

平成23年度入学試験問題(後期)

英 語

注 意

1. 合図があるまで表紙をあけないこと。
2. 受験票は机に出しておくこと。

I 下線部を和訳せよ。

Call it matter over mind: a new study shows that objects you touch may influence the way you think and behave.

Our sense of touch is essential to the understanding of our environment. From infancy, we begin feeling our way around, exploring and interpreting our surroundings through touch — learning to equate a mother’s warm hand, for instance, with a sense of care. So the theory goes that our early method of gathering information forms a “mental scaffold” upon which we build conceptual knowledge in adulthood. In other words, experiences of touch may influence experiences of the mind, including the way we make sense of the world around us. ⁽¹⁾ (Which helps explain such descriptive idioms as “having a rough day” and “taking a hard line,” as the study’s authors point out.)

Now, in a series of experiments led by Joshua Ackerman at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), researchers set out to test how people’s tactile sensibilities affect their social judgments and decisions — even when the physical input has nothing to do with the matter at hand. The study found that a person’s exposure to objects of different weight, texture and hardness sends unconscious but powerful cues to the brain. ⁽²⁾

In the first experiment, researchers asked 54 passers-by to evaluate a job candidate by reviewing a résumé* — which was presented on either a light or heavy clipboard. Compared with people given the light boards, participants who held the heavy clipboards rated the candidate as better qualified overall and, specifically, as having more serious interest in the position (appreciating the “gravity of the situation,” perhaps). People holding heavy clipboards also rated the accuracy of their own judgments to be more important.

In another study, 64 participants were tasked with completing a five-piece puzzle — one had pieces covered in rough sandpaper, while the other puzzle was smooth. Participants were then asked to read a description of a social interaction and to evaluate its “social coordination quality” — that is, whether it seemed friendly versus adversarial or cooperative versus competitive. Overall, people who completed the rough puzzle tended to view the interaction as being difficult and harsh — qualities that are all associated with roughness. “Touch remains perhaps the most underappreciated sense in behavioral research,” said co-author Christopher Nocera. “Our work suggests that greetings involving touch, such as handshakes and cheek kisses, may in fact have critical influences on our social interactions, in an unconscious fashion.”

The researchers’ two final experiments assessed the effect of exposure to something hard. In the first study, people were given either a hard block of wood or a soft piece of blanket to examine, then asked to evaluate a social interaction (as in the puzzle study), this time specifically judging the personality of one of the two people involved. Those given the hard block of wood were more likely than participants who held the blanket to perceive the target person as rigid and unyielding. ⁽³⁾

The last experiment investigated whether this “haptic** mindset” could be triggered through passive rather than active touch — so, instead of giving people something to hold, researchers had them sit in either a hard wooden seat or a plush, cushioned chair. Participants were then asked to imagine themselves shopping for a car and negotiating down the sticker price: as you would expect, compared with people perched on cushions, those sitting on wooden seats drove a much harder bargain. “It is behavioral priming*** through the seat of the pants,” said co-author John Bargh of Yale University. The current work takes off on a previous study by Bargh, which found that holding a hot cup of coffee encouraged people to judge others as warm and caring, while holding a cold pack made them behave less generously. “First impressions are liable to be influenced by one’s tactile environment,” ⁽⁴⁾ the authors write, suggesting that manipulation of touch could be useful for anyone with an interest in interpersonal evaluations. “Perhaps the use of such ‘tactile tactics’ will represent the next advance in social influence and communication.”

(出典：Time, June 24, 2010. 一部変更あり)

*résumé : a short written description of your education and your previous jobs that you send to an employer when you are looking for a new job

**haptic : relating to the sense of touch

***priming : the unconscious influence of prior experiences

II 下線部を和訳せよ。

A study has proved for the first time that groups of aggressive chimpanzees invade the territory of their neighbors in order to acquire more resources or mates.

Gangs of chimpanzees carry out violent attacks on individuals from rival groups in order to secure more resources or mates, a 10-year study in Uganda has found. During that time scientists recorded 18 attacks and found signs of three others carried out by a large, male-dominated community of chimpanzees at Ngogo in Kibale National Park.

In summer last year, the aggressor chimpanzees finally began to occupy the area where two-thirds of their attacks had occurred, expanding their territory by more than a fifth. According to the scientists, led by John Mitani, a primate behavioral ecologist at the University of Michigan, the chimps then travelled, socialized and ate in the new territory. “When they started to move into this area, it didn’t take much time to realize that they had killed a lot of other chimpanzees there,” said Mitani. “Our observations help to resolve long-standing questions about the function of lethal intergroup aggression in chimpanzees.”

Anthropologists* have long suspected that chimpanzees, humans’ closest living relatives, kill neighbors for land, but they have lacked any hard evidence until now. Sylvia Amsler, an anthropologist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a member of the research team, said that the attacks usually occurred when the chimpanzees were on routine boundary patrols in neighboring territory. In one attack that she witnessed, 27 adult and adolescent males and one adult female had been on patrol outside their territory for more than two hours when they surprised a small group of females from a nearby community. “Almost immediately upon making contact, the adult males in the patrol party began attacking the unknown females, two of whom were carrying infants,” she said. The Ngogo party quickly killed one of the infants and fought for 30 minutes to wrest the other from its mother, but were unsuccessful. After an hour-long break, during which time they held the female and her infant captive, they carried on with their attack. “Though they were never successful in grabbing the infant from its mother, the infant was obviously very badly injured, and we don’t believe it could have survived,” said Amsler.

Despite their decade of observations, the researchers said they were still not sure if the objective of the attacks had been more resources or more mates. Mitani warns against using the research to draw conclusions about warfare among humans, instead arguing that his study provides insights into primate teamwork. “Warfare in the human sense occurs for lots of different reasons. I’m just not convinced we’re talking about the same thing.” He added: “What we’ve done in our research is to turn the issue on its head by suggesting our results might provide some insight into why we as a species are so unusually cooperative.” The lethal intergroup aggression that we have witnessed is cooperative in nature, insofar as it involves coalitions of males attacking others. In the process, our chimpanzees have acquired more land and resources that are then redistributed to others in the group.”

（出典：The Guardian Weekly, June 21, 2010. 一部変更あり）

* anthropology : the scientific study of people, their societies, cultures, etc.

III 下線部を英訳せよ。

物理学の冷たい目で見れば、音楽はたんに音の集合にすぎないが、人間の精神が何らかの形でこれらの音に意味合いを与えて⁽¹⁾いる。作曲であれ、演奏であれ、あるいは単に聴くだけであれ、我々のほとんどが音楽活動をする理由は、音楽が我々の中に深い感情を呼び起こすことができるからである。もし仮に、だれか音楽のない文明から来た人が、なぜ我々の社会に音楽が存在するの⁽²⁾かと聞いたとしたら、我々はきっと音楽の持つこの力を挙げるであろう。⁽³⁾

英語 (後 期)

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受験 番 号

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