

次の英文を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

For most people in the world today, the language that they speak, and write, and otherwise employ in their daily lives is a matter ( 1 ). Language for most of us is simply something that our society and our culture both take completely for granted. We all(1)( a )( b )( c )( d )( e ) to read and write; but once our formal education is completed, unless we are professionally concerned with an occupation like advertising or publishing that makes special use of language, most of us (2)hardly give language a second thought for the rest of our adult lives.

(3)This is as it should be. Each different variety of language is itself essentially ( A1 ) a social convention. This is simply another way of saying that each language, indeed every language, is really ( A2 ) a tremendously involved but nevertheless quite arbitrary set of signs or symbols; but the signs or symbols that constitute language do not have significance or meaning in (4)themselves. They mean something -- and language itself means something -- only because, in each individual instance, a given society has agreed upon what they should mean; the society in question has in the first place agreed to employ the given language to serve as its principal social convention.

The connections between language and the world in which it is employed -- (5)or, more simply put, the meanings that language expresses -- are arbitrary. Most modern societies and most modern cultures recognize this arbitrary nature of language to some extent and the neglect that most modern societies and cultures afford to language is ( A3 ) one expression of the way in which most societies recognize that language is indeed an arbitrary social convention. The world today is a busy place. Most of us simply do not have either the time or the energy for fussing about purely arbitrary social phenomena; and so most of us, and most of our societies, (6)leave our language alone.

(7)Few significant exceptions are to be found, at least in the West. In the Occident, probably the only important exceptions to the general rule concerning the relation between a culture and its language are provided by the French. The French do profess to treat their language with particular care and respect and enjoy demonstrating the delicacy of their feelings in (8)this connection on every possible occasion, typically by pretending not to understand a word that a foreigner says so long as he or she makes the smallest error in pronunciation.

A. 空所(1)に入れるのに最も適当なものを次のア～エから一つ選び、その記号をマークしなさい。

- ア. of no special concern
- イ. of special concern
- ウ. with no special concern
- エ. with special concern

B. 下線部(1)の空所(a)～(e)に全体の意味が通るように次のア～カから適当なものを一つずつ選んで入れ、その記号をマークしなさい。ただし、余分なものが一つ含まれている。

- |            |               |             |
|------------|---------------|-------------|
| ア. life    | イ. learned    | ウ. learning |
| エ. much of | オ. our school | カ. Spend    |

C. 下線部(2)～(8)の意味として最も適当なものをそれぞれア～エから一つずつ選び、その記号をマークしなさい。

(2) ‘hardly give language a second thought’

- ア. 言語を顧みることほとんどない
- イ. 言語を何よりも大切なものとほとんどの場合考える
- ウ. 言語を二次的な価値のものと考えることはほとんどない
- エ. 言語を二の次に考えることはほとんどない

(3) ‘This is as it should be.’

- ア. これは、かつてのあるべき姿である。
- イ. これは、言語が職業となるべき場合である。
- ウ. これは、さまざまな言語の本質であるはずだ。
- エ. これは、当然のことなのである。

(4) ‘themselves’

- ア. languages
- イ. significance or meaning
- ウ. signs or symbols
- エ. societies

(5) ‘or, more simply put’

- ア. or, in a more simple society
- イ. or, more plainly
- ウ. or else, being more simple-minded
- エ. or else, having simpler connections

(6) ‘leave our language alone’

- ア. stop talking and communicating in other ways
- イ. pay little attention to our language
- ウ. take our language as one and only language
- エ. throw our language away as unimportant

(7) 'Few significant exceptions are to be found'

- ア. 意味のある例外が、いくつかは認められる
- イ. 意味を認め得る例外は、少ししかない
- ウ. 注目に値するような例外は、ほとんど見当たらない
- エ. ほんの少しの例外だけが、注目に値すると分かる

(8) 'this connection'

- ア. demonstrating the delicacy of their feelings
- イ. the general rule concerning the relation between a culture and its language
- ウ. their language
- エ. treating their language with particular care and respect

D. 空所(A1)(A2)(A3)に共通して入れるのに最も適当なものを次のア～エから一つ選び、その記号をマークしなさい。

- ア. anything but
- イ. none the less for
- ウ. nothing more than
- エ. still more than