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Uni-edit English Writing Tip: Parallel Structures Part A – What are they? Uni-edit 英作文のヒント:並列構造 (パート A) – 並列構造とは何か?

難易度:中級

並列構造 (パートA) - 並列構造とは何か?

今回から5回にわたって、並列構造の使い方を取り上げます。

Uni-edit の校正担当者が英語原稿を校正する際、よく行わなければならないのが、文を正しい並列構造へと手直しすることです。並列構造を正しく用いることによって、文章が読みやすくなり、英語を母国語をする人にとってもそうでない人にとっても、文意が理解されやすくなります。

「並列」とは、同じ方向を向いているということです。二本の道路が同じ向きにのびていれば、それらは並列しています。言語においては、並列構造とは、単語が同じ形式に従って組み立てられていることを意味します。言語において並列構造を用いることは、明晰な文章を書く上で極めて重要です。並列構造を用いて文章を書くということは、二つ以上の表現の内容・機能が似通っているのであれば、それらは外見上も似通っていなければならない、ということです。

形式が似通っていることで、読者はより簡単に内容・機能上の類似を見て取ることができます。一つの文の中では、そこに現れるすべてのアイテム、フレーズないし節が並列していなければなりません。

(不明瞭) The new regulations could cause problems for both the winners and for those who lose. (明瞭) The new regulations could cause problems for both winners and losers.

(訳:新しいルールは、勝者・敗者双方に問題を引き起こしかねない。)

説明:上の誤りの文例では、「both」の後に「the winners (勝者)」と「those who lose (敗れた者)」が続いています。しかしこの二つのフレーズは異なった構造を持っており、これによって読み手は混乱させられます。正解文では、「winners」と「losers (敗者)」は同じ構造を持っており、これによってぐっと読みやすくなっています。

<u>次の例を見てみましょう:</u>

(不明瞭) Formerly, science was taught by the textbook method, while now the laboratory method is employed.

(明瞭) Formerly, science was taught by the textbook method; now it is taught by the laboratory

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method.

(訳:科学はかつては教科書方式で教えられたが、今では実験室方式で教えられている。)

説明:上の間違いの例文は、書き手の決断力の欠如ないし躊躇を感じさせます。一つの表現を選んでおきながら、それを最後まで使い通せない、あるいはそうすることを恐れているように思えるのです。正しい例文からは、書き手が文をどのように組み立てるかについて決断を下していることが伺えます。ここで繰り返されいてるのは「・・・方式で」という構造です。反復的ではありますが、ここでは並列構造によって文がより理解しやすくなっています。

別の例を見てみましょう:

- (誤) The doctor recommended a daily intake of 5 mg of antibiotic, changing the diet plan, and exercising.
- (正) The doctor recommended a daily intake of 5 mg of antibiotic, a change in diet, and regular exercise.

(訳:医者は毎日5ミリグラムの抗生物質、食生活の変更、そして定期的な運動を勧めた。)

(不明瞭) The eruption was slow, continued sporadically, and ended in a catastrophe.

(明瞭) The eruption began slowly, continued sporadically, and ended catastrophically.

(訳:噴火はゆっくりと始まり、散発的に続き、そして最後には大惨事に至った。)

説明:不正確な文では、異なった構造が用いられいてるため、支離滅裂な印象を受けます。正解文は、一貫して副詞(slowly, sporadically, catastrophically)を反復的に用いているため、理解を容易にしています。またこれによって、文の流れが良くなっています。

もう一つの例です:

- (誤) My professor has wit, charm, and she has an extremely pleasant personality.
- (正) My professor has wit, charm, and a pleasing personality.
- (訳:私の先生は機知と魅力に富んでいて、かつとても感じが良い人だ。)

並列構造の利点

並列構造は、込み入った記述や比較表現を読みやすくするためにとりわけ有用です。例えば、岩石に含まれる様々なミネラルの特徴(形態分布、粒度、晶癖など)を同じ順番で記述し、並列構造を用いることによって、これらの特徴を示す用語を繰り返さずにミネラルについて説明できるようになります。並列構造によって、読み手は情報をより容易に把握することができるようになります。また、特に学術論文で結果を述べるときなど、連続するパラグラフを並列に組み立てることも効果的でしょう。

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Uni-edit English Writing Tip: Parallel Structures Part A – What are they?

Level of difficulty: Intermediate

Parallel Structures Part A – What are they?

This is a five part series about using parallel structures.

While editing English manuscripts, Uni-edit editors often need to correct sentences for correct usage of parallel structures. Correct use of parallel structures makes the writing easier to read and easier to understand for native-speakers of English and for non-native speakers of English.

The word 'parallel' means in the same direction. Two roads are parallel if they run in the same direction. In language, a parallel structure means the words are assembled using the same form. In language, using parallel structures is critical for clear writing. To write using parallel structures means that expressions of similar content and function should be outwardly similar.

The similarity of form enables the reader to recognize more readily the similarity of content and function. All items, phrases, or clauses used in a sentence should be parallel.

Incorrect: The new regulations could cause problems for both the winners and for those who lose. English corrected: The new regulations could cause problems for both winners and losers.

Explanation: In the incorrect sentence, the items after 'both' are 'the winners' and 'those who lose'; but, these phrases have different structures. This confuses the reader. In the correct sentence, 'winners' and 'losers' have the same structure. This is much easier to read.

Here is another example:

Incorrect: Formerly, science was taught by the textbook method, while now the laboratory method is employed.

English corrected: Formerly, science was taught by the textbook method; now it is taught by the laboratory method.

Explanation: The incorrect sentence gives the impression that the writer is undecided or timid; he seems unable or afraid to choose one form of expression and hold to it. The correct sentence shows that the writer made a choice on how to structure the sentence. The repeated structure is 'the...method'. Although repetitive, the parallel structure makes the sentence easier to understand. Here is another example:

Incorrect: The doctor recommended a daily intake of 5 mg of antibiotic, changing the diet plan, and exercising.

English corrected: The doctor recommended a daily intake of 5 mg of antibiotic, a change in diet, and regular exercise.

And here is another example:

Incorrect: The eruption was slow, continued sporadically, and ended in a catastrophe.

English corrected: The eruption began slowly, continued sporadically, and ended catastrophically.

Explanation: The incorrect sentence seems disjointed as different structures are used. In the correct sentence, the consistent and repetitive use of adverbs (that is, slowly, sporadically, catastrophically) makes it much easier to understand. This also aids the flow of the sentence.

Here is another example:

Incorrect: My professor has wit, charm, and she has an extremely pleasant personality.

English corrected: My professor has wit, charm, and a pleasing personality.

How are parallel structures useful?

Parallel structure is especially useful for making detailed descriptions and comparisons more readable. For example, if the different minerals in a rock are always described with their features (such as modal abundance, grain size, and habit) in the same order, then parallel structures can be used to describe the features of each rock without repeating the same names for each feature. This allows readers to assimilate the information more easily. It may be helpful to construct successive paragraphs in parallel, especially when discussing results in a research paper.

END OF TIP