



“The Arts and Humanities are vastly more important in troubled times” (J. Leach)

# SOCIAL SCIENCES

**March 9, 2017**

José Cruz: Right.

Tanaka Ayaka: But especially in just in the classes it was really hard for me. It still is even now.

Yamashita Haruka: I see **what you** mean. Like in my American History class (Mm-hmm) I sometimes might have like, hard time. (Yeah) Because like um, you know I've studied um, I've studied like about American history once when I was in Japan (Mmm) and I studied it, but it was (You know-) much more deeper. It's just much deeper than I thought. (A/J: Mm-hmm) When I was in Japan the thing which I learned was super basic things. Like things...

Ayaka: Especially in Japanese, (Yeah) right? OK.

Haruka: Something things. (J: Mm-hmm) Like you know what happens and what year. (A: Mmm) **Blah blah blah** and like who did it, (and **easily** content) Blah blah blah and like you know, and what kind of relationship those two elements have and that's all. It was really interesting but in, I mean, in in my American History class in the United States It's like much more deeper. (A: Oh yeah) It's like depend on the person.

José: I um, I like to I like to point out the difference in the teaching and study styles in topics like what you just talked

about Haruka. The Japanese style of education or teaching for a topic like history will focus around questions like “when, who” and “where”. But in American history, (A: Mm-hmm) the “when” and the “who” of course is important, but that's not as important as answering the questions “why” (H: Yeah) and “so what”.

Haruka: Yeah. “So what happened?”.

José: No, not not “so what happened” but- “OK that happened, so what?” Uh, which means because this happened, what else will happen because that happened. (H: Yeah) (A: It's really really good) So what's the connection to the next event. Or what's the connection to the next crisis because of this crisis, or this event created this crisis, the connections between them. (H: OK) And um (H: OK) learning how to analyze and predict is what- His- history is taught so that you can learn to analyze and predict the connections between events so then you can use it to help you predict the future. And I **don't think** that's really taught so much in Japan.

Ayaka: Hmm. (Yes) Yeah.

Haruka: That's right. So like you know because of that (A:Mm-hmm) I mean because of the, you know because in the class which, I mean because of- because of- **how can I say** because of

the class (J: Mm-hmm) student (J: Mm-hmm) learn the relationship (A: Mm-hmm) and like you know, so that they learn some sort of like way to predict the future (A: Ah OK) so a lot of my friends from American history class sometimes **talk about**, like oh what might happen in the future (J: Right) because of um (A: Ah yeah) Trump's presidency (J: Right) (A: Oh) or something. And it's quite interesting to talk about that (J: Yeah) topic with American students. (J: Mm-hmm. Pretty much) And you have sort of perspective about it.

Sociology, Political Science **all of it is about** studying a particular field of human activity so you can learn how to predict human activity in the future. (H: Right) Which is what science is all about. You're trying to learn (A: Yeah) through experiments so you can predict how things will happen if you do things slightly differently uh with you know chemistry or with physics and you're just doing that with people in Social Sciences.

Ayaka: Mmm.

José: Pretty much everything that um, is taught in those kinds of Humanities, or Social, um Social Sciences: History

[word count: 615]

Pointers:

Both Haruka and Ayaka display excellent communication tactics, when neither stop talking just because they couldn't say a word or phrase properly.

Parts of the conversation are hard to understand because of the connection over Skype.

Normally when speaking to non-native speakers, José naturally refrains from using liaisons and reductions such as "GONNA", except in the example, "**all of it is about**", below. This is because he senses that both Ayaka and Haruka speak English well enough that he can return to a near-normal English pronunciation.

**what you:** Haruka pronounces this as "**WACHU**". This induces José to start using a higher level of English pronunciation where he begins to include liaisons in his own speaking. See "**all of it is about**", below. (0:07)

**Blah blah blah:** a slang expression that means "and other things that aren't important" (0:38)

**easily:** Ayaka made a mistake. She should have said "**easy**" (0:40)

**don't think:** Note José's linking pronunciation of these two words together "**DOHNTHink**". The "T" in "don't" is **dropped** (3:10)

**how can I say:** Haruka does well to maintain her fluency without stopping (2:25)

**talk about:** Note Haruka's linking pronunciation of these two words together "**TAHKAbout**". (2:42)

**all of it is about:** Note José's linking pronunciation of these five words together "**ALLAFATISITAbout**" (3:10)

Discussion:

What's your favourite school subject?

Which is more important for you to study, Mathematics or History?

Would you change anything about how you studied in school?

VOA ARTICLE: "MANY AMERICANS REGRET THEIR COLLEGE CHOICES"

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/many-americans-regret-their-college-choices/3923373.html>

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<https://static.pexels.com/photos/203237/pexels-photo-203237.jpeg>

<http://goldfish365.com/>

