

Punctionary の試み (10) - 対照語による駄じゃれ -

豊田 一男

A Trial of a Punctionary (10) - Puns based on Contrastive Words -

Kazuo TOYODA

Introduction

Punctionary is a coined word by the present writer which means a “dictionary of puns.” This tenth collection deals with puns based on contrastive words - mainly antonyms. OED’s definition of “pun” is as follows :

the use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more meanings or different associations, or the use of two or more words of the same or nearly the same sound with different meanings, so as to produce a humorous effect; a play on words

“A play on words” is the key expression for the present collection of puns. The above definition seems to show that any play on words can be called “pun.” Most of the jokes taken up this time are not based on the sameness of sound, but on the contrast of meanings. A few examples of jokes in the Japanese introduction will show what the present writer means here. The last three examples (4-6) can be called jokes based on puns, but the first three examples (1-3) might not be called “puns” in the strict sense of the word. The present writer, however, includes these two types in this collection according to the broad sense of the word “pun.”

本集では対照語 (contrastive words) による駄じゃれを取り上げる。対照語には当然、反義語 (antonym) が含まれ、本集においてもその多くは反義語に基づくものである。

しかし、必ずしも反義語とは見なせないが、例えば yesterday today のように対照的な関係になりうるもの、ask answer のような非両立関係 (incompatibility) にあるが厳密には反義語とは区別されるものも含めてある。

ところで、pun の定義をもう一度見てみよう。OED によれば、

the use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more meanings or different associations, or the use of two or more words of the same or nearly the same sound with different meanings, so as to produce a humorous effect; a play on words

とある。定義の前半はいわゆる多義語、同音同綴語によるものであり、後半は同音異綴語 (homophone) 類似音語によるものである。

ここで注目したいのは定義のセミコロンの後ろの部分である。“a play on words”とあり、また、WBDにおいても、定義の最後にセミコロンを付け、“play on words”と加えてある。

つまり、「言葉遊び」と呼べるものはすべて pun に含めていると考えられる。音声的要素がなくても一応は pun と呼べることになる。前に挙げた yesterday - today, ask - answer には音声的な要素はほとんどないが、OED などの定義に含まれると考えてよいことになる。本集で pun として扱うものの多くはこの種のものである。

(1) Life is what you do before you die.

(人生とは死ぬ前にすることである)

(2) A country superstar is someone who gets rich by singing about how wonderful it is to be poor.

(カントリーミュージックのスーパーstar とは貧乏はいかにすばらしいかを歌って金持ちになる人である)

(3) What's the difference between a hill and a pill?

A hill is hard to get up. A pill is hard to get down.

(hill (丘) と pill (丸薬) の違いは? 丘は登るのがむずかしい。丸薬は飲み込むのがむずかしい)

それぞれ、life - death, rich - poor, up - down の対照がおかしみを醸し出している。第3例はむしろ質問の hill と pill が pun になっている。しかしいずれにせよ、音声的要素から生じるおかしみは少ない。

(4) Those private hospitals are classy. They won't give you a local anaesthetic. They insist on using the imported stuff

(それらの私立病院は高級だ。局部麻酔剤を使おうとしない。輸入品を使うと言い張る)

これは local の持つ「その土地の」と「(身体の) 局所的な」を絡ませた pun になっている点が前の3例と異なっている。

(5) A gossip columnist is one who writes others' wrongs.

(ゴシップ欄の執筆者は他人の不正を書き立てる人だ)

writes - rights の pun に基づいて rights - wrongs が対照されている。

(6) Is a barber's training long?

Not if he takes a short cut.

(理髪師の訓練は長くかかるのか - 近道をすればかからないよ)

long - short には音声的要素はないが、cut の多義性がおかしみを生み出している。前者の3例と比べると後者の3例は pun の要素の重要部分である音声的要素が含まれている分だけ笑いを誘うと言えよう。

以下、見出し語はジョークの中の2つの対立する語の中で最初に出てくる語をアルファベット順に並べてある。大学初年レベルではむずかしいと思われる語句にはNOTE(S)を付けて、教

室での使用を容易にしてある。Focusに対照語を示し、cf. でジョークの理解の助けになると思われる追加説明を加えた。

いずれにせよ、punそのものが「曖昧性」を伴うものであるから、曖昧さを曖昧なまま楽しむ心の余裕が必要になってくる。すべての事柄を科学的に説明することの限界が見えて来た現代において、そのことはますます重要になってくると思われる。

abstract

A father looked outside and saw his own children and their playmates pressing their hands into his newly laid concrete sidewalk.

Flinging open the window, he gave the kids a tongue-lashing. His wife, shocked, asked, “Don’t you love your children?”

Replied the husband, “In the abstract, yes, but not in the concrete.”

NOTE : tongue-lashing 大目玉

Focus : abstract concrete

ahead

A career girl’s mind moves her ahead, while a chorus girl’s mind moves her behind.

Focus : ahead behind

alive

If my husband were alive next Friday, he’d be dead a year.

Focus : alive dead

cf. 言いたかったことは「こんどの金曜で夫は亡くなって1年になる」ということ。

answer

(1) Historians are like deaf people who go on answering questions that no one has asked them. (Leo Tolstoy)

Focus : answer ask

(2) When you know the right answers, nobody asks you the right questions.

Focus : answers questions

appear

In 1909 the first magician appeared on stage. He was so bad he made the audience disappear.

Focus : appear disappear

atheism

A hypocrite is someone who writes a book in praise of atheism - and then prays for it to be a bestseller.

NOTE : atheism 無神論

Focus : atheism pray

backwards

Life can be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

Focus : backwards forwards

bad

A pessimist is someone who feels bad when he feels good for fear he'll feel worse when he feels better.

NOTE : pessimist 悲觀論者

Focus : bad good, worse better

before

Budget is a form of worrying before you spend instead of after.

NOTE : budget 予算(案)

Focus : before after

behind

The advantage of speaking another language is that you can talk behind someone's back right in front of their face.

Focus : behind in front of

better

When the minister said, "for better or worse," he meant the groom couldn't do better and the bride couldn't be worse.

Focus : better worse

cf. for better or for worse : よかれあしかれ、どんなことがあろうと (英国国教会の祈祷書 (Prayer Book) の結婚式の文句の一部)

buy

The day a man buys a boat is the second happiest day of his life. The happiest day, of course, is the day he sells it.

Focus : buy sell

buyer

Herb Schmertz, of Mobil Oil, defines coal as “a substance that not only goes to the buyer, but also to the cellar.”

NOTE : cellar 地下貯蔵室

Focus : buyer cellar (seller)

cannot

Though God cannot alter the past, historians can. (Samuel Butler)

Focus : cannot can

cent

When you drop change at a vending machine the cents will fall at your feet and the dollars will roll out of sight.

NOTE : vending machine 自動販売機

Focus : cents dollars

city

A commuter is someone who goes up to the city every day in order to make enough money to sleep in the country.

NOTE : commuter (定期券による) 通勤者

Focus : city country

clean

I always start writing with a clean piece of paper and a dirty mind. (Patrick Dennis)

Focus : clean dirty

come

She is at the awkward age. She has stopped asking where she came from and refuses to say where she is going.

NOTE : awkward 扱いにくい

Focus : came going

country

My friend is a dummy. He heard the country was at war so he moved to the city.

NOTE : dummy ばか、薄のろ

Focus : country city

creditor

A creditor has a better memory than a debtor.

Focus : creditor 債権者、貸し主 debtor

deep

I'm telling you straight. Deep down you're shallow.

Focus : deep shallow

die

And it's possible you haven't heard the one about the young lady who asked her sweetheart whether he loved her enough to die for her, and the truthful young man replied, "mine is an undying love."

Focus : die undying

double

I love drinking - it makes me see double and feel single.

Focus : double single

doubtful

All my life I have been doubtful. Now I'm not so sure.

Focus : doubtful sure

down

(1) Duckling : a bird that grows down while it grows up!

NOTE : duckling カモ [アヒル] の子

Focus : down up

cf. down (若鳥の) 綿毛

(2) Christmas : when Santa comes down the chimney and the money goes up in smoke.

Focus : come down go up

(3) What is the difference between a fidget and a bankrupt?

One can't settle down; the other can't settle up.

NOTES : fidget そわそわして落ち着かない人 bankrupt 破産者

Focus : (settle) down (身を固める) (settle) up (借金などを払う)

drive

The main reason people drive more than they once did is because it is cheaper to drive than park.

Focus : drive park

drunk

I don't know if my wife and I will ever get on. She can't stand me when I'm drunk and I can't stand her when I'm sober.

NOTE : get on うまくやっていく

Focus : drunk sober

dying

How can you stop yourself from dying?

Stay in the living room.

Focus : dying living

enemy

The surest way to destroy your enemies is to make them your friends.

Focus : enemies friends

everybody

Balancing the budget is like going to heaven. Everybody wants to do it but nobody wants to make the trip.

Focus : everybody nobody

exception

Exceptions always outnumber the rules.

NOTE : outnumber 数でまさる

Focus : exceptions rules

early

Boss : the man at the office who's late when you're early and early when you're late.

Focus : early late

failure

Envy : the mud that failure throws at success.

Focus : failure success

far

Some women can't be trusted too far. And some men can't be trusted too near.

Focus : far near

first-hand

You can get some first-hand knowledge from a second-hand car.

Focus : first-hand second-hand

fool

Any fool can paint a picture, but it takes a wise man to be able to sell it. (Samuel Butler)

Focus : fool wise man

friend

Money won't help you make friends, but you will have a better class of enemies.

Focus : friends enemies

future

The best prophet of the future is the past.

NOTE : prophet 予言者

Focus : future past

general

I went into a general store. They wouldn't let me buy anything specific.

NOTE : general store (田舎の)よろず屋、雑貨屋

Focus : general specific

give

(1) "If you were my husband I would give you poison."

"If I was your husband I'd take it."

(2) Marriage is a matter of give and take. You better give it to her, or she'll take it anyway. (Joey Adams)

Focus : give take

good

(1) The doctor had finished his examination and with a smile on his face said, "Mrs Anderson, I have some very good news for you."

"Miss Anderson," she corrected.

The doctor said, "Miss Anderson, I have some very bad news for you!"

Focus : good bad

(2) Happiness : "That's nothing more than good health and a poor memory." (Albert Schweitzer)

Focus : good poor

happiness

(1) The search for happiness is one of the chief sources of unhappiness. (Eric Hoffer)

Focus : happiness unhappiness

(2) Happiness : an agreeable sensation arising from contemplating the misery of another. (Ambrose Bierce)

Focus : happiness misery

hard

Q : What is the difference between a teen-ager and a pillow?

A : The teen-ager is hard up ; the pillow is soft down.

NOTES : pillow まくら hard up 非常に金に困って

Focus : hard soft up down

cf. down (若鳥の)綿毛

hardness

The hardness of the butter is in direct proportion to the softness of the bread roll.

NOTES : in direct proportion to... に正比例して bread roll 小さな丸パン

Focus : hardness softness

in

Q : What is the difference between a nail and a bad boxer?

A : One is knocked in, the other is knocked out.

Focus : (knocked) in (knocked) out

injustice

Injustice is relatively easy to bear, what stings is justice. (H. L. Mencken)

NOTE : sting 心を苦しめる

Focus : injustice justice

instant

Every morning I get up and make instant coffee and I drink it so I'll have enough energy to make regular coffee. (Steven Wright)

Focus : instant (coffee) regular (coffee)

intelligence

What my friend lacks in intelligence he makes up for in stupidity.

NOTE : make up for 埋め合わせる

Focus : intelligence stupidity

into

A profession is something you study for years to get into, then work for the rest of your life trying to earn enough money to get out of.

Focus : get into get out of

justice

When having my portrait painted, I don't want justice, I want mercy. (Billy Hughes)

Focus : justice mercy

cf. do ... justice ...を正當に評価する、正しく表わす

large

Economy size : large in soap and small in automobiles

Focus : large small

later

Men have a much better time of it than women: for one thing, they marry later; for another thing, they die earlier. (H. L. Mencken)

NOTE : for one thing 一つの理由としては

Focus : later earlier

less

When buying a bikini, the less there is to speak of, the more there is to speak of.

NOTE : to speak of 取りたてて言うほどの

Focus : less more

lie

The funny thing about going to a psychiatrist is that you have to lie down to learn how to stand on your two feet.

NOTE : psychiatrist 精神科医

Focus : lie stand

life

Life is near death experience.

Focus : life death

lift

She wanted to have her face lifted but it proved impossible. So, for half the price, they lowered her body.

NOTE : lift 美容整形で(顔の)しわを取る

Focus : lift lower

local

The patient was so rich he wouldn't accept a local anaesthetic - he insisted on having a foreign one.

NOTE : local anaesthetic 局部麻酔薬

Focus : local foreign

long

Monty says speeches should be like women's skirts. Long enough to cover the subject and short enough to stimulate interest.

Focus : long short

longer

I have made this letter longer than usual, only because I have not had time to make it shorter.

Focus : longer shorter

lose

At his retirement ceremony the boss told him, "The way we see it, we are not so much losing a worker as gaining a parking space."

NOTE : not so much... as - ...というよりむしろ -

Focus : lose gain

loser

Have you ever noticed how the best acting at the Academy Awards ceremony is done by losers congratulating the winners? (George Roberts)

Focus : losers winners

marry

Women! First they marry you for your money... then they divorce you for it!

Focus : marry divorce

matter

A society columnist asked Bernard Baruch, the financier and statesman, how he arrange to seat the notables who attended his dinner parties.

"I don't bother about who sits where," Baruch replied. "Those who matter don't mind, and those who mind don't matter,"

NOTES : society 社交界 financier 資本家 notables 有名人

Focus : matter mind

cf. matter (v) 重要である mind (v) 気にする

meaningful

When a politician says a meeting was meaningful, it means that it was meaningless.

Focus : meaningful meaningless

minor

Earth : a minor planet with major problems

Focus : minor major

monologue

Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

Focus : monologue dialogue

much

Breeding : concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person. (Mark Twain)

NOTES : breeding (訓練や教育で身につけた) 教養

Focus : much little

cf. think much of... を重要視する think little of ... を軽視する

navy

One thing I don't understand about those charity organizations. How come there's no Salvation Navy?

NOTE : How come...? = Why...?

Focus : navy army

cf. Salvation Army 救世軍 (1865年、イギリス人 William Booth が始めた軍隊式のキリスト教団体)

net

More and more these days I find myself pondering on how to reconcile my net income with my gross habits. (John Nelson)

NOTES : ponder on... をあれこれ考える reconcile... with - ... を - と調和[一致]させる
net 正味の

Focus : net gross

cf. gross 総計の、全体の (net) ; 下品な、わいせつな

nothing

I think gambling is a way to get nothing for something.

Focus : nothing something

cf. for ... と交換に

old

The great comfort of turning forty-nine is the realisation that you are now too old to die young. (Paul Dickson)

Focus : old young

out of

(1) A doctor's nurse said to the doctor, "The man you just treated dropped dead as he was walking out of the office."

The doctor said, "Quick! Turn him around so it looks like he was walking in!"

Focus : out of in

(2) God bless lawyers. If we didn't have them, how would we ever get out of the trouble they got us into?

NOTE : God bless... に神の恩寵がありますように

Focus : out of into

cf. get out of... から逃れる get ... into - ...を - に陥れる

outside

Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend and inside a dog it's too dark to read. (Groucho Marx)

NOTE : outside of... を除いては

Focus : outside inside

over

"How do you like my hair? I spent a long time over it."

"Really? I spend a long time under it."

Focus : over under

cf. over... に関して

positive

A woman wears a sweater to accentuate the positive and a girdle to eliminate the negative.

NOTES : accentuate... を強調する eliminate ... を削除する

Focus : positive negative

premise

An error in the premise will appear in the conclusion.

NOTE : premise 前提

Focus : premise conclusion

private

Success always occurs in private, while failure happens in full public view.

Focus : private public

privately

It's illegal to make liquor privately, and to make water publicly.

Focus : privately publicly

push

The person with push doesn't need pull.

Focus : push pull

cf. push 積極性、やる気 pull コネ、縁故

question

Telephone : what never asks questions but is often answered

Focus : question answer

remember

The best way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

Focus : remember forget

rich

The rich man gives small tips because he doesn't want anyone to know he's rich, while the poor man gives big tips because he doesn't want anyone to know he's poor.

Focus : rich poor

right

(1) Correspondent : the right man in the wrong place

NOTE : correspondent 特派員

Focus : right wrong

(2) I'm all for women's rights - and for their lefts too. (Groucho Marx)

Focus : right left

cf. rights 権利

rise

The man who rises to the occasion should also know when to sit down.

NOTE : rise to the occasion 非常事態をうまく切り抜ける

Focus : rise sit down

cf. rise (演説のために) 立ち上がる

same

Women are all the same : they all want to be different.

Focus : same different

sharp

Many a meeting starts at 8 p.m. sharp and finishes at 10 p.m. dull.

Focus : sharp dull

shorten

How can you shorten a bed?

Don't sleep long in it.

Focus : short(en) long

shorter

Skirt : what girls wear shorter to make guys look longer.

NOTE : guys 男たち

Focus : shorter longer

shut

The husband who wants a happy marriage should learn to keep his mouth shut and his checkbook open.

NOTE : checkbook 小切手帳

Focus : shut open

single

When a woman is looking for a husband she is either single or married.

Focus : single married

slow

I've been told alcohol is a slow poison. I'm in no hurry. (Robert Benchley)

Focus : slow hurry

something

In the business world an executive knows something about everything, a technician knows everything about something - and the switchboard operator knows everything. (Harold Coffin)

NOTE : switchboard operator 電話交換手

Focus : something everything

sooner

Cosmetics : preparations used by young girls to make themselves older sooner and by their mothers to look younger longer.

NOTE : cosmetics 化粧品

Focus : sooner longer; older younger

speaking

There is no point in speaking unless you can improve on silence.

NOTE : there is no point in doing - することは無駄だ

Focus : speaking silence

spend

There is only one thing for a man to do who is married to a woman who enjoys spending money, and that is to enjoy earning it.

Focus : spend earn

stand

Candidate : one who stands for what he thinks the public will fall for.

NOTES : 候補者

Focus : stand fall

cf. stand for... を支持する fall for... を気に入る

stand up

Courage : the ability to stand up and speak and the ability to sit down and listen

Focus : stand up sit down, speak listen

start

The trouble with my car is the engine won't start and the payments won't stop.

Focus : start stop

stunning

What a wonderful wedding. The bride looked stunning and the groom looked stunned.

NOTE : stunning (呆然とさせるほど) すごく美しい

Focus : stunning stunned (呆然とした)

stupid

If you think your boss is stupid, remember; you wouldn't have a job if he was any smarter. (Albert Grant)

Focus : stupid smart(er)

take

(1) Perfectionist : a person who takes infinite pains - and usually gives them to everyone around him.

NOTE : perfectionist 完全主義者 pains 苦勞、骨折り

Focus : take give

(2) I didn't think much of the food at that restaurant. There were only two choices. Take it or leave it.

Focus : take leave

talk

Parents spend the first three years of a child's life trying to get it to talk, and the next 16 years trying to get it to shut up.

Focus : talk shut up

tall

The cop asked if he could describe the missing treasurer.

“Yes, he’s six foot tall and \$100,000 short.”

NOTE : treasurer 会計 [出納] 係

Focus : tall short

cf. short 不足して

temporary

Temporary projects become permanent and permanent jobs become all too temporary.

NOTE : all too... (時間に関して) 全く...すぎる

Focus : temporary permanent

thin

Sure I have thin hair, but who wants fat hair?

Focus : thin fat

cf. thin thick

this

Land developers and conservationists have a lot in common. A land developer is someone who wants to build a house in the mountains this year. A conservationist is someone who built a house in the mountains last year.

NOTE : conservationist (自然などの) 保護論者

Focus : this (year) last (year)

tough

Madam, there’s no such thing as a tough child - if you boil them first for a few hours, they always come out tender. (W. C. Fields)

Focus : tough tender

true

Sign in dentist’s office :

Be True To Your Teeth

Or They’ll Be False To You.

Focus : true false

cf. false teeth 入れ歯

twice

Retirement means twice as much husband on half as much money.

Focus : twice half

uneasy

“What makes you so uneasy?”

“Easy payments.”

Focus : uneasy easy

cf. easy payments 分割払い

unwanted

When I look back on my life, I think, hey, I haven't done too badly. I started off as an unwanted child and today I'm wanted by at least six police forces.

Focus : unwanted wanted

cf. want (V) 指名手配する

up

The Devil challenged St Peter to a cricket match.

“Remember,” said St Peter, “we have all the good cricketers up here.”

“Yes,” said the Devil, “but we have all the umpires down here.”

Focus : up (here) down (here)

upper

“Do you want an upper or lower berth?”

“Well, what's the difference?”

“An upper is lower and a lower is higher.”

“That's clear - what other differences are there?”

“In the morning if you have an upper you have to get down and if you have a lower you have to get up.”

NOTE : berth (列車などの) 寝台

Focus : upper lower

cf. lower (fare) higher (fare) get down (下りる) get up (起きる)

vertically

Adult : one who has ceased to grow vertically but not horizontally.

Focus : vertically (垂直に) horizontally (水平に)

cf. 身長は伸びなくなるが、腹は出る、ということ。

way out

Opportunity is a good deal more conspicuous on the way out than on the way in.

NOTES : a good deal 大いに conspicuous 明白な way out 出口

Focus : way out way in

will

Where there's a will, there's a won't.

Focus : will won't

cf. Where there is a will, there is a way. (ことわざ)「意志のあるところに道は開ける」の意。

win

In Vegas, they'll bet on anything. One casino was ready to let me bet on whether I'd win or lose there.

NOTE : Vegas = Las Vegas

Focus : win lose

without

An income is what you can't live without, or within.

Focus : without within

cf. live within one's income 収入以内の生活をする

worse

My friend's on a bit of a downer. At the moment he feels bad when he feels good because he's scared he'll feel worse when he feels better.

NOTES : on a bit of a downer ちょっと気が滅入って

Focus : worse better, bad good

wrong

Fine : a tax for doing wrong, as distinguished from a tax which is a fine for doing all right.

NOTES : fine : 罰金 as distinguished from... とは区別して

Focus : wrong right

yes

I don't know what to do. My heart says yes but my brain says no.

Focus : yes no

yesterday

The coffee they serve is a special blend; some of yesterday's with today's.

Focus : yesterday today

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