

2018年度 第3年次編入学 学力検査
英 語

【1】下の文を読んで、問1～問4に答えなさい。

Emojis originated in Japan. Emoji literally means “picture-character” (*e-moji*). As you might expect, emojis are particularly popular among teenagers, where they can be used as a shorthand symbol to express an often fairly complex idea or emotion in a visually appealing way. But can emojis be viewed as a language?

Emojis are what linguists refer to as icons. Like the recycle bin on your computer desktop, an icon is a sign that, in some way, resembles the thing it refers to. The recycle bin icon on my computer is the place where I delete files. But in most cases, natural languages such as English or Japanese reject icons in favor of signs known as symbols, which are quite different from icons. The symbols (or words) that make up a spoken language are meaningful, not because they resemble the ideas that they point to, but rather, because their meaning comes from an unspoken agreement between speakers of a linguistic community: the symbol will point to a particular thing or idea, agreed upon by all. For instance, the same idea conveyed by the English word “cat” is represented in different ways across languages: “chat” in French, “neko” in Japanese, and “ikati” in Zulu.

So, from this perspective, emojis—icons—function in quite a different way from the symbols used in English. Nevertheless, spoken languages do make use of some iconic signs. Many English words for animal sounds, ranging from “buzz” to “moo,” are iconic: they resemble the sound produced by the animal they relate to, the bee and the cow respectively. And English is not unusual in this.

But language is not restricted to a particular way of expression. Since the 1960s, it has been recognized that sign languages, which make use of hand gestures, are fully functional languages, with the same levels of lexical and grammatical complexity as spoken languages. And as studies on sign language have increased, today we know that sign languages make extensive use of iconic reference, arguably far more than in spoken languages. This is a consequence of the way of expression: hand shapes and gestures can more readily express an idea or a thing, in the same way as with icons, than is possible in the spoken language. (1) This shows that the key characteristic of human language—that it mainly makes use of symbolic reference—may not be an absolute requirement for a communicative system. As emojis are basically iconic signs, ideally suited to the visual way of expression, they should not simply be excluded from being regarded as a form of language.

Perhaps a better way of characterizing a language, then, is in terms of the functions it fulfills. There are two very important ones: first, a language is used to convey ideas, and, second, it is used to influence others. In short, an important function of language is to enable us to perform actions that can even change aspects of the world. The use of emojis can be used to fulfill both functions: they can convey ideas, and can be used to influence the mental states, emotions, and even behaviors of others.

(Adapted from Vyvyan Evans, “Can emojis really be used to make terror threats?”, *The Guardian*, 2 Feb 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/feb/02/can-emojis-really-be-used-to-make-terror-threats>)

問1 第二段落の内容をもとに, icons と symbols の違いについて, 日本語で説明しなさい。

問2 英語の動詞 buzz が iconic であるというのはなぜですか。日本語で説明しなさい。

問3 下線部(1)を日本語に訳しなさい。

問4 最後の段落の内容をもとに, emoji と language の関係について, 筆者がどう考えているか, 日本語で説明しなさい。

【2】次の問1～問5の下線部の意味として最も近いものを、それぞれ選択肢①～④から一つ選び、番号を [] に記入しなさい。

問1 The discovery of the new medicine had a momentous effect on the treatment of this disease.

- ① 今の ② 重大な ③ そのうちに ④ つかの間の []

問2 We get restless at this time of the year.

- ① 落ち着かない ② 落ち着く
③ 疲れた ④ 休みがない []

問3 Finally, after two years of police investigation, the full story of the mass murder unfolded.

- ① 解決しなかった ② 終わった
③ 明らかになった ④ 分からなくなった []

問4 After two months in Italy, I got fed up with eating pasta every day.

- ① 満腹になった ② 楽しかった
③ 満足した ④ うんざりした []

問5 The economy was hit hard and the company laid off a lot of employees.

- ① 解雇した ② 雇用した
③ 配置換えをした ④ よい待遇を与えた []

問6 私のパソコンは君のと同じ型ではない。

My computer is not the same type as ().

- ① that of you ② you ③ your ④ yours []

問7 このホテルは1,000人の客が泊まれる。

This hotel accommodates 1,000 ().

- ① audience ② clients ③ guests ④ passengers []

問8 あの人が人を殺せるとは思えない。

I don't believe that person is () of murder.

- ① able ② capable ③ suitable ④ unable []

問9 彼は私が思っていたとおりに親切な人だ。

He is () man as I thought.

- ① as a kind ② as kind a
③ as kind as ④ kind as a []

問10 このウィスキーはあのウィスキーよりも味が劣る。

This whisky is () to that one in flavor.

- ① inferior ② less ③ superior ④ worse []

