

<試験官に関して>

NS: White, Male, 50-60, average weight, long face, high forehead, sedate and spoke not so loud but easy to listen, American?.

TG: Male 30-40, robust, round face, butch hair cut, dark-skinned, eagle-eye, deep voice, Kyushu-ite?

GO: None

<面接試験の実際>

	[Going back to the interviewee's seat after coming to the door to call me into the room, the TG said]
TG	Good afternoon, please put your bag here and have a seat.
I	Thank you.
TG	Will you please tell me your name?
I	My name is T. T.
TG	Where do you live?
I	I live in O. ward, in Tokyo.
NS	Ok. Now I will ask you some questions about Japan. First, tell me about the seasons in Japan.
I	We have four seasons, spring, summer, autumn and winter. In Honshu, Kyusyu (and) Shikoku, southern islands of Japan, (there is) the rainy season.
NS	What is spring in Japan like?
I	It is relatively mild (season). Cherry blossoms bloom from south to north [with weaving the hands upwards]
NS	I see, good. Tell me about Sumo.
I	It is said to be (the) Japan's national sport.
NS	What ranks are there for sumo wrestlers?
I	Grand champion: Yokozuna; Junior Ground Champion (Champion): Ozeki... yes, Junior Ground Champion: Ozeki; and Junior Champion, Sekiwake.
NS	[Skimming documents] It's ok, good. How many times I can watch (grand) sumo tournaments in a year.
I	I'm not so sure about the correct number, but If you're in Tokyo...
NS	It's ok, please tell me.
I	I guess,(there are) three or four times.
NS	I see. Are there any other cities (where) Sumo tournaments are held?
I	Yes (there are). In Fukuoka, Nagoya ... and Osaka.
NS	Ok. Good. (Will you please) tell me about Giri?

I	It's a social behavior we have to develop to get along with others: colleagues, neighbors or relatives in Japan. It may sound odd, but we have many Japanese gangster movies, or film noir. In the movies, (there were) many heroes who were (tone) in between (the) social behavior: giri and their personal emotions or feelings: ninjo.
NS	[Nodding] If I, someday, go sightseeing in Tokyo, where should I go?
I	In Tokyo?
NS	Yes.
I	If you're interested in traditional Japan, I'd recommend Asakusa. You can see many temples and shrines. If you're interested in modern Japan, I'd bring you to Akihabara to buy state of the art digital equipment.
NS	I see. Tell me about cram schools... cram schools. Why are there so many cram schools in Japan?
I	Cram school? I see. Some colleges and few, no, a few high schools in Japan impose very difficult examination (examinations) to the candidates (examinees). Unfortunately, Japan's public education system cannot come up with (keep up with) the level. So, parents who're lucrative enough force their children to go to the cram schools.
NS	Then, what percentages of students go to cram schools today?
I	I'm not so sure about the correct number, but...
NS	It's ok. What do you think of? 45 to 50%?
I	Unfortunately, recessions after 2000 (since 1990s) hit very hard Japanese household budget (budgets). So, (I guess) 45 % at most.
TG	Ok. This is the end of questions. Thank you.
I	Thank you very much.
I	[At the door] Thank you again. Good bye.
TG & NS	[Having already done their paperwork, they looked up and said] Bye. * I was in the last group. The interviewees looked a bit tiered (bored).

<反省点、今後の課題、後輩へのアドバイス等>

<Overview>

I sometimes forgot to have eye contacts when I sought to find answers or expressions. Each time, I hastily resumed eye contact, but I'm not sure if the interviewees assessed it was sufficient.

I thought I had been smiled almost during the interview, but when I listened to the NS's questions, I sometimes may have failed to keep smile.

I have to improve all English skills including vocabulary, grammar and fluency.

<Recommendations>

Even when you are worried if your answer is insufficient to satisfy questions from the interviewee, you should show an attitude that you'd like to speak more, then the NS may throw you a lifeline.