英語の句読法について考える—comma の用法を中心に

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I. はじめに

Theodore M. Bernstein は *The New York Times* の副編集長時代に著した *The Careful Writer* の中で句読法に触れて次のような実話を紹介している。

... recently Michigan discovered that its state constitution inadvertently legalized slavery. Section 8, Article 2, read: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, unless for the punishment of crime, shall ever be tolerated in this state." It was decided to move the comma after "servitude" and place it after "slavery." ¹

ミシガン州政府は同州憲法が、犯罪を罰する手段として奴隷制を容認していると解釈されてしまうことに気付き、servitude の後の comma を slavery の後に移すことにより「憲法改正」を実施したのである。このエピソードは comma が文章の意味を大きく変えるうることを示している。

このように句読法は文章の意味を明確にする上で重要な機能を果たす場合があるが、筆者が受けた英語教育を振り返ってみると、commaを含む句読法を系統立てて学んだという記憶はない。また、筆者自身も現在、学生に対して句読法に配慮した英語の授業は行っていないというのが実情である。このことも手伝ってか、句読法に対する意識は希薄であり、native speaker に英文の句読法を直されても、一般的な文法の間違いを犯した場合と比べ、「罪の意識」は殆どないというのが正直なところである。

しかし、こうした経験も蓄積されると「臨界点」に達するのであろうか。最近、native speaker が書いた英文を読んでいると、なぜこのような箇所に comma を打つのだろうか、この comma はどのような意味を持つのだろうか、といった疑問を持つようになってきた。そして、句読法が理解出来ないということは時には、単語や熟語が理解できないことに等しいのではないかとも思うようになったのである。

そこで、英国の *The Economist* と米国の *The Asian Wall Street Journal* の記事から筆者が理解出来ない、あるいは興味深いと感じた、主に comma に関する約 70 の用例を選び、筆者としての解釈や質問を付して、native speaker 三名²に意見を求めてみた。本稿では紙幅の関係があるので、それらの中から特に興味深いと感じた主に 21 の用例に焦点を絞って考察してみたい。

II. 実例の考察

 Still the LDP committee's proposal will be a direct challenge to Mr. Koizumi and his deputies, who have repeatedly said the deposit-guarantee ceiling will be implemented next March, as planned. (W)

<Ouestion>

Without the preceding comma, would as planned refer only to next March?

(A) No. The comma is used for emphasis.

- (B) I think that omission of the comma would imply that *as planned* is part of what Mr. Koizumi said.
- (C) Exactly.

as planned の前に打たれている comma の有無がこの文章の意味をどのように変えるのであろうか。comma を付すことにより as planned が next March という時期だけでなく、implemented にも掛かっていることを示そうとの意図ではないかと考えたが、A 氏は comma により as planned を強調されている、B 氏は comma がない場合には as planned が小泉内閣の発言の一部であることを示唆すると述べている。つまり、as planned が記者の付言であることを示しているということになる。C 氏は筆者の見方と一致している。

2. We cannot be bogged down in a search for a "smoking gun" **when** we have the strong evidence of the Blix report itself that details Iraq's refusal to cooperate as mandated by Resolution 1441. Nor can we heed arguments that U.N. inspectors are a viable alternative to force, **when** the only reason they are in Baghdad today is because U.S. troops are poised for action along Iraq's border. (W)

<Question>

Why did the writer put a comma before the second *when*, while placing no comma before the first? Is it possible to say that the writer punctuated the second *when* in order to prevent readers from momentarily misreading *force* as a verb rather than a noun?

- (A) That is not the reason for the comma before the second *when*. A native speaker would not need any help in making such a distinction. The relevant parts of each sentence are: "a search for a 'smoking gun' when we have" and "U.N. inspectors are a viable alternative to force, when the only reason they are". The former expresses a single idea; therefore, no comma is necessary. In the latter, the comma indicates that there are two ideas; moreover, it links them.
- (B) As is so often the case, there is no logical justification for using a comma in the second example but not in the first. I am not persuaded that the writer is afraid of a misreading as a verb—anything other interpretation of 'force' than that of it being a noun is difficult to construe. Rather more, I suspect, the quotation marks after 'gun' played a role—so many writers are unsure whether to put the comma inside the quotes or not. So this writer probably decided it was easier just to leave the comma out altogether.
- (C) I don't think that's it—I'm not sure why in this case.

A氏は一番目の文章は single idea を表しているので comma は不要、二番目の文章は two ideas を表しているので comma が必要としている。B氏は一番目の when は comma を伴うべき、二番目の when には comma は不要と述べている。そもそも、筆者にとって native speaker でプロのライターが句読法をどの程度の一貫性を持って用いているのか は明らかではない。しかし、この文章を書いた記者が意識的に comma を打つか否かを 判断していたと仮定した場合にどのような理屈が存在しうるのであろうか。A氏の見方を敷延して、adjunct、disjunct という文法の概念を参照してみたい。A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language は次のように説明している。

...adjuncts denote circumstances of the situation in the matrix clause, whereas disjuncts

comment on the style or form of what is said in the matrix clause (style disjuncts) or on its content (content or attitudinal disjuncts). The primary difference is that they differ syntactically in that disjuncts are peripheral to the clause to which they are attached.³

また、adjunct clause と disjunct clause が文末に置かれた場合の句読法に関しては次のように解説している。

...content disjunct clauses tend more commonly than adjunct clauses to be separated from their matrix clauses by intonation or punctuation, though punctuation usage varies. Such separation is particularly common when the subordinator of a disjunct clause is frequently used as the subordinator of an adjunct clause, a condition that applies to reason *since* and *as*, concessive *while*, and result *so that*.⁴

上記の説明をもとに推測してみると次のようになる。先ず、一番目のwhen は"at the time that ..."の意味で使われており、主節に関わる状況(circumstances)を規定する adjunct clause ではないか。そして、意味としては「ブリックス・レポートという強い証拠が ある状況下、「動かしがたい証拠」探しに現を抜かしているわけにはいかない」といっ た内容ではなかろうか。一方、二番目の when は"while on the other hand"の意味で主節 の内容(the content of matrix clause)と対照的な状況を concessive clause を用いて表現して おり、意味は「国連の査察団がバグダッドに入れたのは米軍がイラク国境で戦闘待機 しているからに他ならないにも拘わらず、国連の査察団が武力に代わる有効な選択肢 であるという議論に耳を傾けることは出来ない」と理解すべきではないか。また、二 番目の when 以下を主節で述べられている内容に対して理由を述べる style disjunct と考 えれば、"Nor can we heed arguments that U.N. inspectors are a viable alternative to force. Why? Because the only reason they are in Baghdad today is"といったように書き換える ことも可能であろう。A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language は Style disjuncts realized by clauses are always separated from the matrix clause by intonation and punctuation.⁵ と説明して、... punctuation usage varies と解説した content disjunct との違いを指摘して いる。ここで注意を要することは、一番目の when 以下を disjunct clause、二番目の when 以下を adjunct clause と見なしても意味は十分に通じるという点であり、この場合には comma の用法は B 氏の見方と附合するのである。

3. **On October 21st** he issued a profits warning, three days before releasing dismal third-quarter results. **On October 24th,** ABB announced that it would dispose of its oil, gas and petrochemicals business, and also cut costs by \$800m. (E)

<Question>

Does the second sentence place more emphasis on the date (which is followed by a comma) than the first does?

- (A) Yes, but it is so mild an emphasis that it is easily missed. This is a style issue.
- (B) Just inconsistency, I think.
- (C) Technically, I think the comma is necessary.

Line-by-Line は副詞句や副詞節に続く comma に関して例文を示して次のような説明をしている。

... you would probably omit the comma unless you had some reason to stress the opening

modifier:

By 1952(,) he was ready to forsake the literary life for a steady job. ⁶

上記の The Economist から取った例では、three days before releasing dismal third-quarter results を受けた文の流れからすると、On October 24th は強調したい部分と思われるのだが如何であろうか。何れにせよ、Line by Line の上記の説明によれば、comma にはその前に位置する語句を強調する機能があることになる。

4. Opinion polls show that a majority of Argentines now want early elections, **for** congress as well as the presidency. (E)

<Question>

Why did the writer put a comma before *for*? Would there be any difference in nuance, if the sentence read "early elections for congress as well as the presidency?"

- (A) The difference in nuance is that *early elections* loses some of the impact it gained from the comma-created pause.
- (B) Extra explanation.
- (C) Just a way to emphasize the elections are desired for both.
- この comma の役割を A 氏は comma の前を強調するため、B 氏は comma の後を追加 説明とするため、C 氏は comma の後を強調するためと見ており、意見が完全に分かれ ている。
- 5. But now the hard work starts, **for** President Eduardo Duhalde and for whoever wins an election to replace him due in April. (E)

< Ouestion >

Why did the writer put a comma before the first *for*? Is it intended to show that the second *for* is also governed by the verb "starts?"

- (A) The answer to your second question is "no". The reason the writer used a comma after the first *for* is that that is how he was taught. It serves no grammatical, semantic or logical purpose. In short, it is a Briticism—a very hoary and needless one at that.
- (B) I suppose so, though absence of a comma would give an identical reading. I myself would not recommend this kind of comma usage.
- (C) I think it's just to emphasize that the hard work begins regardless of who wins the election. 英国人である B 氏がこの用法には否定的であること、及び米国の website に comma ではなく、dash を使った用例ではあるが、次のような文章があることから Briticism と結論付けることは出来ないのではなかろうか。
- And that's when the hard work will begin—for policy-makers as well as recipients. (Illinois Issues Online)
- Now the hard work begins—for Congress to deliver on his requested \$15 billion over the next five years. (The Global Health Council)
- Now that she has returned to her family, the hard work begins—for her and them. (The Salt Lake Tribune)

このような用例を参照すると、筆者には上記の comma や dash の機能は後に続く内容を強調するものと思われるのだが。

6. Last year, in a major shift, people spent significantly more on movie purchases than rentals. While retail sales for films rose 19% to \$12.26 billion, rental spending slipped 3%, to \$9.92 billion, according to Adams Media Research of Carmel, California. (W)

< Question >

Assuming that the decline in rental spending to \$9.92 billion is more surprising than the rise in the retail sales of films to \$12.26 billion, is it possible to say that the comma after 3% is used to show surprising information.

- (A) Slight emphasis rather than surprise is how it strikes me.
- (B) Surely the 19% figure is the more surprising of the two. To me this is just an inconsistency in comma usage.
- (C) This is odd. Your analysis makes sense, but it may be giving the writer more credit than is deserved.

プロのライターである記者が、なぜ一つの文章の中で最初の金額の前には comma を打たず、二番目の金額の前に comma を打っているのであろうか。このニュースは映画ビデオに関するものであるが、引用外の箇所で小売販売高を遥かに上回っていたレンタル売上高が一昨年に 102.3 億ドルにまで落ち込み、昨年は遂に 100 億ドル割れを起こすという凋落ぶりを報道している。一方、小売販売高は昨年 122.6 億ドルになったが、一昨年に 103 億ドルと 100 億ドルの大台を既に超えていたのである。この comma の用法は surprising information を示すとまでは言わないまでも、情報を highlight しているとの解釈は成り立たないのであろうか。

7. Yet this week, **suddenly**, all that changed. On August 7th the IMF announced a huge new loan to **Brazil**, of \$30 billion over 15 months. (E)

<Question>

Is suddenly emphasized by its unusual position or the enclosing commas?

- (A) Both.
- (B) Both.

Is the comma after Brazil placed to show that a huge new loan of \$30 billion is disrupted by to Brazil?"

- (A) "Brazil of \$30 billion" is readily passed over as nonsense; therefore, the comma isn't necessary. It's used for emphasis.
- (B) I think it means that with or without the comma. The comma here suggests that the information is supplementary.
- (C) Yes.

一番目の質問に対する A/B 両氏の回答は副詞や副詞句は通常と異なる位置に置くことや comma などで括ることで、強調されることを示している。二番目の質問に対する回答は正に三者三様である。この文章を仮に...the IMF announced a huge new loan of \$30 billion over 15 months to Brazil と書いたとしよう。この場合に書き手は loan と Brazil の間の距離が長過ぎると感じるのではなかろうか。そこで to Brazil を loan の後に移し、これを明示するためにBrazil の後に comma を打ったと理解することは不適切であろうか。また、その結果して、強意の場所である文末に comma でポーズを作って\$30 billion

という大きな数字が置かれたために、その部分が強調されることになったと考えることはできないであろうか。

8. Construction costs for the plant, in Ireland, ran far over budget. (W)

< Ouestion >

What would be the difference if the sentence read "Construction costs for the plant in Ireland ran far over budget?"

- (A) My guess—I'm seeing this sentence out of the context in which it appears—is that "in Ireland" is set off by commas because that fact is introduced in this sentence.
- (B) The usual difference here: non-restrictive v. restrictive.
- (C) Nothing—it reads better without the commas.

B 氏が指摘しているように、comma は"the plant, which incidentally is in Ireland, …."の意味を付加するために用いられていると思われる。一方、直前の文章は Worse, it also spent half a billion dollars on a plant designed mainly to manufacture the drug.となっている。では、記者はなぜ…on a plant in Ireland, designed to manufacture the drug と書かずに、わざわざその後の文章に in Ireland を comma で括って挿入したのであろうか。Worse, it also spent half a billion dollars on a plant in Ireland …..と書いた場合には、「更に悪いことには、よりによってアイルランドで 10 億ドルもの投資をして工場を建てて・・・」といった「アイルランド蔑視」の響きが出ることを避けようとしたのではあるまいか。

Most obvious is the severe drought throughout most of the Rocky Mountain area, which helped
make two June blazes, in Arizona and Colorado, the worst in those states' histories. (E)
 Question>

Would "two June blazes in Arizona and Colorado" (without commas) make the sentence sound as if the writer were making a comparison with "two June blazes" in some other state or states?

- (A) No. The commas are used to suggest that there was one blaze in each state. Without commas, it would be possible to think that there were two blazes that affected both states.
- (B) An interesting case. Technically, the commas make the information quoting the state names incidental. But if the information is then deleted (which is implicit in it being incidental), the phrase "those states' histories" is called into question, as there is no antecedent for 'those". My judgement is that the commas are erroneous.
- (C) I think either way is fine and conveys the same meaning.

事実関係を調べてみると、6月にアリゾナとコロラド州で山火事がそれぞれ一件あったと報道されている。一方、二つの異なる場所または時点で一つずつ事故が起こったことを伝える表現を調べてみると The National Transportation Safety Board investigated two accidents in 1995 and 1997 that are typical of the motorcoach accidents...、... he injured his wrists and back in two accidents in the late 1980s and early 1990s. There were two accidents in 1975 and 1983.などがあるが、場所や時の部分を comma で括った例は見つからなかった。従って、C氏の見方が適当ではないかとの印象を持っている。筆者が上記のような質問をした理由は、of-phrase に関して George Smith of Poughkeepsie saidとすべきか、George Smith, of Poughkeepsie, saidとすべきかに付いて、American Usage and Style The Consensus に次のような説明があり、これが in-phrase にも適用さ

れるのではないかと考えたためである。

The *of*-phrase should be set off because they are what grammarians call free or nonrestrictive modifiers. Omission of the commas makes the *of*-phrases close or restrictive modifiers, and implies, when we say "George Smith of Poughkeepsie said ..." that we are differentiating between a George Smith who lives in Poughkeepsie and someone of the same name who lives elsewhere.

一方、The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage では、これとは逆に次のような解説がされている。

Do not use a comma before an *of* indicating place or position: *Morgan S. Lam of Brooklyn; President Dana J. Kikondoo of Tanzania.* ⁸

また、*The Economist* には同一の記事の中に Bill Gross, **of PIMCO**, argued that、Martin Whitman **of Third Avenue Funds**, a veteran investor, agrees thatといった用例が見られる。後者の例では of Third Avenue Funds を comma で括ることによって、同一文章内の comma の数が増えることを避けているのではなかろうか。

10. Merrill in May agreed to pay \$100 million in penalties and alter its research practices after Mr. Spitzer unearthed e-mails from Merrill Internet analysts deriding stocks they were recommending, in what Mr. Spitzer called a bid to win investment-banking business. (W)

<Question>

Is the comma before *in* placed to emphasize what follows it?

- (A) No. It sets off additional information.
- (B) More importantly, to avoid construing in as part of a construction following recommending.
- (C) Yes, to call attention to why the action took place.

native speakers の意見が分かれているが、再度文章を読み直してみると、B 氏の見方が適当と思われる。つまり、comma がない場合には...stocks they were recommending in と続けて読んでしまい、in の後に例えば何らかの資料名が来ることを読者に期待させることになるのではあるまいか。

11. Japanese exports to China leapt 32%—although the total value remained small **compared** with the U.S. Japan's exports to China totaled 4.98 trillion yen (\$41.12 billion) last year, **compared** with exports of 14.9 trillion yen to the U.S. (W)

<Question>

Why is the first *compared* not preceded by a comma, while the second is? Is the second *compared* punctuated to clearly show that it modifies 4.98 trillion yen (\$41.12 billion)?

- (A) One simple idea is expressed by "the total remained small compared with the U.S.". On the other hand, "Japan's exports to China totaled 4.98 trillion yen (\$41.12 billion) last year, compared with exports of 14.9 trillion yen to the U.S." contains two ideas.
- (B) Yes. I'm sure that is the reason.
- (C) I think so.

他の用例を調べてみても、one idea の場合にはほぼ例外なく comma は付されておらず two ideas の場合には殆どの場合に compared の前に comma が打たれているようであ

る。但し、英国の Guardian Newspapers の online news に two ideas で last year という副詞が介在していても comma を伴わない次の用例が見られた。

Mel Ewell, the new chief executive, said these would not be repeated and the remaining business had brought underlying profits of £26.9m last year **compared** with £6m in 2001.

12. The object of his greatest fascination today is the U.S. real-estate market. **For weeks**, Mr. Kindleberger has been cutting out newspaper clippings that hint at a bubble in the housing market, most notably on the West Coast. (W)

<Question>

Is "For weeks" emphasized by the comma?

- (A) Yes.
- (B) A comma is traditionally used following an introductory time phrase.
- (C) Yes.

Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners は"You can use **years** to emphasize that you are referring to a long time."と解説しており、weeks に関しても同様のことが言えよう。従って、for weeks を際立たせるために、その後に comma が付されていると思われる。因みに、for years で始まる 26 の文例を調べてみたが、comma を伴う例はその約半数であった。

13. In the past four years, the cost of the cheapest tags has **plunged**, **from \$2 to 20 cents**. (E) < Question >

What role is the comma after *plunged* playing in this sentence: to show *from \$2 to 20 cents* as incidental information or as shocking information?

- (A) "Shocking" is too strong a word. The effect is merely one of mild emphasis.
- (B) Incidental information.
- (C) To emphasize that it's a dramatic drop.

この文章を音読した場合に強く読まれるのは plunged と from \$2 to 20 cents の部分ではなかろうか。付加的な情報は通常、軽く読まれるはずであるが、from \$2 to 20 cents は軽く読むには余りにも重要な情報との印象を筆者は持っている。 plunged と from \$2 to 20 cents の両者を強く読むためのポーズをこの comma が作り出しているとの考え方は無理なのであろうか。 comma を伴う plunge の用例には次のようなものもある。

- As Mexico's credit rating rose in recent years, the interest rates it pays on its loans have
 plunged, from highs of near 20 percent in the dark days of financial crisis to about 5
 percent annually today. (The New York Times)
- Infant mortality plunged, from more than 15 percent in 1900 to less than 1 percent now.
 Copyright (U.S. News & World Report)
- Sadly for Alsop, Nortel's stock has since plunged, from \$80 a share to \$5. (The Mercury News)
- 14. So far this year, the economy has shrunk by nearly 15% compared with the same period last year; consumer prices have risen by 21% since anuary (more than the official forecast for the year as a whole); the peso has plunged to almost 3.50 to the dollar; and international reserves have nearly halved, to just \$10.5 billion. (E)

<Question>

In addition to the above, I have found the following examples using *halved, to just* Isn't it possible to say that all these writers put a comma after *halved* in order to create a pause before announcing surprising information?

- More alarming news reaches me from the Washington Post: French consumption of wine is
 declining as we speak. Since 1960, consumption has almost halved, to just under 55 litres
 per capita a year, with 40 per cent of Gauls admitting that they touched wine once or twice
 a week at the most. (*The Washington Post*)
- Looking at the 10 biggest technology companies, the issues (such as Cisco
 Systems Inc. and Intel Corp.) that dominate the Nasdaq Composite index, he noted that the
 ratio of their stock prices to their earnings has roughly halved, to just over 30. (The
 International Herald Tribune)
- (A) Reading those passages, I did not feel any surprise. However, the pause created by the comma does impart some emphasis.
- (B) To create a pause, yes. Surprising information? I don't feel it is surprising as much as purely explanatory.
- (C) Yes.

Cobuild English Dictionary for Advanced Learners は just を You use **just** to emphasize how small an amount is or how short a length of time is.と定義している。強意の語は強く読まれる筈であり、この場合の comma はそのためのポーズを作り出していると見なすことは不適当なのであろうか。

15. If politicians and civil servants are nervous, **it is not surprising**, in the light of recent experience. (E)

<Question>

Why did the writer put a comma after *surprising*? Is it because the sentence deviates from its normal order: "In the light of recent experience, it is not surprising if politicians and civil servants are nervous?"

- (A) Another useless British comma. Think of it as the punctuation equivalent of over-gesticulation.
- (B) Yes.
- (C) Yes—I think this sentence is poorly written.
- この文章を改めて読み返してみると、If politicians and civil servants are nervous を文頭に置いて強調し、it is not surprising も comma で括って強調しているようにも思えるのだが。第四の native speaker の意見を求めたところ、米国では本例のような文章で surprising の後には通常、comma を打たないとのことであり、本例は comma の用法に関する英米間の違いを如実に表す一つの例とのコメントがあった。
- 16. He is coy about his targets; investment bankers believe Blockbuster could merge with a company such as Amazon.com Inc. or buy a video-game retailer, such as GameStop Corp. (W)
 - <Question>

Why did the writer put no comma after *company* and the comma after *retailer*? Is it possible to say that *a company* in this sentence is not sufficiently informative, hence requiring some restrictive information, while *a video-game retailer* offers adequate information, hence adding "GameStop Corp." as nonrestrictive information?

- (A) The first "such as" has the meaning of "like". Yes.
- (B) Yes.
- (C) I'm perplexed with this one.

本例では such as 以下を削除して書いてみると Blockbuster could merge with a company or buy a video-game retailer.となる。such as Amazon.com がない場合には文章として情報が不足しているとの印象を与えるが、such as GameStop Corp.は無くても物足りなさは感じさせない。これが、一番目の such as が制限用法で、二番目の such as が非制限用法で用いられている理由と思われる。

17. Households buy **durable goods, such as cars,** to use over a period of time, so if income falls such purchases can more easily be postponed than **services such as haircuts**. (E)

<Ouestion>

What may be the reason that the first *such as* is punctuated and the second not? If the sentence read *Households buy durable goods to use over a period of time, so if income falls such purchases can more easily be postponed than services*, readers may have difficulty understanding what is meant by *services*. Readers, on the other hand, may be able to understand what is meant by *durable goods*. Could this be the reason for the apparent inconsistency?

- (A) This is another example of the two meaning of "such as": "for example" and "like."
- (B) Yes, I agree.
- (C) I really don't know why. Perhaps the author felt the flow was better??

本用例を改めて読み返してみると、次のような解釈も可能ではないかと考えている。 durable goods は実は services よりも一般の読者には馴染みの薄い概念であるために to use over a period of time という説明が付加されているのではないか。この説明があるため、そして、durable goods と to use 以下の結びつきを明示するために、本来制限用法としたい such as cars を comma で括ったのではないのだろうか。

18. The Forest Service will spend \$1 billion this year on putting out fires—and that does not include the money spent by other agencies or the damage to property. (E)

<Question>

Is the dash adding emphasis to the statement that follows it?

- (A) and that does not is the source of emphasis. The dash merely paves the way.
- (B) Yes.
- (C) Yes.

これまで取り上げた句読法は全て comma であったが、ここでは dash の用例を検討したい。 *Line by Line* は Dashes mark a sharper break in the continuity of the sentence than the commas do ⁹と説明しているが、ここで注目したいのは A 氏のコメントである。つまり、この文章では dash 以下が強調されていると思われるわけであるが、dash は単

にそのための「場」を提供しているだけであって、強調は *and that does not* により作り出されているという見方である。

19. That is particularly true of market-based capitalism **as practiced in America**, which has increasingly been regarded as the superior model—at least until Enron went bust. (E)

<Question>

What is the difference between *market-based capitalism as practiced in America* and *market-based capitalism, as practiced in America*? Does the former mean *market-based capitalism exactly as practiced in America* and the latter, *market-based capitalism, as practiced in America and possibly elsewhere*?

- (A) Your understanding is correct.
- (B) Yes indeed.
- (C) They both show that it is practiced differently in various places. I think the comma adds emphasis to this point.

本例と類似した例文を示して、Line by Line は次のように説明している。

The sentence *You should water the plants, as Jim suggested* indicates that Jim thought the plants needed water, but without the comma the sentence would imply that he suggested a particular way of watering the plants—say, twice week from the bottom. ¹⁰

20. Besides these broad issues, problems in specific sectors still draw complaints, but these increasingly involve services, **rather than tradable goods**. (E)

< Question >

What would be the difference in nuance if there were no comma before *rather than*?

- (A) The emphasis on "services" would be lost.
- (B) I'm tempted to just say 'none'. But, in fact, there is a slight difference: The comma indicates a break, or pause, in the flow of speech. This makes the final phrase more of an afterthought (and, by implication, less necessary) than it would otherwise be.
- (C) None at all, as far as I'm concerned. Perhaps it's a matter of emphasis.
- これらのコメントを総合して考えると、comma の役割を考える場合に、comma の後に続く部分に注目しがちであるが、後に続く部分を de-emphasize することによって、その前の部分を強調するという用法が存在するように思われるのだが如何なものであろうか。
- 21. But of all these issues, the copyright battle is becoming one of the most urgent, and bitterly fought, because it could yet determine the future character of cyberspace itself. (E)

<Question>

What would be the differences if the sentence read ... one of the most urgent and bitterly fought, because ...?

- (A) "Bitterly fought" would not be emphasized.
- (B) The comma suggests a pause—for dramatic effect. I can almost imagine the writer raising his eyebrows as he adds this phrase.
- (C) Nothing. Again, perhaps a matter of emphasis.
- B 氏の a pause—for dramatic effect に注目したい。用例 18 に対する A 氏のコメントで

ある and that does not is the source of emphasis. The dash merely paves the way.と共通点があるものと思われる。つまり、comma や dash は時には、何らかの効果を生み出すための「場」を提供しているに過ぎず、そこに置かれる語句がその場の性格を決定するという考え方である。次の用例においても comma や dash で括られた部分や comma に続く部分に置かれた太字で示した語句が「強意」という特徴付けをしているものと思われる。

- A few well-chosen words, or even—miraculously—some deeds, such as approving much-delayed tax reforms, might avert a disaster. (E)
- ... it is likely the Bush administration would accept such an outcome and welcome, at least publicly, whatever degree of support France lends. (W)
- Though the two leftish contenders who lead the polls, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Ciro Gomes, no longer talk of "renegotiating" Brazil's debts, investors worry that the country may be unable to repay them, **even** with the fund's help. (E)

III. まとめ

A. native speakers による解釈の比較

用例	A 氏	B氏	C 氏
 Mr. Koizumi and his deputies, who have repeatedly said the deposit-guarantee ceiling will be implemented next March, as planned. 	comma の後の部分を強 調	as planned を記者の付言とし て示すため	as planned が implemented next March を修飾すること を示すため
2. a "smoking gun" when a viable alternative force, when	最初の文章は一つのア イデア、二つ目は二つ のアイデアを示す	最初の when の前に comma 要、二番目の前には不要	一方に comma を打ち、他 方に打たない理由が不明
3. On October 21st On October 24th,	comma は軽い強調を示 す	comma の用法が不統一	両者とも comma 要
 a majority of Argentines now want early elections, for congress as well as the presidency. 	early elections を強調	comma 以下は補足説明	congress とresidency を強調
now the hard work starts, for President Eduardo Duhalde and for whoever wins an election to replace him due in April.	意味のない用法	二つ目の for が starts の繋が ることを明示	President と whoever wins an election を強調
6rose 19% to \$12.26 billionslipped 3%, to \$9.92 billion	comma 以下を軽く強調	用法が不統一	comma を打つ理由が不明
7. Yet this week, suddenly , all that changedthe IMF announced a huge new loan to Brazil, of \$30 billion over 15 months.	suddenly を強調 comma 以下を強調	suddenly を強調 of以下は補足説明	(コメントなし) loan of \$30 billion の繋がり を明示
8. Construction costs for the plant, in Ireland,	in Ireland という情報を ここで始めて提示	補足説明	comma は不要
9two June blazes, in Arizona and Colorado,	山火事が二件であるこ とを明示	不適当な comma の用法	comma による意味の変化 なし
 stocks they were recommending, in what Mr. Spitzer called a bid to win investment-banking business. 	追加情報	recommending in と読ませな いため	comma の後を強調
the total value remained small compared with Japan's export to China totaled 4.98 trillion yen(\$41.98 trillion yen) last year, compared with exports of	前者は一つのアイデ ア。後者は二つのアイ デア	compared と last year の前の 数字の繋がりを明確にする	B氏と同じ
12. For weeks, Mr. Kindleberger has been cutting out	For weeks を強調	通常の comma の用法	A 氏と同じ
13 has plunged, from \$2 to 20 cents.	comma の後を軽く強調	comma の後が付加情報	comma の後を強調
14international reserves have nearly halved, to just \$10.5 billion.	comma の後を軽く強調	comma の後が付加情報	comma の後が意外な情報 である事を示す
15civil servants are nervous, it is surprising, in the light of	不要な用法	倒置を明示	B氏と同じ
16 a company such as Amazon.com Inc. or buy a	前者は制限用法。後者	A 氏と同じ	一方に comma を用いず、

video-game retailer, such as GameStop Corp.	は非制限用法		他方に用いる理由が不明
17durable goods, such as cars, to use over a period of	前者は非制限用法。後	A 氏と同じ	文章の流れをよくするた
time services such as haircuts.	者は制限用法		め
18—and that does not include the money spent by	dash がポーズを作り、	dash は強調	dash は強調
other agencies	and that does not に強意		
	がある		
19. market-based capitalism as practiced in American,	Exactly as practiced in	A 氏と同じ	as の前に comma があった
	America の意味		場合には強調
20these increasingly involve services, rather than	comma の前を強調	comma の後が付加情報	comma の後を強調
tradable goods.			
21the copyright battle is becoming one of the most	comma に括られた部分	A 氏と同じ	A 氏と同じ
urgent, and bitterly fought, because it could yet be	を強調		

上記の 21 の用例は 18 番の dash を除けば全て comma に関するものであり、本稿の冒頭で述べたように、筆者が特に興味深いと感じたものである。言い換えれば、三名の native speakers の意見が異なった用例が多く含まれているのである。これらの他に native speakers の間でより多くの意見の一致がみられた 22 の comma の用例と parentheses と colon を一件ずつ含む主に dash に関する 25 の用例がある。紙幅の関係でこれらの用例を示すことは出来ないが、上記の 22 の用例も含めて三者の見方を分類すると次のようになる。

	三者の見方が分かれ	二者の見方が一致した	三者の見方が一致
	た用例	用例	した用例
本稿で示した用例	10 件	10 件	2 例
	(1,2,3,4,5,6,7[二番目],8,9,10)	(7 [一番目], 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,	(18, 21)
		19, 20)	
その他の comma の	3 例	4 例	15 例
用例			
dash を中心とした	2 例	9 例	14 例
用例			
総計	15 例	23 例	31 例

これらの用例は筆者が理解出来ない、或いは興味深いと感じた実例であり、英語のpunctuationの全体像を客観的に表すものではない。しかし、それにも拘わらず69例中、native speakers 三者の見方が一致した用例が半分を下回る31しかなく、三者の間で見方が一致しなかった例が半分を超す38(三者の見方が分かれた用例が15、二者の見方が一致した用例が23)にも昇るというのは意外な結果であった。

一方、冒頭で紹介したミシガン州憲法の中の一文に関して、その comma の用法に問題があったことは、条文を注意して読めば皆が合意できることである。また、今回収集したがnative speakers の意見は求めなかった用例に次のようなものもある(太字は筆者によるもの)。これらに関しても comma の用例に関する見方は一致する筈である。

- ・ He was elected in 1998, and again for a six-year term under his own constitution in 2000. (E) (... in 1998 and again for a six-year term と読ませないために)
- ・ It is hard to imagine worse results from America's latest proposal for the World Bank to switch from lending to making grants, **subject to performance targets being met.** (E) (making grants subject to performance targets being met と読ませないために)
- To see the significance of what is happening, go back to Mr Bush's first trip to Europe, a year ago.
 (E)

(a year ago が Mr Bush's first trip を修飾していることを示すために)

 Japanese share prices had been holding up relatively well in the face of the collapse of U.S. Stock values, until last week. (W)

(until last week が holding up relatively well を修飾していることを示すため)

一方、今回検討した用例においてどのような場合に native speakers の間で意見が分かれるのか、そしてそこに何らかの共通する要因が存在するのかを検討してみたが、この試みは不成功に終わった。

A Comprehensive Grammar of The English Language は Of all the punctuation marks the comma is the most flexible in the range of its use, and hence the most difficult to categorize. Line by Line も次のように説明している。また、Line by Line も次のように説明している。

Some writers profess to have no idea where to put commas, and they willingly relinquish the responsibility to copy editors. Others clearly have the wrong idea and insert commas that impede rather than facilitate reading.

Commas are both the most common marks of punctuation and the most troublesome. 12

本稿で考察の対象とした文章を作成した The Economist や The Asia Wall Street Journal の記者を上記の some writers や others と同じレベルで論じることは出来ない筈である。それにも拘らず、「明快さ」が重要な要素とされるプロが書いた英文記事に登場する句読法を巡って native speakers の見方に大きな差異が存在しうるということは、本考察を開始する以前には筆者として予想していなかったことであり意外な結果であった。英語の句読法には送り手の使用意図が受け手に正しく伝わりやすい science とでも呼べる用法とそれとは反対の art とでも呼ぶべき用法が存在するということなのであろう。

註

Theodore M. Bernstein, The Careful Writer (New York: Atheneum, 1984)

² 実例の文末に付した(W)は出典が The Asian Wall Street Journal、、(E)は The Economist であることを示し、筆者が考察の対象としている部分を明示するために太字にした。又、Question は筆者によるものであり、(A)は米国人、(B)は英国人、(C)は米国人による回答である。

Radolph Quirk et al., A Comprehensive Grammar of The English Language (Essex: Pearson Education, 1985), 1070

⁴ Ibid., p. 1072

⁵ Ibid., p. 1073

⁶ Claire Kehrwald Cook, <u>Line by Line</u> (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985) 125

⁷ Roy H. Copperud, American Usage and Style THE CONSENSUS (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1980) pp.79-80

⁸ Allan M. Siegal and William G Connolly, The New York Times Manual of Style and Usage (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1999) 75

⁹ Cook, op. cit., p. 134

^{1 0} Ibid., p. 115

Ibid., p.1615

Cook, op. cit., p. 109