

クリストファー・グリーン
日英通訳の事例-3: 新聞記事

日本語：

デパートが少ないイタリアで、買い物の中心は小売店だ。冬のバーゲンが佳境に入った今、点先はとてものにぎやか。「物価の上昇がひどい」とぼやく庶民にとって、この時期は気がはやる。

「50%引き」の張り紙につられて、近所のブティックに入った。10人ほどの客が全員、しゃべりまくっている。買い物は店員たちとの会話とセットなのだ。彼氏の愚痴をこぼす学生や、他店で買った服を並べて自慢する人も。

私が「スーツが見たい」と伝えると、店員が体系をチェックして似合いそうな形や色を解説。最初に持ってきた服を買おうとしたが、今度はまわりの客が「だめ。似合っていない」とちかづいてきた。

それから着替えること8回。なぜか客と店員の両方からダメ出しが続く。「もういい」と言っても、「妥協はだめ」とみんな熱心だ。10回目に試着室から出ると、ようやく「OK」。店中で拍手がわいた。

通訳：

In Italy, where there are few department stores, shopping is centered on retail shops. Winter sales have now reached their peak and the shops are very busy. The average citizen who complains “the rise in the cost of living is awful” looks forward to this time of year.

A “50% off” sign caught my attention and I entered a neighborhood boutique. About ten customers were engrossed in conversation. A chat with a sales clerk is part and parcel of shopping. A student was spilling the beans about her boyfriend’s complaints and others were showing off clothes they had bought at other shops.

When I said “I’d like to see some suits” the shop clerk took a look at me and commented on what styles and colors would suit me. When I tried to buy the first suit that was brought to me the customers gathered around me and said “No way. It doesn’t suit you.”

I tried on eight different suits. Objections came from both shop clerks and customers. Even when I said “this will do” everyone enthusiastically told me “don’t compromise”. The tenth time I came out of the changing room I finally got an “OK”. The shop burst into applause.