised me the most was that clothes have crucial meanings for men in Congo. It is not just fashion, but also a symbol of success, and a culture that desires peace. The commandments of La Sape were also interesting. especially, the rule that they cannot use more than three colors was most impressive to me. I thought it is a true elegancy instead of making it as flashy as possible by using many colors, they express their fashion by using only a few colors. Some people may think it is not so wise to spend a lot of money on clothes. However, I think the culture of La Sape is playing a part in the role of spiritual support of people in Congo and it is important to spend money on what they really love.

英米 4 年

I was glad to listen to today's lecture. I have never heard of "Sape" before, but through the lecture, I understood it. I found that "Sapeur" is a traditional culture that has long history in the Congo. I think that it is a good culture and way to express ourselves and to cherish our own identities. Especially, a phrase "I Sape, therefore I AM" left me a lasting impression because I did not have a strong opinion about fashion. However, now, I think that to dress up is one of the ways which people express themselves. Recently, the minority and "unique" people are accepted in our society, but some people have prejudice against them which is still deep-rooted, even now. In today's presentation, the speaker said that he wears his favorite clothes, like red-color suits, when he came to Japan, but now, he stopped. Accordingly, I wish that our society becomes kind for both the majority and minority.

At the end of today's lecture, it was mentioned that there are wars in the Congo, but people living in there try to have a good time by enjoying their fashion, and that even poor people try to get clothes by various ways. This is an important thing, but at the same time, I think it is very difficult. Most people only complain about their situation which they are in, so it means that the situation never changes in the future, and they cannot find even small, good things around them. So, I think that people should look for and find a lot of exciting and interesting things in their lives when they are in both good and bad days.

フランス 1 年

Today's presentation was so interesting because I major in French. People speak in French in some areas of France because of colonization. Before the presentation, I used to think that colonization is so heartbreaking that African people are suffering with it even

today. I did not know that the same ethnical group was torn apart in Kongo Kingdom, but I can imagine that this is a tremendous grief because Japan is mainly made of Japanese. However, through today's presentation, I realized that Sapeur are enjoying their life with clothes, and the culture of Sape. I was surprised to see their very colorful suits. I work part time at a suit shop, so I realized Japanese suits have few colors. There are some reasons for this, but I find Japanese suits are a little boring. Even if the aim is to express status, I think Sapeur can amuse not only local people but also people all over the world. I hope Sapeur can spread their wonderful culture all over the world. I have more interest in Africa than before thanks to today's presentation.

## フランス 2 年

Thank you for your wonderful lecture, Christian Otchia. When I saw the video of Sapeur, I was shocked. They really shone. I never thought there were so many free and fascinating people... Sapeur express their individuality by dressing themselves up. They have a solid self and stick to their own style. I can feel a strong will that does not succumb to poverty and social conditions. It is a wonderful way of life. After listening to the lecture, I reflected on myself. Do I have a firm will? Am I able to assert that? I compare myself to those around me. I thought I had forgotten that I was different from others. It is good to have a strong sense of style and will. And I thought that I needed to express myself like Sapeur. First of all, I want to make it clear that what kind of person I am and what my personality is. And I want to express my style and personality that I found.

## ドイツ 2 年

Thank you for your wonderful presentation. This presentation made me very curious about the culture of Sape in Congo. Unlike in Japan, I felt that it is wonderful to stand out and wear clothes of one's favorite color without worrying about one's surroundings. In Japan, people sometimes do not wear the color clothes they want to wear because they are concerned about what others think, but I was impressed by the idea of valuing fashion as a part of oneself. I was also very happy to see that Japanese designers are respected in Congo. In fact, my grandfather, who will be 78 years old this year, has been making clothes for the Yangji Yamamoto brand, y's, since long ago, and he was very happy when I told him that Yangji Yamamoto was featured in the presentation. I was reminded once again that fashion is a wonderful culture that connects the world. I want to express myself through fashion without hesitation!"

## 中国 1 年

It was very interesting because I did not know what kind of country Congo is or what kind of history it has had.

Most Japanese prefer black, white, and light colors, and tend to avoid conspicuous clothing. Sapeur wear brightly colored clothes, unlike the Japanese, which I thought suited them very well and looked nice. Japanese traditional colors are originally dyed with plants and trees, and are derived from colors found in nature, so they are not good at

expressing vivid colors, but harmony with the natural landscape instead. I believe this is the Japanese sense of beauty. Most kimonos are in clam colors.

I was impressed by their pride in their own fashion. It showed that they value identity. In addition, I think it is cool that they not only dress up, but also act in a manner that is non-war, anti-violence, and pacifist through fashion and by respecting "being a gentleman".

## 国際関係 2 年

The most astonishing parts of today's lecture was "Some children cannot go to school because parents spend too much money on clothes to Sapeur." From this sentence, I could understand how much it matters for Congolese men to dress well. And I liked how Congolese people are trying to cheer themselves up by dressing well even if there's a dreadful war fighting over precious minerals in Congo. On the other hand, the fact that children sometimes cannot go to school is an enormous problem that should be solved with enough urgency. Besides, since people who are Sapeurs attach too much importance on how people dress, the way people's personalities are underestimated is also controversial.

## 留学生

Today's talk was about the Congo sape movement and how even in difficult times people can feel joy through various cultural means like in this case fashion. "La sape" is a cultural movement that can be traced back to the period of colonialism in Africa. As a French person I was already aware of this cultural phenomenon as Congo was previously a French colony and we can see the after effect in Europe and especially France where this Sape movement is also present in various "sapeur" clubs in Paris and also present in the youth culture. To be honest it was totally unexpected to have a talk about "La sape" here in Japan but a very pleasant surprise indeed. This phenomenon made me interrogate the role of fashion in expressing our own identity, how through clothes we can better express who we really are or maybe who we want to be. By constructing this identity through clothes we can become stronger, have confidence in ourselves and be able to face even the hardest hardship

## 留学生

Today's talk, while being very engaging and funny, was ultimately about people in pretty serious and difficult situations, and the ways they deal with living in poverty and times of war. At first I was very entertained by the slightly silly looking 'sapeurs', but after listening more I understood that they send a powerful message. This characteristic of the African countries to find light and laughter even in challenging times is such a wonderful thing. However, even this movement to connect people in times of war has a dark side. The amount of money spent on clothing instead of on education, health care or other community issues really shocked me. It's a sad fact that in order to escape traumatic experiences such as war they also escape other pressing problems. Especially in view of

the younger generation, it's worrying to hear that some children don't get to go to school because their parents need the money for clothes.

### 留学生

I knew the word “sape” but I was not expecting all the history behind this word. In France, this word is most of the time used by young people to speak about cool clothes. Also, Maitre Gims, who is a French singer is known as a great sapeur. He made a famous song “Sapés comme jamais (Pilule bleue)” about the sape movement. I was really happy to know more about this subject and its history. I think most young French people don't know all the history behind the word “Sape”. I was impressed by the 10 commandments that sapeur should follow. The way they can liberate themselves from all the problems they encounter by their way of dressing.

# Global Vision Talks 3rd week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University) 10/17 Practical Wisdom from the Tao Te Ching

英米 2年

From today's lecture, I learned some important ways of thinking that should last throughout my life. One of the most impressive ways of thinking was that "You have to be the main character, not the puppet, don't adopt other people's ideas in order to let other people like you, because you will lose yourself. You have to have your own idea, have your own opinion, you have to follow your intuition, everything we are searching is not outside, but inside ourselves." Recently, we have to do many things every day, especially Japanese people are very busy. Also Japanese people have a collective way of thinking and are sometimes afraid of being different from others, so it is very easy to lose ourselves and our identity. However, it is very important for us to have our own decisions and our own beliefs to live comfortably throughout our life. I realized I should think about things in this way.

フランス 2年

There are so many decisions in life that we have to make. We often encounter forks, get lost, and make our own choices. I'm not good at making decisions in life. Every time, I think about various things from the current situation so that I can make better choices in the future. But the more I think about it, the more I don't know what the best answer is for me. I often change my mind, especially because I care about others. In Japan, culturally, there is a tendency to care about others without thinking about ourselves. The existence of the word "omoiyari"(thoughtfulness) suggests that this can be said. From today's lecture, I heard Tao Te Ching's way of thinking, and I wanted to value my feelings and make decisions according to my feelings. I want to become a person who can make the best decision for me based on what I should do.

ドイツ 2年

Thank you for your special presentation. I was particularly struck by the importance of timing in this speech. In the past, when I would try something, I would think about the future and get scared, and end up doing nothing. However, this summer I took the plunge and tried something, and although it was difficult at times, I learned a lot. I felt that if I missed the right timing, I would not be able to gain anything. I will continue to value timing as you said, and I will continue to challenge myself while maintaining a balance and not pushing myself too hard, remembering that I am the main character in my own life.



## 中国 1 年

It was very interesting to learn so much about Zen much of which I did not know even though I live in Japan. I thought the Zen way of thinking can make our lives better.

I was impressed by the fable of the old man. The fable is one of the most famous Koji Seigo (Chinese origin and proverbs) in what is known as the "Inscrutable are the ways of Heaven." Good or Bad, it is hard to say. Reality is much more fluid than we think. Perhaps it is not good to take each event too seriously.

In addition, the phrase ""You have to be a main character"" in the speech left a strong impression on me. From now on, I want to live my life with the feeling that I am the main character of my life.

## 国際関係 2 年

Thank you for such a nice and interesting speech, Ms.Takatsu.

Your words, "Raining is just event and has no meaning itself. It is us that making it meaningful" impressed me and really touched my heart.

Recently, I have been so stressed with a large amount of homework everyday. However, it is just homework by our professor, and it is me that give it negative meanings. From another point of view, the homework can be the opportunity to encounter new ideas via an article that our professor asked me to read and the positive thing which motivates me to improve my foreign language skills.

I came to realize that this way of thinking improves my mental health and frees me from stress. I am certain that it will always be my emotional support when I am depressed or stressed.

Thank you for your speech again.

## 国際関係 3 年

I was deeply impressed by her speech. At first, I was surprised that a German woman could talk about Zen Buddhism in fluent English. However, I really sympathized with her thinking. I learned that Zen Buddhism ideas cross national borders, and everyone can practice them in daily life.

She told us that what we are searching for is inside ourselves. I agree with this, but sometimes it is difficult. When I am anxious or in bad mood, I blame someone and try to find the solution outside. When I feel that way, I breathe deeply and calm my emotions down. Today I learned two things. First, our emotions decide whether the problem is good or bad. Second, when I lose my way, empty myself first, think about my condition and opinions, and then put them back in to me.

Next time I am troubled, I am going to try these lessons

看護 1 年

Thank you for your presentation. In particular, I was impressed by your way of thinking: „A current disappointment which feels like a black hole can be for the best in the future. ” I often regret my past and feel disappointed. I came to think that if I practice this idea, I might be able to choose a good future with my own hands. So, you gave me a corrected view in order to live positively. Also you said, ” You have to be a driver in your life. ” I agree with your opinion that some Japanese value their connection with others rather than thinking about themselves. I always care about what everyone thinks of me. I want to live so that I don't lose sight of myself.

留学生

I would like first to thank you for this amazing guest. I personally love to listen to a person's life story and point of view on diverse topics, and I don't know if I can name this as a hobby, but just drinking older people's words is filling me with happiness. Today's talk was perfect. (The only thing missing was just a cup of tea - haha).

Taoism and Buddhism are really deep topics to approach only during one class, but Dorothee did it perfectly. She approached a lot of concepts and aspects of her life that also confronts everyone's life.

Today, one aspect particularly arrested me, the « balance ». I think this is the worst concept I can follow, it's simple to understand as she explained, but practicing it looks extremely hard. If I understand well, every other concept needs to find the balance to work perfectly so I think from now on I'll try to understand this concept and accept it in my everyday life.

I can't talk here again about every topic we learned today, but for the moment, this talk seems to be the deepest and continues to make me question myself again and again about timing, things, and non-attachment..

留学生

Last Monday's talk was probably one of the most eye-opening things I have experienced in a while. I studied the Tao Te Ching book in class but in an academic way, which is probably the worst way to learn about it. I had to know everything about the author (even if it's not clear if he existed or not), the number of chapters, the possible interpretations... and yet I knew nothing about the Tao itself. I always thought it was just a book, very far from my own limits, but now I could listen to Dorothee talk about it all day. One of the lines that I really liked was “arguing with reality only causes pain and it's an argument we are never going to win”. Also, she talked about timing and learning from nature. I think we, as humans, often forget that we're part of nature too. We are so ahead of ourselves that sometimes we don't realize we are just tiny animals on a rock floating in the universe.

留学生

First of all, I would like to thank the guest, who gave a very inspirational speech.

I already had a light knowledge of Taoism thanks to my university class, but I thanks to the talk I was able to deepen my knowledge. The fact that the Tao Te Ching is a classical Chinese text written a long time ago is impressive. In addition, it is one of the core teachings in Taoism.

I was very interested in this talk and I will try to express what I have understood.

First of all, the background of the lecturer was stunning: Was born in Germany and was brought up in a Christian environment.

Taoism is older than Zen Buddhism and both are described by the guest as "A way of living" and not a religion. The practical way of Taoism applies to "what you can do in everyday life" so in my opinion, it is accessible to everyone.

Three crucial lessons were introduced:

- The first one is described as ""All things can be both. A can be B and B can be A""

In my opinion, this is a good thing, that's something can be something else. It pushes us not to have a "fixed" thought.

- The second one is ""Finding our balance is essential"".

I think this is the most important one of the three lessons. "If you follow your balance, you will be peaceful". For this we will need to reach our middle way, finding the limit between effort and forcing something. We do not need to do a lot of effort, we need to recognize the forces around us, but this is not something we can do for a long time. We need to do the right thing at the right time.

In order to progress we need to try something out and if we can do it and surrender to an outside force that will also help us.

The third point that I wanted to deal with is ""The best thing to live is to be like water"".

Indeed, like the water we need to hear what is around us, to catch hints, and help, we need to try to control the reality. We need to accept things. If something happens that I can't change and if I try, I will only suffer.

# Global Vision Talks 2nd week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University) 10/10 Taking Cultural Perspectives through Literature

英米 2年

I have never read books consciously thinking about empathizing with the characters, so today's lecture was quite interesting for me. I used to love to read books when I was a child, but I didn't read books as often as I grew up and started using smartphones. I started reading books again after entering this university, but most of their genre is social science or criticism, and I still don't read novels and biographies so often. But after listening to today's lecture, I want to read more stories from now on to acquire the skills of empathizing with people who have different cultures or backgrounds from mine. I used to have an idea that empathizing means just imagining other people's feelings, but today I learned that I have to know about them to any extent to do so. I also noticed why one of my English teachers at this university had asked us "which character did you empathize with the most and why" in his extensive reading assignments. I'd like to spare some time to empathize with the characters when I read stories from now on.

英米 4年

I was happy to listen to your lecture. I am interested to learn that it is possible to practice empathy by reading stories. Until listening to today's lecture, I didn't think about the way to practice empathy. However, I found that people can learn empathy by reading stories. Certainly, looking back on my past experiences and habits, I would spend much time in school libraries and read a lot of books, so I usually feel strong empathy with anything around me now. In my case, because of my big capacity for empathy, I sometimes feel exhausted when I see something makes me sad or upset, so I didn't like my empathic ability. But through today's lecture, I came to try admitting my feelings.

Especially, I found out about the importance of empathy. Because not only Japan but also other foreign countries face a lot of problems, we should have feeling of empathy. For example, there are many people who have mental problems, such as depression, hikikomori, and an adjustment disorder in Japan, so we need to think about their situation and emotions, know about them and stand close to them. Thus, I thought that everyone should practice empathy and have broad-mindedness.

フランス 1年

Thank you for your interesting presentation!!

I have never learned anything about psychology like your lesson. But it was very easy to understand for me because there were some clear examples.

I often cry while watching movies or reading books. I used to think it is embarrassing to cry so quickly. But I learned that it is good to be able to relate emotionally to other people from your lecture, so I will continue to cherish my sensibility.

Feeling other people's feelings is difficult and sometimes we may make wrong empathy. So I think it is important not only to empathize but also to communicate.

## ドイツ 2年

I have often heard that it is good to read books and listen to various opinions of others to understand their way of thinking and learn about different cultures, but this was the first time I had heard that it is good to empathize. I was very much convinced during the Q&A session at the end of the book that empathy means to completely listen to the other person's opinion and try to put oneself in the other person's shoes, while sympathy means to connect one's own opinion with the other person's. I was very much interested in the idea of empathy, but I was not sure what it actually means. There is not much difference in meaning when translated into Japanese, but there was a big difference explained in his lecture. I was surprised because I thought the latter was the meaning of empathy. It is true that when you try to connect your opinions with those of others, there will inevitably be areas of conflict, and it is difficult to completely put yourself in the other person's shoes. Today, we can listen to the opinions of many people through a variety of media. Once I have listened and empathized with them, I will try to incorporate them into my own thinking.

## 国際関係 2年

Thank you very much for such an insightful talk. I'm not much of a bookworm myself, and I find it difficult to link with characters from stories. So, when I listened to your talk about the connection between reading stories and empathy, I thought to myself that perhaps I don't have empathy, and that me lacking it is the reason that I find reading unenjoyable. But when you said that finding it hard to connect with characters does not necessarily entail that one is lacking empathy, and that empathy, through practice, can be improved, I felt very encouraged to try reading more books and improve my empathy in the process. Because I think with the situation that we are in right now, empathy is what we need more than ever.

## 留学生

In today's session we talked about empathy and its importance in literature. First it is important to notice that a good story is about sharing the lives of the characters, in other words being able to relate with their experience and hardship. A book unable to properly communicate these feelings is bound to be forgotten. You probably liked Harry Potter as a child because even if this magic world is completely foreign to your daily life, the experiences Harry is going through resonate with your own experience as a child. The magic sure is entertaining but there is more to Harry Potter than just the eye candy that magic is. As with any good book, there is more than just the mere narrative frame, there is/deeper meaning. And this can be explored through empathy. Empathy is the power to feel an emotional and cognitive response when interacting with other directly or indirectly. Since reading is a purely abstract activity, it is a difficult and heavy task. To read you must use your imagination, you must put yourself in the narrator point of view, so

one can say that reading is by nature an empathic activity. Therefore, in a way literature is a gateway to broaden your worldview and being able to strengthen your empathic ability beyond just the people close to you. Literature holds the power to bring people from around the world together, to share an experience and I think this truly a beautiful thing. And with literature being more accessible to the public than ever before it would be a shame to not read a bit more even if we are more and more distracted by this fast-paced world.

留学生

Today's talk was an eye-opener for me. It challenged me to self-reflect and to evaluate my capacity to feel empathy. I did not know there was a whole system behind empathy, let alone that there were different processes and types at work within this system. I have always enjoyed reading, but I never reflected on how valuable the experience of reading a book could truly be. To see through the eyes of someone else, to live their story, is something almost magical. For the human brain to be capable of traveling through not only their own, but also someone else's imagination is a wondrous thing. This skill can be used to connect so many people, to bring different groups together and to create understanding. This talk made me more hopeful and faithful in humanity.

留学生

There was a moment during the lecture when Mr. Ostman told us about how hard it can be to try to imagine what it might be like to be someone else. For example with blind people. I find it so hard to imagine how it is for blind people since birth to see the world. It feels so narrow and helpless. But it can even be hard to try to think for example what your parent could feel. It is very close yet really hard to get. When I was around 15 years old I realised that my parents had feelings too. It is weird to say like this but I feel like it's really hard to imagine what a parent-child relationship is. I can relate to how they interact with their friends but it's a whole other world to try to think about how they feel when they are interacting with me or my siblings. I try to imagine it more and more but it still feels completely alien to me.

留学生

Monday's presentation about empathy through literature was a nice refreshing subject in my opinion. In society these days we mostly focus on negative feelings like hatred or fear. For me it is mainly due to our abusive use of social media where everybody trash-talks everybody to act cool or to protect a community and so on. I mostly agreed with the ideas of the presentation, however I also think that TV series, music or other genres can help to develop empathy to somebody. Also when we were asked if we could empathize with somebody from another ethnicity, almost everybody said it would be impossible for them to do it. Maybe it is because I'm French and I grew up in a society with a lot of color mix, but I think that everybody can identify with somebody who does not look like you.

留学生

While listening to David Ostmans presentation, I was thinking of how feelings and the process of building empathy can also be framed by culture and society, which also have an impact on how people interact with each other. In this sense, beside the psychological aspects also social and cultural aspects can effect the way we act and react emotionally in different situations or contexts.

Another point that came to my mind after the presentation was how "culture shock" is linked with empathy. So, before I came to Japan I read a lot of literature about the history of cultures and social structures in Japan. After my arrival in Japan I realized that the interaction with Japanese was not difficult for me despite my limited knowledge of Japanese. So, with regard to Ostmans thesis "Reading stories helps us to practice empathy", I think that my background knowledge through readings and watching documentaries and serials as well as my intercultural experinces helps me to having a better understanding for the life of people in Japan and to interact with them easily.

# Global Vision Talks 1st week Best Essays (Aichi Prefectural University) 10/3 Introduction

英米 1 年

Firstly, thank you for your exciting presentation. Even within the same country there are differences in accent. We are learning English pronunciation and phonetic symbols every week at school but, the class is mostly about American English so, it was really interesting to know more about British accents. It is important to understand accents and pronunciation from other countries because, I'm used to listening to American English and whenever I talk with non-Americans I have hard time understanding what they're saying. Also, I learned about cockney rhyming slang. I think we don't have coded secret language like this in Japan so, it was very interesting to learn about it. I think we should make secret language like this in Japan! Maybe I will have a chance to talk with cockney someday, so today's lecture was a great experience.

英米 2 年

I think Cockney English is similar to other non-native countries such as Indian English or Filipino English, which is a type of English that has a long history in how it was formed. Ben said it first appeared in the 19th century which I think was during the industrial era in Britain when they had a lot of power around the world. I think Britain was an imperial country at that time and therefore I think the crime rate was proportional too. Being born in the Philippines I was surrounded by three languages including English, Tagalog and Bisaya (Cebuano). I noticed the similarities between Cockney English and Filipino English which is the fact that they use a different accent and pronunciation, and sometimes unusual phrases. For example in the Philippines people say "I have a mouse in my chest" when they have worries or fear. It was very interesting to hear about Cockney slang because I did not know it was a particular form of English until this class.

英米 2 年

Before today's lecture, I had learned some facts about Cockney slang in my departmental classes. It is surprising for me that Cockney slang was originally used by criminals and street traders to disguise what they were saying. In my first-year college linguistics class, I remember learning that "dialects must be valued as a part of our identity." Nowadays, dialect speakers are sometimes discriminated against by speakers of the standard language because they are different from "general", but in some countries, this is rather appreciated. For example, in China, the Chinese spoken by people living in the northeast has a distinctive and strong accent that even standard Chinese speakers are attracted to. People love this dialect. I wish people who speak dialects from all over the world are welcomed like this instead of being discriminated against!!



## 英米 2年

Ben's presentation was about "Cockney rhyming slang: London's secret language". And it was very impressive for me. First, I had heard of this word in other classes, but I learned for the first time through today's presentation that cockney rhyming slang was originally used by criminals and street traders to disguise what they were talking about. I thought it was just a dialect in the UK before, so this fact was very surprising for me. Second, there are some interesting features in Cockney accent. Especially, the feature "glottal stop" was very funny. Because the "t" in the middle of the word will not be pronounced, so the word "water" will be "waeer" and "butter" will be "bueer". Ben pronounced many real cockney examples for us, and I wondered if people spoke cockney fast, it would sound like a secret code and be very difficult to understand! It's rhyming was a little different from regular UK English, but I felt it has a unique atmosphere. Although the presentation was short, Ben gave many good examples and the important points was summarized clearly, so I could understand the approximate contents about Cockney slang easily. I have a friend whose mother speaks Cockney, so I want to talk with him using the knowledge I learned today.

## フランス 1年

The speech was so interesting for me because I am interested in English. When I started studying English, I noticed the differences between American English and British English. This experience is one of the triggers for me to be interested in English. However, today I learned that Cockney has a unique accent and slang, which interests me more in English than before. Today, I learned some of accents of Cockney. I thought Cockney is affected by French at first because I felt "h" dropping is similar to French pronunciation. However, other features are not like French. So, I felt accent of Cockney is so peculiar. Japanese has accents and dialects from region to region, and some of them are so difficult that even Japanese people cannot understand. In Fukui, for example, I think the accent is relatively comprehensive, homonyms are pronounced in a same way. Giving a concrete explanation, my father, who is from Fukui, says "hashi" (a bridge and chopsticks) in a same tone. I thought this was one of the similar examples. Also, I learned Cockney's dialect is a coded secret language. I felt it is too difficult to understand. I came up with a similar example of this case. It is not so common and I just learned such terms in a class for health in high school. In Japan, drugs are words using a secret language. For instance, marijuana is called "choko" (means chocolate). I do not know why marijuana was named "choko", but it does not have sound connection. It seems difficult to make rhyming slang in Japanese. Today's speech interests me more and more on English. Thank you.

## ドイツ 2年

I was very surprised that something like the old Japanese dialect exists in England. I think the difference from the current Japanese dialect is that only a few people use Cockney slang nowadays. It is not about the meaning, but about the sound of one word being expressed in a completely different way. We have no idea what they really mean when they speak in Okinawan dialect, and it even feels like an exotic language to us. I wonder if the English people of today would feel the same way if they heard Cockney

slang. The Okinawan dialect is still in use, although the only people in Japan who know what it means are those who live in Okinawa. However, when I heard that almost no one uses Cockney slang, I thought that the disappearance of dialects, in other words, the disappearance of a culture, had occurred. I find it very interesting that every country has its own local culture. Although almost no one uses Cockney slang anymore, I hope that the fact that such an interesting slang was spoken in one region in the UK will continue to be handed down.

## 中国 1 年

It was very interesting to learn about the unique and traditional British secret language, Cockney. In the past, criminals and the lower class used it, but in recent years, young people have learned that they tend to think it's cool. I sympathized with this feeling that I think is cool. In Japan, there is a local language that only a limited number of people can understand. In Aichi, the sentence of hanging a desk is used in the sense of carrying a desk. So, people who don't know this dialect can't understand the meaning of hanging a desk and get confused. The dialects that use ending words that are different from the standard language are said to be cute, and I felt that this was similar to the British trend. I learned the regularity of Cockney rhyming slang in this lecture, so I want to study more and surprise my friends with my knowledge.

## 国際関係 2 年

It was a very interesting presentation for me because I like various English accents from several regions and countries. I often watch videos related to English accents on YouTube, and my favorite is the one with the British old lady raging at builders with a dramatic accent.

Speaking of Cockney, I found it very unusual that the people living near the capital city have such a strong accent, because in Japan, people living in Tokyo or near Tokyo do not have an accent. It made me realize that in Japan, an accent is a symbol of country/rural area, but in English-speaking countries it is not necessarily a symbol of country/rural area, but can be the symbol of the culture that created the accent.

## 留学生

Today's talk about Cockney rhyming slang reassured me once again of my choice to be a language student. I can imagine that the study of such a specific subject like dialect or language variation isn't something that many feel called upon. However, I am not part of the majority here. Cockney rhyming slang, with its underground origin story, its transformations over time and its current widespread use shows how language is constantly evolving. It is influenced by other languages, other cultures, society and even politics. This is applicable to the Cockney dialect as well. Back in the day, those who spoke Cockney dialect had a certain status, and now that status has changed because so many people use Cockney expressions. This is so interesting to me. Today's talk reminded me of the reason why I find it so fascinating to not only look at how language varies from region

to region, but also to study how it changes over time and what triggers this change. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you very much.

### 留学生

I've been studying English since I was a little kid, and this was the first time I heard the "Cockney rhyming slang" term. I found the talk really interesting, since I didn't know such an unusual thing existed! While hearing Ben Sensei talk, I couldn't help but think about my hometown. I'm from Andalusia, in the south of Spain, and we are quite famous among the rest of Spaniards because of our accent. We talk really fast and change many words to make them easier to pronounce, so a lot of people consider our accent as vulgar and not a correct way to speak Spanish. For me, accents are such an amazing thing, since they show us that a language can be spoken in many different ways and still be understandable, and also how every language develops in a different way depending on the place where it's used. So even if some people don't like it, I love having an Andalusian accent. I would really like to learn more about Cockney rhyming slang, as it looks like such an interesting way to speak English. Since I already have a Spanish accent, I could develop one in English too!