Stage 3 Lesson 10 人間科学 310

2012お茶の水女子大・2010日本赤十字看護大・2009龍谷大・2008小樽商科大・2007東京外国語大・2006熊本県立大・2004公立はこだて未来大・2003上智大・2002三重大・2000近畿大

次の文章を読み，設問に答えなさい。【50点】 416 words B 09

(1) One definition of humor is: 'something that makes a person laugh or smile.' Like all straightforward definitions, exceptions can be found. It's possible to claim that something is humorous, even though no one laughed at the time — and it can often happen that people laugh, but someone can claim, 'That's not funny.' Smiling and laughter can also be a sign of fear or embarrassment. (2) Despite these objections, the *response* is an important factor in counting something as humor. Examining the language can then help to explain *why* people laugh.

People laugh (3) in company. Research has shown that when people are alone they rarely laugh, even though the same example of humor makes them do so in a room full of people. There is a strong social aspect to the way people respond to humor. If you watch your favorite comedy in the presence of people who remain straight-faced, it can stop you finding it so funny. Because it's important to sense other people responding to humor, 'canned laughter'* is used for television or radio comedy. The same joke can work brilliantly in one context and die in another, as stand-up comedians* find, traveling from one venue to another. Like other aspects of language, humor is a way in which people show their allegiance* to a group. (4) If someone signals their intention to say something humorous, the listeners are immediately ready to laugh. People often laugh when given this sort of cue, regardless of whether they even got the joke.

The opposite happens if the listeners want to distance themselves from the speaker. Once you feel that someone is old-fashioned, silly or racist, for example, you are unlikely to laugh. The social context is important for the creation and reception of humor. It is hard for humor to cross boundaries of time and social groups — humor becomes outdated as quickly as fashion, and is often dependent on particular cultures and attitudes. There are other ways in which the context is important. The phrase 'There's a time and a place for everything' is true of humor. It is not felt to be appropriate in certain situations, for example, if it seems trivial or is a distraction* from serious matters. It's also difficult to take humor 'cold.' (5) Few people laugh first thing in the morning, so broadcast comedy programs are scheduled for the relaxing parts of the day. Even when a comedy event happens in the evening, warm-up artists* are often used to get audiences in (6) the right mood.

注 **canned laughter** 効果音用に録音された笑い声 **stand-up comedians** 一人で滑稽なおしゃべりをするコメディアン **allegiance** 忠誠 **distraction** 注意を乱すもの **warm-up artists** 軽い余興を行う芸人

1 下線部(1)で紹介されている「ユーモア」の定義を日本語で説明しなさい。 【5点】

2 下線部(2)を日本語に直しなさい。* 【6点】

3 下線部(3) in company に最も近い意味を表すものを，(a)～(d)の中から１つ選びなさい。 【3点】

(a) in a business organization (b) in a group of people
(c) with guests in your house (d) when they are alone

4 下線部(4)が述べている内容について，なぜそうなるのか，本文に即して日本語で説明しなさい。 【6点】

5 下線部(5)を日本語に直しなさい。* 【6点】

6 下線部(6)はどういう状態なのか，15字以内の日本語で説明しなさい。 【5点】

15

7 本文の内容と一致するものには○を，一致しないものには×をつけなさい。 【2点×7＝14点】

(a) When people are with their friends, they rarely laugh.
(b) The context is important for the appreciation of humor.
(c) It is not common for people to show their loyalty to a group through humor.
(d) When someone in a group signals their intention to tell a joke, the listeners are ready to laugh.
(e) If the listeners do not like the speaker of the joke, they are likely to laugh.
(f) Humor does not change as quickly as fashion.
(g) If a comedy event happens in the morning, people will always laugh.

8 本文のタイトルとして最も適切なものを，(a)～(d)の中から１つ選びなさい。 【5点】

(a) Broadcast Comedy Programs (b) How is Humor Created?
(c) The History of Humor (d) When does Laughter Occur?

OPTIONAL 本文の内容を100字以内の日本語で要約してみよう。