
第 1 講

① 次の英文を読んで、設問に答えなさい。

The idea of ‘science’ is easily misunderstood. You might think there should be some kind of ‘absoluteness’ in science. Well, I haven’t actually done any research, but I would guess that something like ninety percent of scientists believe that facts exist in science. It’s likely that an even larger percentage of non-scientists believe that science
5 is absolute. But, in fact, ⁽¹⁾that’s not true at all.

Here’s an example. An increase in carbon dioxide levels has been cited in recent years as the cause of global warming, and it has been widely talked about as if it’s a scientific fact. Not only scientists but also public agencies have advanced discussions just as if that theory had been confirmed. However, it is only one of the theories
10 regarding global warming.

What we can say as a fact is that the average temperature of the earth has been increasing annually in recent years. But we can only infer that an increase in carbon dioxide levels and other phenomena may have caused that warming. ⁽²⁾Incidentally, although the temperature increase in itself is a fact, whether it has been rising
15 recently or steadily since long ago cannot be confirmed. Perhaps the earth’s temperature is currently reaching the crest of a wave that rises and falls. Nobody knows.

I recently attended an informal meeting held by the Forestry Agency and the Ministry of the Environment. On that occasion, we talked about the Japanese
20 government’s policy regarding *implementation of *the Kyoto Protocol, the acquisition of budget funds to manage forests, and so on. ⁽³⁾The opening sentence of the report that was written based on our discussions read as follows: ‘Global warming caused by an increase in carbon dioxide levels will have the following results.’ I put in a request to rephrase it to ‘presumed to have been caused by an increase in carbon dioxide
25 levels. ...’ The bureaucrats immediately argued against my suggestion on the grounds that, “at international conferences, eighty percent of the world’s scientists state that carbon dioxide is the cause of global warming.” But science is not subject to (4) decisions. “I’m concerned that you think that way,” I replied. This may be the first