

商業英語教育語彙意味別頻度に関する研究

その一 Q 及び R ではじまる語

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この研究は、1972年に始められた一連の Business English 語彙研究、「Business English 語彙に関する一考察」（鹿児島県立短期大学紀要第23号、1972）、「Business English 語彙に関する一考察：補遺」（鹿児島県立短期大学紀要第26号、1974）、「Business English 教育基本 500 語—試案—」（鹿児島県立短期大学紀要第27号、1976）（共著）の延長上におこなわれるものであり、また日本商業英語学会『研究年報』に発表した試行的考察「商業英語語彙意味別頻度に関する一考察—place その他の動詞を中心として—」の対象を A から Z までの基本語に拡大して行う研究である。

以上の諸研究はいずれも商業英語の文体論的研究の一端として位置づけられるものであって、商業英語の文体の特性を、一般英語に対する語彙分布の偏りの状況によって示そうとするものであるが、特に英国で出版され広く用いられている商業英語教科書の基本語彙を取り上げて調査することにより、入門期の商業英語教育実践に役立てたいとの意図もある。方法については、上記の諸研究、特に1960年の意味別頻度研究を参照されたいが、概略を述べると次のとおりである。

例えば 'Pack' という語は Michael West の一般英語意味別頻度表によれば、名詞として現れる比率が34%であるが F. K. King 編纂の商業英語教科書では0%であり、動詞としての使用頻度も一般英語の場合 'put things into a box, etc.' の意味で用いられることが25%、'crowded together' の意味で用いられることが24%であるのに対して商業英語教科書では「荷作りする」という前者の意味に100%集中している。また語そのものの頻度も商業英語教科書では pack が一般英語より遙かに高頻度で現れるのである。

今回はこのような事情を、商業英語の基本語彙全般について逐次明らかにしたいと思う。

語彙表作成の手順は次のとおりである。

1. 語彙選択の基準は、上述の「教育基本500語試案」を参考にする。
2. Business English 語彙のサンプルは F. K. King & D. Ann Cree: Modern English Business Letters (Longman, 1962) に使用されている model letter と短文の用例集から採集し意味別頻度の比率表を作成する。対象となった用例の総語数は 36,215 語である。(以下の計算は便宜上36,000としておこなった。)この教科書を調査対象に選んだのは、用例が非常に多いということと同時に、戦後の日本の商業英語教育に大きな影響を与えたという理由による。
3. 一般英語語彙の意味別頻度については、Michael West: A General Service List of English Words (Longman, 1953) の頻度表を参照し、上述の自作の Business English 語彙の比率表と比較する。
4. West の頻度表との比較を主眼とするため、意味分類は West にならった。用法・文型など他

に言及する場合は、必要に応じて注記して示した。West の頻度表は必要最小限の引用にとどめている。(1a) などの項目を設けながら (1b) がないような場合は、このためである。

5. 下記の頻度表の読み方を、Q の項目の最初の語 'quality' について説明すると、'Quality 30' の30は King の教科書用例中に30回現れること、(0.083%) は総語数36,000に対する使用率、530e は West の調査による 500 万語中での出現回数 (但し e は 250 万語中での使用頻度を 2 倍することにより算出した推定値であり完全な実測値でないことを示す)、また(0.011%)は500万語に対する 530 語の比率をあらわしている。以下の百分率であらわされた数値は、King の教科書で quality が (2) (of goods, etc.) および (4) の意味でそれぞれ87%, 13%の比率であられ、West による英語一般語彙表中では (1) (2) (3) の意味でそれぞれ33%, 63%, 1%の割合であられることを示している。(4) の部分で West の項が空白になっているのは、West の頻度表に記載がないことをしめしている。

頻 度 表

Q			
King		West	
Quality	30 (0.083%) ¹⁾	530e	(0.011%)
n.	(1) (of a person)	0%	33%
	(2) (of goods, etc.)	87%	63%
	We produce wines of very high quality.		
	(3) (persons of high rank)	0%	1%
	(4) (goods of high quality)	13%	
	We prefer to qualities.		
Quantity	16 (0.044%)	416e	(0.008%)
n.	In equal quantities	94%	95%
	For large quantities		
	Can supply any quantities		
adj.	quantity reduction	6%	
※ Quarter	6 (0.017%) ²⁾	510e	(0.010%)
n.	Account for the December quarter	100%	4%
Quarterly	16 (0.043%)	18e	(0.004%)

(注) 1. 数字はすべて四捨五入による。

2. 基本語彙表にないが5回以上使用されるものは採録し※印を付した。

adj.	We should appreciate quarterly settlement terms.	81%	100%
adv.	We should draw on you quarterly in future.	19%	0%
Question 14 (0.039%)			1926e (0.039%)
n.	(1) All your personal question	21%	32%
	(2) (subject under discussion)	72%	39%
	the question of a suitable material		
v.	Even if you question the acceptability of the word	7%	8%
	you will not dispute the wisdom.		
Quite 7 (0.019%)			1004e (0.020%)
adv.	(1) (entirely)	100%	65%
	We cannot quite match the finish of your		
	sample		
Quotation 19 (0.053%)			記載なし
n.	(estimate of the cost)	100%	
Quote 38 (0.106%) ³⁾			
v.	Will you please quote for the following items.		

R

※Raise 7 (0.019%)			850e (0.017%)
v.	(1) (lift, cause to or go up)	0%	29%
	(2) (cause to project, erect)	0%	4%
	(3a) (stir up, cause a rising)	14%	15%
	You raise queries concerning your current		
	statement.		
	(3b) (raise a cry, one's voice)	0%	5%
	(4) (cause to grow up)	0%	10%
	(5) (elevate in rank or position)	0%	8%
	(6) (cause to increase in size or degree)	86%	10%

(注) 3. 38例の文型別内訳は次のとおりである。

S-V-O 26例 (68%)

It is essential to quote moderate prices.

S-V-O-O 9例 (24%)

Kindly quote us your lowest prices.

S-V 3例 (8%)

本文例

なお、S-V-O 26例は 過去分詞形容詞 (price quoted, etc.) 9例, As quoted 1例も含め数えた。

The insurers have raised the premium.

※Range 15 (0.042%)		記載なし	
n.	(1) A range of patterns, paints, qualities, samples, etc.	74%	
	(2) Goods of the lower and middle price ranges	13%	
v.	Prices range from 15 pence to 5 pounds.	13%	
Rate 21 (0.057%)		572e (0.011%)	
n.	Envelopes are unobtainable elsewhere at our rates.	100%	74%
	Freight rates, groupage rates, hotel rates, lowest rate for fixture, etc.		
Rather 8 (0.022%)		1314e (0.026%)	
adv.	(1) (comparison)	75%	41%
	We find the prices of these materials rather high.		
	(2) (to some extent)	12.5%	42%
	Our usual supplier has rather let us down.		
	(3) (preference)	12.5%	
	We would rather not express an opinion of this firm.		
Reach 14 (0.039%)		1496e (0.030%)	
v.	(1) (stretch out)	0%	8%
	(2) (attain, touch)	100%	81%
	We will help you reach a decision.		
	Your order reaches us within 7 days.		
	Their credit has never reached the level.		
n.		0%	6%
Read 6 (0.017%) ⁴⁾		1512e (0.031%)	
Ready 17 (0.047%)		640e (0.013%)	
adj.	(1) (prepared)	82%	57%
	New price-lists will be sent as soon as they are ready.		
	(2) (willing)	0%	33%
	(3) (quick to respond)	12%	6%

(注) 4. read について例を付して意味・用法別頻度を示すと次のとおりである。

We have read your letter with much interest. 33.3%

We confirm our cable of today reading as follows; 33.3%

I have read in the "Camera Review" that you are 33.3%

the S. A. agents for Messrs. ILDAK.

各二例ずつである。

Your products should find a ready sale.

adv. (4) Every home now have ready at hand an antiseptic. 6% 記載なし

※Real 1 (0.003%) 952e (0.019%)

adj. This must be due to that very real problem in our trade. 100% 89%

Really 7 (0.019%) 716e (0.014%)

(1) (genuinely)
Materials are really good value. 100% 56%
Do you really know how to write?

Realise (-ze) 7(0.019%) 518e (0.010%)

v. (1) (make real) 14% 13%
A price nearer that hoped for by you was realised.
(2) (understand as a reality) 86% 75%
This delay which you will realise was due to circumstances beyond our control.

Realisation (-zation) 1 (0.003%) 56e (0.001%)

n. It is the realisation of every car-owner's dream.

Reason 4 (0.011%) 1404e (0.028%)

n. (1) (logical cause or motive) 100% 72%
You have some good reason for your failure to pay this sum.

Reasonable 11 (0.031%) 136e (0.003%)

adj. (1) (sensible) 73% 46%
It is not reasonable to ask you to bear the whole cost of this.
(2) (not excessive) 27% 40%
Reasonable price
Your quotations are reasonable.

Receive 96 (0.267%) 1600e (0.032%)

v. (1) (be given, obtain) 85% 57%
You will have received our new price-list.
(2) (used of abstract things) 15% 27%
Your enquiry is receiving our attention.
(3) (a person) 0% 11%

Receipt 18 (0.05%) ⁵⁾		106e (0.002%)
n.	100%	85%
On receipt of your acceptance		
Within 2 weeks of receipt of order		
Our official receipt is enclosed.		
Recommend 6 (0.017%) ⁶⁾		140e (0.003%)
v. (1) Messrs. J. Smith & Co. have recommended you	67%	27%
to us.		
Particularly would we recommend No. 7 Compo.		
(2) We recommend you to take prompt advantage of	33%	51%
this offer.		
Record 8 (0.022%)		940e (0.018%)
n. We have no record of such an Invoice.	100%	44%
We are taking your good record of settlement		
into consideration.		
v.	0%	36%
※Reduce 7 (0.019%)		546e (0.011%)
v. (make less or inferior)	100%	78%
We regret that we cannot reduce the price.		
Reduction 13 (0.035%)		178e (0.004%)
n. (lessening)		
The average price reduction is 5%.	100%	87%
Refer 13 (0.036%)		314e (0.006%)
v. You may refer to Messrs. Smith & Sons.	8%	62%
We refer you to A. Lewis & Co. Ltd.	30%	15%
Referring to our letter of 25th October	54%	17%
We shall have to refer the matter to the Trade	8%	3%
Association.		
Reference 11 (0.031%)		186e (0.037%)
n. With reference to our forwarding instructions	64%	32%
They have given your name as a reference.	27%	記載なし
We will keep your catalogue on hand for further	9%	55%

(注) 5. 18例の内訳は, On receipt of... 7例 (39%), Within... of receipt of... 3例 (17%), 受領証の意味 2例 (11%), その他 (Please acknowledge receipt. など) 6例 (33%) である。

6. 文型別にみると V+目+前+代 2例, V+目 2例, V+目+to 不定 2例 である。

reference.

Regard	16 (0.044%) ⁷⁾		1358e (0.027%)
n.	(Phrase)		
	Meanwhile, with kind regards to your Directors,	6%	4%
	we are		
	Very truly yours,		
	(reference)	19%	15%
	With regard to the pears, we have been less fortunate.		
v.	We have noted your instructions regarding crediting of dividends.	75%	20%
Regret	55 (0.153%) ⁸⁾		158e (0.032%)
n.	Much to our regret, your order has been held up at the docks.	9%	49%
v.	We regret that your order is temporarily held up.	91%	49%
Remain	5 (0.014%) ⁹⁾		1614e (0.032%)
v.	(1) (stay)	80%	66%
	Prices have remained steady.		
Remaining			
adj.	We will draw on you at 60d/s for the remaining half.	20%	2%
Remainder			
n.	It is unavoidable for us to cancel the remainder of our order.		
Remember	2 (0.006%) ¹⁰⁾		278e (0.015%)
v.	All who knew him well remember his many kindnesses.	100%	97%

(注) 7. 「見做す」の意味で用いられる用例 (regard it as an insult, etc.) は West の場合48%であるが, King の教科書では0%である。

8. 文型別に91%の内訳を示すと次のとおりである。

V+that 節	We regret that we cannot make use of it.	60 %
V+目	We regret this increase.	11 %
V+to 不定詞	We regret to say that we must hold your order until we have your payment.	11 %
V+動名詞	We regret having to cancel our order.	9 %

9. 頻度計算には採録していないが poor example として “We remain, dear Sir, yours sincerely...” という Complimentary close の例がある。また West には掲載されていない派生語 remainder が2例ある。

10. V+目, V+that 節各1例。

You will remember that it was agreed the goods would
be shipped in time.

Remit 4 (0.011%)

記載なし

v. Remit the amount due by telegraph.

Remittance 10 (0.028%)

n. These will be despatched upon receipt of your
remittance.

Reply 43 (0.119%)

710e (0.014%)

v. You have not replied to our letter.

16% 57%

n. We would appreciate a prompt reply.

84% 43%

Report 17 (0.047%)¹¹⁾

1282e (0.026%)

v. (1) (bring or send news)

Dealers have reported good sales.

24% 31%

We are pleased to report that the goods arrived in
good condition.

n. (1) Read the enclosed copies of reports from
racing drivers.

76% 34%

Request 30 (0.083%)¹²⁾

220e (0.004%)

v. Payment by Banker's Draft is requested.

83% 35%

n. We have had a request from Messrs. J. L. Dyer & Co.
for supplies of our products.

17% 63%

Require 47 (0.131%)¹³⁾

記載なし

v. We reequire 2 sets of Shipped, clean Bs/L.

Requirement 9 (0.025%)

n. Our anual requirements in metal fittings are
considerable.

(注) 11. 動詞24%の内訳は、V+目6%, V+that節18%。

12. 動詞83%の文型・用法別の内訳は次のとおりである。

As requested

As requested, we will advise you of date of despatch.

35%

過去分詞形容詞

We are unable to accept your order at the price requested.

24%

V+目

I request your permission to overdraw my account.

14%

受動態

Payment by Banker's Draft is requested.

7%

V+目+to不定詞

We are requesting our bank to re-present the draft.

3%

Response 3 (0.008%)		記載なし	
n.	There is an immediate response from the public for a new article.		
Result 12 (0.033%)		1794e (0.036%)	
n.	We can promise you good results.	83%	70%
v.	The trade depression has resulted in slow payment.	17%	27%
Return 33 (0.092%)		1808e (0.036%)	
v.	(give back, send back) You will return the goods to us.	70%	8%
n.	(coming back) Your reply by return would be appreciated. (repayment, gain) The pounds bring the maximum return.	27%	20%
		3%	4%
Returnable 2 (0.005%)			
※Right 10 (0.028%)		2370e (0.047%)	
adj.	(suitable) Your quality is right and the price is reasonable. (correct) You are right in saying that there is an increasing demand.	40%	8%
n.	(legal right ; notifiable claim) We reserve the right of cancellation.	20%	9%
adv.	(Right here, etc.) We suggest you post it to us right away.	30%	44%
		10%	2%

(注) 13. 動詞47用例の文型・用法別の内訳は次のとおりである。

過去分詞形容詞

If you can supply the goods required, please accept this as our official order. 18例

V + 目

We require 2 sets of shipped, clean Bs/L. 17例

受動態

Immediate delivery would be required. 5例

V + 目 + to 不定詞

We required them [the fragile goods] to be forwarded by air. 3例

As required

We attach our quotation for the packing as required. 3例

V のみ

She [M/V Mercury] is a little larger than you require. 1例

Rush 1 (0.003%)		332e (0.007%)
v.	0%	68%
n. We find it impossible to keep pace with the rush of orders.	100%	19%

(昭和61年 9 月16日受理)