

精読演習

東京大'15

ナバホ語(Navajo)に関する次の英文を読み、下線部(ア) (イ) (ウ)を和訳せよ。

Eugene Crawford is a Navajo, a Native American; he cannot forget the day he and his friends were recruited for the United States military. Upon arrival at Camp Elliott, they were led to a classroom, which reminded him of the ones he had entered in boarding schools as a child. Those memories were far from pleasant. (ア)He could almost taste the harsh brown soap the teachers had forced him to use to wash his mouth out when he was caught speaking Navajo. His thoughts were interrupted when the door suddenly opened and an officer entered. The new recruits stood to attention. "At ease, gentlemen. Please be seated."

The first hour they spent in that building changed their lives forever, and the shock of what occurred is still felt by them to this day. They could never have imagined the project the military had recruited them for. Some of them believed that, had they known beforehand, they might not have joined up so eagerly. Navajo had been chosen as a code for secret messages because unless you were a Navajo, you'd never understand a word of it. Navajo is a complex language and a slight change in pronunciation can completely change the meaning of a message. The government's decision was wise—it turned out to be the only code the enemy never managed to break—but for the young Navajo soldiers, it was a nightmare. (イ)At no time under any circumstances were they to leave the building without permission or alone. They were forbidden to tell anyone about the project, even o their families, until it was finally made public in 1968.

Many of these men had been punished, sometimes brutally, for speaking Navajo in classrooms similar to this, classrooms in schools run by the same government. (ウ)Now this government that had punished them in the past for speaking their own language was asking them to use it to help win the war. White people were stranger than the Navajos had imagined.

From Navajo Weapon: The Navajo Code Talkers by Sally McClain, Rio Nuevo Publishers

解答・解説

(ア) ナバホ語を話しているのを目撃されたときに、口を洗い流すために教師たちが無理やり使わせた不快な茶色の石鹼の味を、彼はもう少しで感じるどころだった。

★ almost (V)は「もう少しで(V)するところだ(=実際は行っていない)」。taste は①S taste C「SはCの味がする(Sは食べ物)、②S taste O「SはOの味を感じる(Sは人)」の用法があり、今回は②。almost taste ~は「(もう少しで~の味がするところだった→)~の味がするほど、~を鮮明に思い出した」ということ。harshは「厳しい」、「(色、味、音が)不快だ」。

★ force O to (V)で「Oに無理やり(V)させる」。useの目的語は省略された関係代名詞のwhich。その後ろのto wash...は「~するために」の副詞的用法。wash O out / out Oは「Oを洗い流す」。

★ catch O (V)ingで「Oが(V)しているのを目撃する」。speakは通常自動詞だが、speak + [言語]で「~を話す」という他動詞用法もある。

(イ)どんな状況でも、許可がなかったり、一人では、彼らは建物を出ることはできなかった。

★ At no time は否定の副詞句だから、主節が疑問文語順になっている。were they to leave...はbe+to不定詞で、可能「~できない」を表す。

be+to 不定詞

- ① 基本的に will(予定)に置き換える。
- ② 否定文では可能「~できない」の意味を表すことが多い。
- ③ if節では意志「~するつもり」の意味を表すことが多い。

その他の義務「~するべきだ」、運命「~する運命だ」は文脈で容易に判断できる。

(ウ) 過去には自分たちの言葉を話したことで彼らを罰していたこの政府が、今、戦争に勝つのを助けるために、彼らにそれを使うよう依頼していた。

★ Nowは読み手にとっての「今」ではなく、物語の世界における「今」。had punishedの部分で過去完了が使われているのは、政府がナバホ語の使用を罰したのが過去で、それを使用するように頼んでいるのが今、という時系列を表している。

★ punish O for ~で「Oを~で罰する」。「~」には理由が入る。

賞罰動詞 + for + 理由

blame O for ~	「～で O を責める」
criticize O for ~	「～で O を批判する」
scold O for ~	「～で O を叱る」
praise O <u>for</u> ~	「～で O をほめる」
admire O for ~	「～で O を感心する」
forgive O for ~	「～に関して O を許す」
excuse O for ~	「～に関して O を許す」

例外 accuse A of B 「B で A を責める」

- ★ ask O to (V)で「Oに(V)するように頼む」。use it の it は their own language(=Navajo)。help は後ろに原型不定詞を置ける(to 不定詞でもよい)。
- ★ win O で「O で勝つ」。O に入るのは試合、競技。O に相手が入る場合(O に勝つ)は defeat O。