

【英語読解問題】

Read the following passage and answer the questions.

With the rapid growth of the internet and international travel, we are connecting with people from all over the world more than ever before. Have you ever experienced a misunderstanding when talking with someone from a different culture? Even if you both speak English fluently, differences in communication styles can lead to confusion. Anthropologist Edward T. Hall divided these styles into two main categories: low-context cultures and high-context cultures. Understanding this concept is crucial for success in today's globalized society.

Low-context cultures, such as those in the United States, Germany, and Scandinavian countries, rely heavily on explicit verbal messages. Historically, these countries have had diverse populations with various backgrounds, so people could not always rely on shared assumptions. Therefore, they value directness and clarity. They believe that good communication is about using precise language to say exactly what you mean. For instance, a business contract in a low-context culture will spell out every single detail to prevent any future confusion. The primary responsibility for the success of communication lies with the speaker, who must be clear and logical.

(A), high-context cultures, including those in Japan, China, and many Middle Eastern countries, rely more on non-verbal cues and the shared understanding between people. These cultures often have a long, shared history and a more homogeneous population. In these environments, much of the meaning is conveyed not through words, but through surrounding circumstances, such as the speaker's tone of voice, facial expressions, and even the seating arrangement. (1) Silence, for example, in a high-context meeting does not necessarily mean a lack of understanding or disagreement; it might indicate respect, deep thought, or polite disagreement. People in these cultures often value group harmony over individual opinions and may avoid saying "no" directly to prevent causing discomfort.

When people from these two different types of cultures interact, misunderstandings frequently occur. Imagine an American manager giving a presentation to a Japanese team. The American might be very direct and expect immediate, clear feedback. The Japanese team, however, might nod politely to show they are listening, but remain silent because they want to discuss the matter as a group later. (2) The American manager might misinterpret this silence as full agreement or, conversely, a complete lack of interest.

Learning about these distinct communication styles is essential for successful cross-cultural interactions. For low-context speakers, learning to read "between the lines" in high-context situations is necessary. Conversely, high-context speakers should try to express their ideas and concerns more directly when interacting in a low-context environment. (3) By understanding and adapting to these differences, we (minimize / misunderstandings / can / cross-cultural / effectively / and / build / stronger / relationships). (430 語程度)

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【設問】

(1) 下線部(1)を、文脈に沿って自然な日本語に訳しなさい。

(2) 空所 (A) に入る最も適切な語句を、次のア～エの中から選びなさい。

ア. Therefore イ. For example ウ. In addition エ. On the other hand

(3) 第4段落の下線部(2)のようにアメリカ人マネージャーが誤解してしまう理由として、本文の内容と最も合うものを次のア～エの中から選びなさい。

ア. 日本人チームが、英語を完全に理解できていない事実を隠そうとしていたから。

イ. 低コンテクスト文化の人は、沈黙を「グループの調和を乱す行為」だとみなす傾向があるから。

ウ. 日本人チームは後でグループとして話し合いたくて沈黙していたが、アメリカ人は即座の明確な反応を期待していたから。

エ. アメリカ人マネージャーのプレゼンテーションに詳細な契約内容が含まれておらず、不信感を抱かれたから。

(4) 下線部(3)のカッコ内の語を、文意が通るように正しく並べ替えなさい。

(5) 本文の内容と一致するものを、次のア～エの中から選びなさい。

ア. 低コンテクスト文化では、歴史的に多様な背景を持つ人々が暮らしてきたため、明確な言葉に頼る必要があった。

イ. 高コンテクスト文化では、コミュニケーションがうまくいかない責任は主に「話し手」にあると考えられている。

ウ. 高コンテクスト文化の人は、相手に不快感を与えないようにするため、どんな時でも自分の意見を直接的に伝える。

エ. 異文化コミュニケーションを成功させるため、低コンテクスト文化の人は高コンテクスト文化のやり方に完全に合わせるべきである。