



James Molloy - MIRA Newsletter #2



JIMのみしまものがたり②

～スピーチコンテストの審査をして感じたこと～

Hello everyone,

As is often said, time certainly does fly. For your interest, this phrase has its roots in the Latin proverb, "Tempus fugit", which translates as time (tempus) and flees (fugit). Those familiar with the English word 'fugitive' may see the resemblance.

Many things have happened since Issue 90 was published, namely, Mishima hosted a series of wonderful Halloween events, including a parade that both my children loved!

The main event for me was the MIRA Speech Contest that took place on October 19th. Thank you very much to MIRA for allowing me to be one of the judges, and I look forward to next year as well.

Congratulations to all of the participants and thank you for your passion and energy. You are indeed all winners. As a judge, it was very difficult to decide the winners, but in the end, we were able to make our selection. I hope that this year's experience will be the motivation for everyone to do even better next year!

I was truly impressed at the sheer amount of interest from the participants, and it was clear that everyone had spent a lot of time preparing for day. In particular, I was impressed with the high quality of the content and close attention paid to delivering a speech with good English pronunciation.

日本語訳

みなさんこんにちは。

毎年年末が近づくと“もう今年も終わりか。”と思いますね。

時間がたつのが早いことを、英語では“Time flies.”と言いますが、これはラテン語の“Tempus(Time) fugit(flees)”がルーツになっています。

私も子供たちと参加し大いに盛り上がったハロウィンパレード等、この時期三島はイベントが盛りだくさんですが、その中でも今日は、私も審査員として参加させていただいた「第51回姉妹都市親善英語スピーチコンテスト」についてお話ししたいと思います。

今回初めてこのコンテストの審査員を務め、まずみなさんの英語への関心の高さに驚きました。多くの学生が参加し、全員がこの日のために時間をかけて準備してきたことがよくわかりました。特に、内容のレベルの高さと細部まで気を配られたスピーチの運び方には非常に感銘を受け、受賞者を決めるのは本当に難しい決断でした。

私は仕事でもスピーチ指導をしています。私からみなさんに一つアドバイスができるとしたら、それは「聞き手との関わり方」についてです。

短いスピーチの間に、聞き手と良い関係を築き、自分に話しているんだと感じてもらいましょう。そのために有効な方法の一つが、アイコンタクトです。会場の“みんな”ではなく、あなたの前にいる“一人一人”に、目を見て、あなたのストーリーを伝えてください。このシンプルなテクニックがあなたのスピーチをより素晴らしいものにします。

最後に、参加者のみなさんが次回に向けて努力をつづけてくれること、そしてこのスピーチコンテストでの経験を活かして今後活躍してくれることを期待しています。

「コミュニケーションで最も大切なことは、相手が語らない部分をきくことである」—ピーター・ドラッカー

Part of my work is helping people prepare to make the best speech possible and one piece of advice I would like to share is not *directly* connected to the pronunciation or content of your speech. I would like to encourage presenters to think about and improve how you interact with your audience. As a judge, and member of the audience, I want you to speak directly to me. I want to encourage you to engage more personally with your audience, and tell them your story. One simple way to make your audience feel closer to you, and build a connection is by making strong eye contact with *everyone* present. One goal of your next presentation is to not speak to 'an audience', instead, speak directly to 'individuals' by making close eye contact with them and speaking directly to them. This one simple technique will transform your speech from 'good' to 'great' in the eyes of both the judges, and your audience.

In closing, I hope all of the participants will keep up their hard work and efforts, as the skills acquired throughout the preparation for the Speech Contest will be key to your future success, both personally and professionally, and in the wise words of Peter Druker, "The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn't said."