

日本語の諺の英語へのパラフレーズ(4)

倉島史憲*

English Paraphrases of Japanese Proverbs

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Proverbs are good materials for paraphrasing. And they are easier to understand when paraphrased. So I have paraphrased more of them as a third continuation of my column in *Memmoirs of Nagano National College of Technology No. 32*, pp. 71-76. To explain each proverb thoroughly, I have formed a system which has three phases such as the last time. They are as follows.

1. The original proverb and its literal translation with some background information
2. A paraphrase of each proverb and amplification of its meaning
3. Remarks on its teaching or admonishment

Using the above system, I have given the English interpretation of Japanese proverbs and their meaning as it relates to the English speaking world. I believe this system will open the door to using Japanese proverbs both for communication and for teaching life values.

キーワード：Proverb, Paraphrase, Shows, Means, Metaphor

は し が き

本稿は、平成2年(1990年)10月7日、南山大学開催の日本時事英語学会第32回年次大会において発表した「日本語の諺の英語へのパラフレーズ試案」に対する続きものである。

従って、長野工業高等専門学校紀要第24号 pp. 83-92に掲載したものの続編本紀要第28号 pp. 81-90・32号 pp. 71-76に続くものである。

この試みのまとめる動機や狙い、および心掛けた点も本紀要第24号 pp. 83-92・28号 pp. 81-90・第32号 pp. 71-76と全く変わるところはない。その記述も三段階、つまり、(1)由来または直訳、(2)意味または精神、(3)各諺が、何を戒め、何を教えているか、の方式を取っている。

70. 船頭多くして船山に登る

指示する人が多すぎると物事がまとまらなかったり、物事がうまくいかなかったりする喩えである。

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- (1) If many boatmen row the boat in their own way, the boat will dash against a rock go around and won't get to the destination.
- (2) If directors (= leaders) are too many in number, nobody knows whom to follow. So nobody places anything under their control and things don't go well.
- (3) This proverb is a metaphor in which too many leaders tell people to do something, it will go wrongly in an unexpected direction,
この諺に相当する英語の諺に、“Too many cooks spoil the broth.”, “Many dresser put the bride's dress out of order.” や “Where every man is master the world goes to wrack.” 等がある。

71. 袖振り合うのも他生の縁

「他生の縁」とは仏教語で、「前世または来世の因縁という意味から、人と人の関係は偶然によるものではない。従って、ちょっとしたことで知り合うことを示している。また、この諺は、「袖すり合うも他生の縁」とも言われる。

- (1) "Tasho no en" is a kind of Buddhist word (= term) and means "karma relation from a previous life.

If a total (= complete) stranger happens to touch the other person with his sleeve, each other owes his behavior to some fate (= destiny).

- (2) A relation between each other doesn't come from simple chance, but from some point of fate (= destiny).

- (3) This proverb teaches us that according to karma relation from a previous life a man gets acquainted with a stranger (= an unknown man) by taking advantage of a little chance (= a bit occasion).

この諺に近い英語の諺に, "Even a chance acquaintance is decreed by destiny." がある。

72. 損して得取れ

目先の小さな損を嫌がっては大きな利益は得られないことから, 損をした時の慰めの言葉である。また, 初めは損をしても, お客の信用を得ると, 次第に大きな利益を得ることになる。

- (1) If you dislike (= avoid) small immediate gains, you won't be able to get large ones.

- (2) A temporary small loss leads to a large (= great) profit in the future.

= Even if we lose a temporary small profit, we would get large one in the future.

- (3) ① This proverb is a comforting (= soothing) word when we lose (much or little) profit.

- ② If you get credit by losing a small profit at first, you'll make larger and larger profit later on.

この諺に近い英語の諺に, "You must lose a fly to catch a trout." や "Sometimes the best gain is to lose." 等がある。

73. 宝の持ち腐れ

貴重な宝を持っていながら腐らせてしまうことから, 役に立つものや優れた能力を持ちながら, それを活用できずにいることの喩えである。

- (1) In spite of having a precious jewel, a person fails to polish it to beauty and it is ugly (= of no value).

- (2) This proverb is a metaphor in which though a man has something useful and outstanding (= prominent) ability, he won't put them to practi-

cal use.

- (3) This proverb is used when useful things and prominent ability come to nothing without making use of them.

この諺に近い英語の諺に, "Better spent than spared.", "Between treasure buried under the ground and wisdom kept hidden in the heart there is no difference." や "Goods are theirs that enjoy them." 等がある。

74. 立つ鳥後を濁さず

水鳥が飛び立った後は, 水が濁らないことに由来し, 去り際は人間的にも, 人格的にも, きちんとする教訓を示している。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that water doesn't become muddy after waterfowls jump up from the water.

- (2) This proverb is a metaphor in which those who leave the place where they are now staying should be sure to tidy up and not the place messy.

- (3) This proverb shows that it is important every human to have both a neat and clean character.

この諺に相当する英語の諺に, "Never cast dirt into that fountain of which thou hast sometime drunk," や "It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest." がある。

75. 立て板に水

立て掛けた板に水を流すと勢いよく流れることから, 弁舌がすらすらと上手であることの喩えであり, 話し上手な人に当てはまる。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that when we let water flow down the board resting against something, the water flows heavily (= energetically).

- (2) This proverb is a metaphor in which a man's fluent eloquence is excellent.

- (3) This proverb is true of a good talker.

この諺に相当する英語の諺に, "To speak (or talk) nine words at once." や "Your tongue runs nineteen to the dozen." がある。

76. 棚から牡丹餅

棚から突然牡丹餅が落ち, 下に寝ていた人の口に入ることから, 思いがけない幸運のめぐり合いの喩えである。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that a rice cake covered with bean paste falls from the shelf enters the mouth of a person who is sleeping below.
- (2) ① This proverb is a metaphor in which we meet with an unexpected happiness.
② This proverb means that an unexpected happiness rolls into us.
- (3) We use this proverb when things go well in spite of doing nothing.

この諺に相当する英語の諺に, "He thinks that roasted lark will fall into his mouth." がある。

77. 旅の恥は掻き捨て

旅先の見知らぬ土地では, 知人や隣人の目を気にすることはないことから, 日本人が周囲の目を気にして言う恥を示している。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that a man doesn't care about his acquaintances' and neighbors' attention to his behavior at a strange place while traveling.
- (2) ① A man is liable to do what he thinks is shameful (= disgraceful) from a feeling of liberation, and have a spree in spite of himself while traveling. So the feeling of shame that he was put to can't be helped.
② The shame incorrect on a trip remains where it occurred, so don't worry about it.
- (3) This proverb shows a kind of shame which Japanese care about is only that of our surrounding environment.

この諺と同じような気持の英語の諺に, "In sports and journey men are known." や "Once over the borders, one may do anything." がある。

78. 提灯に釣鐘

提灯と釣鐘は形が似ているが, 提灯は軽いし, 釣鐘は重くて, とても釣り合い取れないことから, 二つの物に極端な違いがある時とか縁談にもよく利用される。

- (1) A paper lantern is similar to a hanging temple bell in shape (= A paper lantern and a hanging temple bell are similar to each other in shape). The former is light, but the latter is heavy. This proverb comes from the fact that these don't balance each other at all.
- (2) This proverb mean that two things are very

different from each other, and bear no comparison with each other.

= You cannot compare apples and oranges.

- (3) ① This proverb is used in case of two things having a great difference.
= This proverb is used when there is a great difference between two things.
② This proverb is often used in arranging a marriage, especially in case of having a great difference between two families.

この諺と同じような気持の英語の諺に, "Can a mouse fall in love with a cat?" がある。

79. 出る杭は打たれる

出ている杭は頭をたたかれて, 引きこまらせることから, 出しゃばった行動は他人に憎まれてしまうことを戒めている。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that the stake which is jutting (= sticking) out its top (= head) is hammered and is driven into the soil.
- (2) ① This proverb means that one person who is superior to others is envied.
= This proverb means that one excellent person is envied by others.
② This proverb means that one man meddles in others' affair is hated and punished (= castigated) by them.
- (3) This proverb teaches that an uncalled-for interference is hated (= disliked; frowned on) by people.

この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺に, "Envy is the companion of honor." や "The highest branch is not the safest roost." がある。

80. 遠くて近きは男女の仲

男と女は赤の他人で結びつき, 男女の仲が遠く離れているかのように見えているのに, 意外に近いことから, 今まで他人同志が今日はもう夫婦という関係を示す。

- (1) Man and woman are perfect (= complete) strangers, but they will be bound for life.
= ---, but they will get married.
- (2) The relation between a man and a woman is different in character (= disposition; personality), so they look distant (= remote). But both will get married in an accidental relationship (= by a strange chance).

- (3) This proverb shows that the comrades who have been unrelated will (= might) become a couple today.

この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺には, "Man is fire, and woman tow; the devil comes and sets them in a blaze." がある。

81. 毒食わば皿まで

いったん毒を食べた以上, その毒のついた皿までなめまわすことから, いったん悪事したら, 悪の限りを尽くすという喩えであり, 悪事をした人間の衰れさを示している。

- (1) Once a man eats poison, he licks the dish the poison stuck to.
 (2) This proverb is a metaphor in which once a man does wrong, he runs the gamut of evil deeds.
 (3) ① This proverb shows a person's intense feeling of grief when he does wrong, he can't retreat (= fall back) from what he has done wrong, therefore he will try to he will try to live so long as he can live.

② This proverb shows the misery (= sorrow-ness) which a man who did wrong has.

この諺は, 「毒を食らわば皿まで」とも言われる。この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺に, "As well be hanged for a sheep as (for) a lamb." = "You may as well be hanged for a sheep as (for) a lamb." や "In for a penny, in for pound." がある。

82. 所変われば品変わる

土地が違っても同じ物でも名称や使われ方が違うように, その土地その土地には, それなりに特徴があることを示す。

- (1) ① As places are different, so the names of the things and ways of using them are different.

= Each place has things and their names and ways of using it differ.

② Objects differ from place to place their names and usage.

- (2) So many places, so many manners, and languages (= words).

= Each place has its own manners, customs, and languages (= words).

- (3) This proverb shows that each place has its own characteristic.

この諺に相当する英語の諺に, "So many countries, so many customs." や Every land has its laugh, and every corn has its chaff." がある。

83. 年が葉

年をとるに従って, 欠点がなくなることから, 年をとるにつれて言動を制御できることを示している。

- (1) As we get (= grow) older, we get (= become) free from defects (= blemishes).

= ---, our defects will disappear.

- (2) As we grow older, our wisdom deepens (= increases).

- (3) This proverb shows that we can control (= be careful about) how we speak and behave (= our speech and behavior).

全く同じ精神の英語の諺に, "Older and wiser." がある。

これと全く反対の精神の諺に, 「年は仇」がある。こちらの方は, "This proverb shows that we feel that our health gets worse (= declines) as we get older." とパラフレーズできる。これに相当する英語の諺に, "Old age is sickness of itself." とある。

84. 年寄りの冷や水

老人が若者に負けまいと冷や水を飲んだり浴びたりすることから, 年寄りには年相応のことをしていればよいと教えている。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that an old man drinks cold water and pour it over himself so that he won't be beaten by a young man.

- (2) An old man's vigorous behavior which isn't suitable for his old (= advanced) age and unsuited action leads to an excessive bad condition (= failure to act his age).

- (3) This proverb teaches us that an old man should (= ought to; may as well) do things suitable (= proper) for his old age.

この諺と同じような気持を示す英語の諺に, "An old sack asks (or craves) much patching." がある。

85. 鳶が鷹を生む

鳶と鷹は姿も大きさも似ているが, 鳶は鷹ほど鋭敏さがなく, また鳶が鷹を生むはずもなく, その意外性に由来するものである。普通の親から非凡な子が生まれることを示している。

- (1) A kite and a hawk are alike in form and size. (= A kite is similar to a hawk in form size.) The

former isn't as quick in movements as the latter. Naturally, a kite can't give birth to a hawk, but this proverb comes from the story that a kite gives birth to a hawk.

- (2) This proverb is a metaphor in which very ordinary parents give birth to excellent children extremely different from their parents.
- (3) This proverb shows that extra ordinary children are born from the ordinary parents.

この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺に, "A black hen lays a white egg." がある。この諺の反対の気持を示す「瓜の蔓には茄子はならぬ」についてのパラフレーズについては, 長野工業高等専門学校紀要第24号の p. 90の No. 20を参照。

86. 鳥なき里の蝙蝠

鳥の仲間でない蝙蝠は, 飛べるという類似点があるだけに, 鳥のいない世界では, 「自分が立派な鳥であるかのように」威張ることから, 優れた者や強い者のいない所で, つまらぬ者が幅を利かしてその場を取り仕切り威張っていることを示す。この諺は, 広い世界から見ると, 「井の蛙」のような人に当てはまる。

- (1) A bat which doesn't belong to the bird family only flies like a bird. But a bat can behave with a domineering attitude in a sphere (= world) without birds as if it were a fine bird.
- (2) where an excellent man isn't present, a worthless (= good-for-*n*thing) fellow has a grand (= supercilious; big) attitude.
- (3) ① This proverb shows that where an excellent or a strong man isn't present, a worthless (= good-for-nothing) fellow is liable to be influential (= have some sway) and have a big attitude.

- ② This proverb is true of a man who looks like a frog in the well doesn't know the ocean.

この諺と同じような気持の英語の諺に, "He that has one eye is a king among the blind." = "In the country of the blind the one-eyed man is king.", "The best man in the company when there is no more.", や "For want of a man a fool is set in the chair." 等がある。

87. 無くて七癖, あって四十八癖

一見, 癖の無さそうに見える人でも七つの癖があ

り, 多く有りそうな人には四十八もの癖があるということから, 人は皆癖を持っていることを示す諺である。

- (1) To all appearances, even a person who seems to have no habits has seven habits.
Or a person who seems to have many habits has at most forty-eight habits.
- (2) All men have habits some more, some less.
- (3) This proverb shows that all men have habits.

この諺と同じような気持を示す英語の諺に, "He is lifeless that is faultless." や "Every man has his faults." がある。

88. 情けは人のためならず

情けは人のためではなく, 自分のためであるから, つまり, 人には親切に, また, 情けをかければ, そのよい報いが自分に帰る。人には, いつでも親切にしてあげばよいと教えている。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that mercy (= kindness) is not for the other person but self.
- (2) If we have compassion and kindness on a person, they will be someday reward (= repaid) us.
- (3) This proverb teaches us that we have only to be kind to others.

この諺と同じような気持を示す英語の諺に, "Do good: you do it for yourself.", "A kindness is never lost.", "Charitable men lose nothing.", "He that pities another remembers himself.", や新約聖書のマタイの福音書の第5章第7節にある "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." に由来する "He shall find mercy that merciful is." 等がある。

89. 生酔本性変わらず

本当に酒に酔えば, 人間誰でも変わるのであるが, 本来の気持は変わるものではないことから, どんなに酔っても, 人は誰も前々からの性質は変わらないことを示す。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact: if (or when) we get drunk really, we will be different men. But our mind will not change in getting drunk.
- (2) Generally we won't change our original nature if we get drunk.
- (3) This proverb shows that no matter how much we get drunk, our original nature will not

change.

この諺に相当する英語の諺に, “What is in the heart of sober man is in the tongue (= mouth) of the drunkard.” や “What soberness conceals, drunkenness reveals.” 等がある。

90. 二階から目薬

二階から一階にいる人に目薬をさそうとするが、うまくできないことから、思うように効果がないことの喩えとして用いられる。この諺は、「天井から目薬」とも言われる。

- (1) This proverb comes from the fact that one person from upstairs tries to apply eye lotion (= medicine) to the other person's eyes downstairs, but the former can't do that well.
- (2) ① This proverb means that a person does things in a roundabout and irritating (= vexing) way.
② This proverb means that we can't have things our own way.
- (3) This proverb is used as a metaphor that an attempt we expect to work may not produce good results.

この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺に, “Far water does not put out near fire.” がある。

91. 憎まれっ子世に憚る

人から憎まれるような者が、かえって世間では、幅を利かしていることから、他人から憎まれても自分の意志を通して世間の中心人物になっていることを示す諺である。

- (1) This proverb comes from a story that a hated person has more influence with the world than a good person.
- (2) This proverb means that a hated human being has his full earning power, so he will succeed in life (= make his way in life; rise in the world).
- (3) This proverb shows that if a person is hated by others and carries out his or her will (= volition), he or she will become a leading (= central) figure in the world.

この諺と同じ気持の英語の諺に, “Ill weeds grow apace.”, “The devil's child the devil's luck.”, “The more knave the better luck.”, “The weeds overgrow the corn.” や “Ill vessels seldom miscarry.” 等がある。

あとがき

諺に魅せられるのは、諺が教訓的であるばかりでなく処世術とも言うべきことを教え、人の魂に訴え、その表現も誇張法や比喩的表現をとり、生活の知恵・多彩な人生経験を示しているからであろう。このような特色ある諺を、英語の学習の場を預かる一人として現代の人心風潮や軽挙妄動に走りがちな若人がそれらに毒されないための歯止めの一助になればと願い、日本語の諺のパラフレーズ(釈義・言い換え説明)を行い、諺学習と英語学習の両立効果を図ってみた。

これは諺学習の一方法に過ぎないが、英文構成を通して諺解釈を通じ、諺の精神・気持に触れられることを願って止まない。

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