An afternoon in Ueno Park (Part 13)

Tadashi Ishida

This is the thirteenth in a series of articles in which Tadashi Ishida, an English teacher at a

community center in Taito Ward in Tokyo, describes a language-learning activity that he

conducted with his class. After considerable research and preparation, the learners toured Ueno

Park with a foreign visitor, Mrs. Fitzwater, explaining to her the highlights of the park and

answering her questions. After the tour, the learners wrote their own combination text and

guidebook based on this experience.

The group continues their tour of the museum. The next store is a copper boiler shop. Mr. Akagi

showed Mrs. Fitzwater the copper boiler shop.

Mrs. Fitzwater: What is a copper boiler?

Mr. Akagi: It is a teakettle made of copper.

Mrs. Fitzwater: I see.

16



次のお店は銅壷屋(どうこや)です。赤城さんはフィッツウォーターさんに銅

壷屋を案内します。

フ:銅壷とは、何ですか?

赤:銅製の湯沸かし器のことです。

Miss. Nihongi pointed to a piece of furniture.

Mrs. Nihongi: This is a chest of drawers. Kimonos are kept in it. I'll show you a kimono.

Mrs. Fitzwater: Thank you.



二本木さんはある家具を指さしました。

二:これは箪笥です。着物が中に入っています。着物をお見せしましょう。

フ:有難う。

Miss. Nihongi played with a broom.

Mrs. Nihongi: This is a broom. A witch does not ride on this broom.

Mrs. Fitzwater: Interesting!



二本木さんは箒で遊びます。

二:これは箒です。魔女は箒にまたがりません。

フ:面白い!

Then we looked at a musical instruments.

Miss Nihongi: This is a "shamisen." It's like a guitar. The material is wood and leather made from cat's skin.

Mrs. Fitzwater: I see.



そして、私たちはある楽器を見ました。

二:これは三味線です。ギターのようなものです。素材は木と猫のなめし皮で

作られています。

フ:なるほど。

Mrs. Fitzwater: This is a very interesting museum. Did you have to get special

permission to go and look at all this, or can you come any time and go through and

look? Did you have to get special permission to open the drawers and look at everything?

Miss Nihongi: We didn't have to. We didn't get special permission.

Mrs. Fitzwater: I think that is great. I've never been to a museum where you could

actually touch anything. I think this will be very good to show someone from a foreign country, because you can show them everything about Japanese daily life. Right? Open it up and show them. I think that's great, and very rare. Do you have very many museums of this kind in Japan?

Mr Akagi: As far as I know, this is the only museum where we can touch anything in it.

フ:ここは非常に興味のある博物館です。ここにある全ての物を見るために、

特別な許可を得なければいけませんでしたか? いつでもここにきて、

全ての物を見ることができますか? 引出しをあけて、全ての物を見る

ために、特別な許可を得なければいけませんでしたか?

二:いいえ。特別な許可を得ていません。

フ: それは素晴らしいと思います。今まで、実際に何でもさわれる博物館に

行ったことがありません。ここは外国人に見せるのに非常に良いと思います。なぜなら、日本の日常生活について、全てを彼らに見せることができるからです。そうでしょう?開けて見せるのです。それは素晴らしいと思います。それは滅多にありません。日本にはこのような博物館が本当にたくさんありますか?

二:私の知る限り、ここは、何でもさわれる唯一の博物館です。