

受験番号：_____氏名：_____

I. 次の文章を **400 字程度**の日本語に要約しなさい。

In the absolute sense, a language without complicated rules for politeness and indirect styles of expression should be easier to learn. Let's look at an example. A British lecturer says, 'Are you sure the baby will be all right in here?' to a Swedish student who has brought her baby along to a lecture. The student replies 'Sure, no problem,' but the lecturer probably intended the question as a request for the student to leave the room with the baby. This sort of misunderstanding is not uncommon when people from different cultures communicate and can be explained by different rules of usage. An easy language ought to be one with few rules for indirectness and a simple system for expressing politeness. In most of Europe, there are pronouns of power and solidarity (*du-Sie* in German, *tu-vous* in French and *ty-vy* in Russian). Nowadays, neither English nor Swedish makes use of this distinction. Thus, when it comes to form of address, English is simpler than either German or French. On the other hand, there might be other ways to signal social distance which are more subtle and, therefore, just as hard to learn, for example, choosing between *Johnnie*, *John*, *Smith*, *Mr Smith* and so on. It is difficult to say if there really are languages that are easier than others with respect to rules of usage. Natural languages are not only used to transfer information from one individual to another but also to indicate and to preserve social distinctions. And there are social distinctions in all societies. However, a language like Esperanto, which was constructed specifically to simplify communication between language groups, is in all likelihood easier than others in this particular respect.

For a language learner, the writing system and the orthography (rules for spelling) are major obstacles. Europeans have to spend a lot of time learning how to use the Arabic, Chinese or Japanese writing systems. These difficulties are not considered here, and the main argument for this is that the writing system and the spelling can be considered as external to the language. It is, in principle, possible to switch from one writing system to another without changing anything in the language structure. Turkish, for example, was written in the Arabic script before 1928. Since then it has been written in the Latin alphabet. This, of course, makes it much easier for anyone accustomed to the Latin alphabet. As far as spelling is concerned, an orthography following the principle that there should be a one-to-one correspondence between sounds and letters is simpler than one not meeting this condition. European languages with a written language history going back a thousand years or more have more complicated orthographies than languages which have only recently been reduced to writing. In making a new orthography, one would not invent mute letters, for example.

【解答欄】

II. 大学院における研究計画を、**400words 程度**の英語で書きなさい。