

Expert Competence Test

フィクション分野 傾向と対策

昨年12月7日に出题されました実際の問題を例に、その解法を学びましょう。

問題例 1. 以下の下線部分の英文を日本語に翻訳しなさい。

Ding dong.

Martin answered the door. There stood Laila Moffatt holding out a big, lumpy present. It was shiny with tape and wore a frilly, lopsided bow.

For once, Laila was wearing a dress. It was bubblegum pink. But something else was different. Martin ignored her wide grin and stared hard.

It was her hair!

Martin knew all about Laila's hair. She sat right in front of him at school. Her messy orange curls and constant hand-raising blocked his view of the blackboard. But today her hair was combed and held down with dragonfly barrettes.

"Happy birthday!" said Laila.

She turned to wave good-bye as her mom beep-beeped, then drive away.

"You're here for my birthday party?" Martin asked. He couldn't believe it.

"Am I early?"

"No, Laila," said Martin dryly. "You're late. My party was yesterday."

"Yesterday? But the invitation said today. I think." Laila's smile faded.

"No," corrected Martin. "Yesterday. It said yesterday. I invited the whole class, and they all came yesterday."

Laila felt her pockets for the invitation. When she came up empty-handed, she whirled around. But her mom was long gone. Laila slowly turned back to face Martin. Then she reached for her left foot and pulled it up behind her.

Laila always did that when she was nervous. In that fancy dress of hers, she suddenly reminded Martin of a type of pink bird that stood around on one leg. He tried to remember its name, but his thoughts were interrupted.

"So I missed your party?"

"Yes," said Martin, arms crossed. "You did."

[解答にあたって]

フィクションの分野では大きな意味を持ち、他の分野の文書ではほとんど見られない表現要素は何だと思いませんか？ それは、「会話」と「アクション」と「心理描写」です。それらの要素を生き生きと訳出できるかどうか、フィクション翻訳を成功させるポイントだと思います。

この課題では、題材に児童文学を選び、物語の発端となる場面を翻訳していただきました。まずは一読して、主人公ふたりの年齢層を読み取り、そこから対象となる読者層を判断して、ふさわしい文体を決める必要があります。翻訳例は「ですます調」になっていますが、子供らしいくだけた表現ならば「で