Lesson 10
Different communication styles

日米のコミュニケーションスタイルの違いから、筆者が経験した授業での苦労と、それをどのように克服しようとしたかが描かれています。コミュニケーションを上手くとるためには単に言葉を学ぶだけでは不十分なようです。どのような心構えを持つべきか考えてみましょう。
We were supposed to do a great amount of reading and were often required to write short essays for classes in our university. I had to study very hard sometimes without getting enough sleep. Reading or writing was OK for me as long as I had time. However, discussion was much more difficult. Because of insufficient proficiency in speaking and listening, I always just had to watch how passionately other students discussed the readings. I felt like a fish out of water. It was as if I had not even been in the class. I decided to do something. I prepared what I would have to say, rehearsing the ideas many times, and anticipating other students' opinions so that I could argue against them. This strategy worked relatively well.

However, that was not enough. In Japanese-style conversation we just have to wait for our turn to speak, which is often compared to bowling. When our turn comes we pick up a ball, move to the starting line and throw the ball, while others are silently and politely watching. In American-style conversation, however, the ball can be taken by somebody to throw it instead of you. I thought it was like rugby football. You can be tackled and lose the ball, and then somebody else begins to run with it to score. While I was talking, others often interrupted me with their arguments. While I was waiting my turn, somebody often took it before I could begin. It took me awhile to be accustomed to this conversational style, but once I did, I began to learn the art of American-style communication. It became less and less frustrating. I did not regard it as impolite or rude any more. Rather, I gradually began to feel that it was more exciting. Carrying on different styles of communication may be very difficult, but it is crucial to be understood and to understand others when you are in a different culture. We have to learn a lot beyond language when studying abroad.

(370 words)
as if ~

暗記用例文 16・17

She behaves as if she were a princess.
「彼女はまるでお姫様であるかのようにふるまう」

Bill talked as if he had experienced skydiving.
「ビルはまるでスカイダイビングを経験したかのように話した」

Comprehension

次の問いに英語で答えなさい。

(1) What made the author sleep less?

(2) Why did he feel as if he had not even been in the class?

(3) What did he do to compensate for his insufficient speaking ability in English?

(4) Why is the Japanese-style conversation compared to bowling?

(5) What is important to be understood by others and to understand others in a different culture?

Practice and Writing

1. 暗記用例文を暗記し、(1)・(2)の空欄には英文を入れ完成させ、(3)～(5)は英文に直し、read and look upを行なさい。

(1) I feel ( ) if I achieved something worthwhile.

(2) Yoko looked as ( ) she ( ) ( ) a ghost.
(3)「君はまるで何でも知っているように話すね」

(4)「それはまるで彼は「僕はいつも君を愛しているから心配しないで」と言っていようであった」

(5)「彼女はまるでフランスにいたかのようにフランス語を話した」

2. as if〜を用いて自分のこと、あるいは身の回りの出来事等に関連のある英文を2つ作りなさい。

3. 次に述べられているのは Yoko についての情報です。その情報をもとに、Yoko を紹介する英文を書いてください。

情報：(1) 大学で英文学（English Literature）を専攻（専攻する：major in）
(2) 文学の講義を受けているとき夢の世界にいるように感じた。
(3) 原書とは別に日本語訳（Japanese translation）も読んだが、それはまるで違う作品（work）を読んでいるように思えた。
(4) 本を読めば読むほど英文学を愛するようになった。