

談話辞 “when it comes to X” の用法を探る

— 辞書の記述とコーパスが示唆するもの —

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0. はじめに

筆者は前号で、日本語を母語とする英語学習者（以下、「英語学習者」と言う）にとってその用法が他の類似した表現と間違いやすい例として “speaking of X” を取り上げ、定評のある学習英和辞典、英英辞典、文法書をはじめ実際の発話状況での共起例として各種メディア英語（映画のセリフ、英字新聞など）やコーパスでの検索例から言語使用実態を提示した。

本稿では、“speaking of X” と類似した “when it comes to X” を取り上げ、同じく英和辞書の記述や各種メディア英語、およびコーパスのコンコーダンスラインから見えてくる言語使用の特色を示すことを目的とする。

結果的に英語学習者にとって “speaking of X” と “when it comes to X” の2つの談話辞を比較し、語用論上の用法の違いを認識して活用できるようになるためのガイドラインを纏めた次稿の研究資料としたい。

1. 英和辞典の記述

（表1）は、日本語母語話者にとって定評のある5種類の学習英和辞典の記述をまとめ比較したものである。

(表 1 : 各種英和辞典に見る “when it comes to X” の記述)

<p>ウィズダム英和辞典³</p>	<p><i>when it comes to A</i> ((くだけで))A のこととなると, A に関しては; A を処理することとなると(㊦いづれも A は名動名; 過去の文脈では came を用いる).</p> <p>▶ The law already has age limits <i>when it comes to</i> tobacco and alcohol. タバコとアルコールについてはすでに法律で年齢制限がある.</p>
<p>ジーニアス英和辞典⁵</p>	<p><i>when it comes to O</i> [doing] O[・・・すること]に関しては、O のこと[・・・すること]となると // The committee is divided in opinion <i>when it comes to</i> this problem [putting the plan into practice]. この問題 [その計画を実行に移す] となると, 委員会は意見が分かれている.</p>
<p>プログレッシブ英和中辞典⁵</p>	<p><i>when it comes to A</i> ((略式)) A の問題になると.</p>
<p>ライトハウス英和辞典⁶</p>	<p><i>When it comes to...</i> ((略式)) ... (のこと) となると: <i>When it comes to</i> earning a living, you often have to do things you don't like. 食べていくとなると, 往々にしてしたくないこともせねばならない.</p>
<p>オーレックス英和辞典²</p>	<p><i>when it comes to...</i> ((口)) ・・・のこととなると; <・・・する>段になると <doing> (◆まれに when it comes down to... ともいう)// <i>When it ~s to</i> modern jazz, Bill knows everything. モダンジャズのことなら, ビルは何でも知っている / We must be very careful <i>when it ~s to</i> buying a house. 家の購入に当たっては十分注意しなければならない.</p>

実際に英語学習者がこれらの記述からどのような語法上の情報を読み取ることができるのだろうか。下記の 1～4 の項目は記述文法としての言語情報は理解できるが、5～7 の項目は英語学習者にとって有益な「活用できる」情報の記

述には欠ける。特に英語学習者にとっては、聞き手の意味処理に役立つ手続き的意味を持つ discourse marker (談話標識) に関する情報の記述に欠ける点は、学習指導要領にある「実践的コミュニケーション能力」を育成するための情報量を満たしているとは言い難い。

1. when it comes to + NP
2. when it comes to + VPing
3. 主節と従属節が前後に入れ替え可能
4. レーベルから口語英語である
5. AmE と BrE との区別がつかない
6. 先行文脈 (談話) における語用論上の用法説明に欠ける
7. 他の類似表現 (“speaking of X”, “talking of/about X”, “regarding X”, “as to X”, “as for X”, “concerning X” など) との違いが不明確である。

2. 英英辞典の記述 (Longman 英和を含む)

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) は英英辞典に記載されている英文例である。主節と従属節の入れ替えが可能であることは読み取れるが、(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) では先行文脈との関連性における記述がある点では少なからず有益な情報である。

- (1) **when it comes to something** *informal* when you are dealing with something or talking about something: *He’s a bit of an expert when it comes to computers.* (LDOCE⁶)
- (2) **when it comes to sth** *informal* when you are dealing with something or talking about something: *He’s a bit of an expert when it comes to computers.* (LONGMAN Exam’s¹)
- (3) **when it comes to sth** INFORMAL a) relating to a particular subject: *I can use a computer, but when it comes to repairing them I don’t know a thing.* b) when you are dealing with something: **When it comes**

- to relationships, everyone makes mistakes. (LAAD¹)
- (4) **when it comes to sth** INFORMAL relating to a particular subject:
When it comes to relationships, everyone makes mistakes. (LAAD²)
- (5) **when it comes to sth** relating to a particular subject: *she's hopeless*
when it comes to money. (LDAE⁵)
- (6) When it came to *the crunch, she couldn't agree to marry him.*
(LDOCE⁵)
- (7) when it comes to sth ((話)) (…のこと[話]となれば) (LEJD¹)

3. イディオム辞典の記述

(8)(9)では、語用論上の情報 (to have something to do with) が明示されているが、(10)ではその記載はなく、唐突に Jane という話題が登場することで先行文脈との関連性が漠然としている。

- (8) to have something to do with: Joe is not good in sports, but when it comes to arithmetic he's the best in the class. (*A Dictionary of American Idioms*⁵, 2013)
- (9) to have something to do with: The school has very good teachers, but when it comes to buildings, the school is poor. (The school has very good teachers but poor buildings. (*Ibid*², 1987)
- (10) when it comes to...ということになると、の点では *You can't beat Jane* when it comes to playing the piano. ピアノをひくという点では、ジェインに及ぶものはない. (*Sanseido Comprehensive Dictionary of English Idioms and Phrasal Verbs*, 2011)

4. 映画のセリフに見る共起例

前号でも触れたが、映画のセリフは“authentic”な言語資料であると同時に

に、語学学習者にとっては “role-model” として積極的に活用できる素材である。まさに “professionally well-calculated authentic conversational data/materials” であり、「事前に用意周到に書き下ろされたムダのないセリフ」である。セリフは文脈を有していることで対話が成立している観点からすれば、(11) (12) (13) (14) は特に英和辞典の独立した英文例からだけでは読み取れない先行文脈との関連性においてその用法を理解することが可能である。

(11) EXT. FAIRGROUNDS - DAY - *An obese woman waits in line.*

MORGAN: When it comes to the topic of obesity, many people are quick to point the finger at various foods and food companies. But the Grocery Manufacturers of America, a Washington D.C. based lobby group whose mission is to advance the interests of the food, beverage and consumer products industry, are quick to shift the focus away from the companies they represent, and to remind everyone that there's more at work here than just eating poorly. (*Super Size Me*, 2004)

(12) MULLINS: There was a time when I was fun. I was funny. I was. But you can't be funny and be the, the principal of a prep school. No, you cannot, because when it comes to their kids, these parents, they have no sense of humor. No. And if, and if anything goes wrong, it's my head. All right? (*The School of Rock*, 2003)

(13) RENAULT: Someday they may be scarce. You know, I think now I shall pay a call on Yvonne. Maybe get her on the rebound, huh?

RICK: Well, when it comes to women, you're a true democrat.

CASSELLE: Et moi, je vous dis que l'attitude de l'Italie est immonde.

Qu'est-ce que vous auriez fait sans l'armee allemande?

RENAULT: If he gets a word in, it'll be a major Italian victory.

(*Casablanca*, 1942)

(14) GAVIN: Bye. I recently married. Which is the last thing I ever thought

I'd do after what happened to the Roses. *When it comes to* women... I hope I'm a better man now than I was. I know I'm a better lawyer *when it comes to* divorce. I'll never make another mistake like I made with Oliver. Let's just concentrate on the job at hand. (*The War of the Roses*, 1989)

5. ニュースメディアと TED Talks に見る共起例

次の(15)(16)(17)は *The Japan Times* のオンライン記事からの共起例である。“when it comes to X” が、ニュースメディアでもその使用を確認できることを示している。

(15) *When it comes to* tourism, image is everything | The Japan Times
Mar 23, 2014 ... Japan's well-known cultural capital appears to have the least to be concerned about *when it comes to* image. But thanks to the renewed ...

(<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/search-results/?q=when+it+comes+to>)

(16) Nishikori the best bet *when it comes to* deciding set | The Japan Times
Feb 17, 2015 ... Working in sports media we often come across numbers that are impressive, but this one is literally off the charts. Nishikori tops a list that ...

(<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/search-results/?q=when+it+comes+to>)

(17) Voters get little to go on *when it comes to* nuclear issue | The Japan Times
...

Dec 1, 2012 ... *When it comes to* understanding their positions on the future of nuclear power, voters must feel a bit like Alice in political wonderland when they ...

(<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/search-results/?q=when+it+comes+to>)

(18) 3:18 Now this is what many introverts do, and it's our loss for sure, but

it is also our colleagues' loss and our communities' loss. And at the risk of sounding grandiose, it is the world's loss. Because ***when it comes to*** creativity and to leadership, we need introverts doing what they do best. A third to a half of the population are introverts -- a third to a half. So that's one out of every two or three people you know.

(https://www.ted.com/talks/susan_cain_the_power_of_introverts/transcript?language=en)

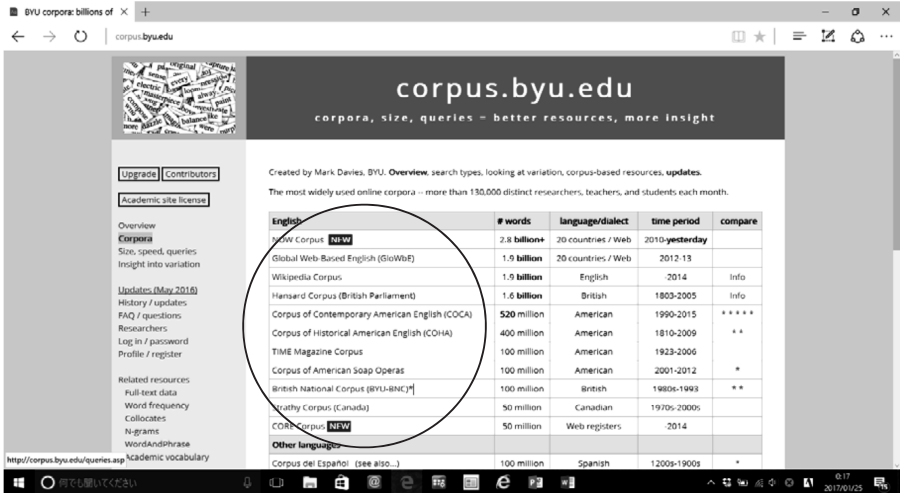
6. コーパスに見る共起例

大規模コーパスの検索例として、Brigham Young 大学の Mark Davies 氏が開発したフリーのコーパスデータ COCA (The Corpus of Contemporary American English、1990-2015の520 million wds.) と同志社大学の長谷部陽一郎氏が開発した TCSE (TED Talk_Corpus Search Engine、現在2,240本の TED Talks) の検索結果を紹介する。

6.1. COCA の共起例

BYU (Brigham Young University) が提供する下記のコーパスリストの中から COCA を検索する。1990-2015年間で現在 5 億語以上のワードバンクを誇るインターフェイスで、英語に関しては現在11個のコーパスを提供している。

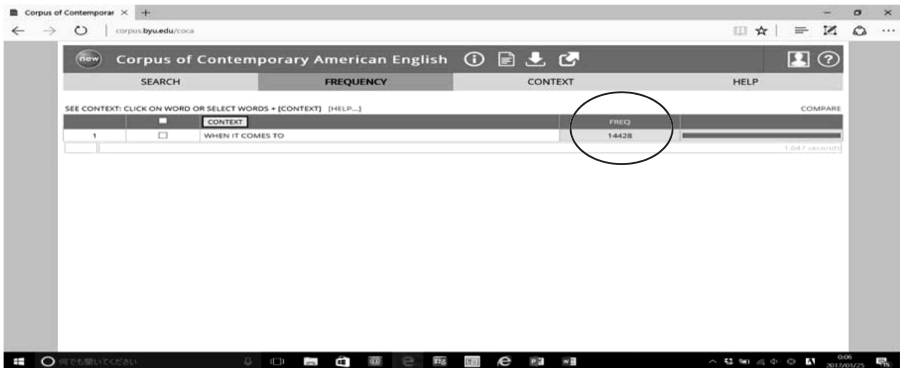
(画面1：BYU が提供する英語のコーパス一覧)



(<http://corpus.byu.edu/>より)

(画面2) が表すように、“when it comes to X” は14,428件の実例を確認することができる。

(画面2：COCA/ “when it comes to X” の FREQUENCY 表示)



(画面3 : COCA/ “when it comes to X” の CONTEXT 表示)

Corpus of Contemporary American English

SEARCH FREQUENCY CONTEXT HELP

SAMPLE: 100 200 500 1000
<<< 1/145 >>>

X FOR MORE CONTEXT .

Year	Source	Part of Speech	Context
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C buying into a whole socioeconomic package that goes along with that. "When it comes to that attraction, a feminist man makes sure - verbally - that his partner
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C if various accountability measures create procedural challenges, let's fix them. When it comes to holding government accountable, it is in the nation's best interest t
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C , "the legal world in "The Good Wife." But when it comes to classical music, there's an added factor: The popular image of classical
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C working on a novel about Lagos. "Big on promise, dismal when it comes to fulfillment." It began with a big party. The government built Festac
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C there is one word to describe Leonis's ownership style, at least: when it comes to his sports teams, that word is patience. It engenders passionate loyalty from
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C make you breathe faster. "And so, as Johnson suggests, when it comes to salt intake, "moderation is probably ideal." Cut your sodium intake
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C He wasn't going to let anything, as far as the analytics when it comes to size, power, strength, speed, stop him from what he was
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C 's too quick to criticize the country for its failings at home. When it comes to the exercise of American power overseas, they contend that he's too cautious
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C receptors in the brain: two key neurotransmitters that work like a seesaw when it comes to sexual desire. The drug was first developed by the pharmaceutical comp
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C law, officials say, is designed to introduce much-needed accountability. But when it comes to the disappearance of the three sisters, many Muslims here are convinc
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C The two do not see eye to eye on many issues, including when it comes to voter-identification laws. "I think there needs to be a system so people
2015	NEWS	WashPost	A B C those who oppose or question him, to bend them to his will when it comes to his personal authority. In Kent Babb's excellent profile of Goodell, a
2015	NEWS	NYTimes	A B C movie, but I forgot that there's no such thing as over-obvious when it comes to the Oscars. Given the passionate argument about civil rights that has reignited in
2015	NEWS	NYTimes	A B C nately, that our information is safe and that large corporations are super-vigilant when it comes to protecting their digital privacy. If Sony is so vulnerable, what ab
2015	NEWS	NYTimes	A B C everyday people throughout the city, we proved the cynics wrong. And when it comes to affordable housing, we will prove them wrong again. In fact, we
2015	NEWS	NYTimes	A B C and more affordable. And here's one that will be a game-changer: when it comes to keeping our city affordable for thousands of New York families: Sunnyside Yards
2015	NEWS	NYTimes	A B C creed, no rights for women, no freedom for anyone. So when it comes to Iran and ISIS, the enemy of your enemy is your enemy. (

6.2 TCSE の共起例

TCSE は現在2,240本の TED Talks が取められている。(画面4) が表すように、“when it comes to X” は196件のヒット件数があることが確認できる。(画面4 : TCSE/ “when it comes to X” の検索画面)

TCSE: Ted Corpus Search

yohasebe.com/tcse

Total number of hits: 196 (0.888 seconds)

#	ID	Info	Line	Time	Text
1	2635	28	01:15	[0:07] [16:49]	when it comes to choosing partners.
2	2621	109	06:20	[0:31] [19:05]	when it comes to media and politics.
3	2617	159	07:23	[0:07] [11:02]	when it comes to using data to make operational changes.
4	2616	148	07:53	[0:54] [13:37]	They know that when it comes to schooling,
5	2604	3	00:19	[0] [16:55]	but when it comes to trusting people,
6	2601	18	00:59	[0:07] [13:07]	When it comes to self-transformation,
7	2574	76	03:47	[0:32] [11:39]	When it comes to people,

196件の共起例からコンテキスト表示例として以下を示す。

(画面5：TSCE/ “when it comes to X” のコンテキスト表示例)

02:02	So I quit my job in advertising ◇ to try and do something about this disgraceful national epidemic, ◇ because I came to realize ◇ that the challenges to preventing gun violence ◇ are actually the same ones that made me love advertising, ◇ which is to try to figure out how to engage people. ◇ Only instead of doing it to sell products, ◇ doing it to save lives. ◇ And that comes down to finding common ground, ◇ where what I want overlaps with what you want. ◇ And you might be surprised to learn, <u>when it comes to gun violence</u> , ◇ just how much common ground there is. ◇
	そのため私は広告の仕事を辞めました ◇ アメリカに蔓延する不名誉な現象をどうにかしたかったからです ◇ 私はこのことに気がきました ◇ 銃暴力を防止することへの挑戦は ◇ 私が広告を愛してやまなかったことと実は同じであり ◇ 人との関わり方を 理解しようとする ことだと ◇ 商品を販売する代わりに ◇ 命を救うことに置き換える だけです ◇ それは結局 私と皆さんの望みが重なる部分で ◇ 共通点を見つけることなのです ◇ 銃による暴力のこととなると ◇ 共通点の多さを知って驚くでしょう ◇

7. 用法の形式

上述した各種辞書の英文例、映画のセリフをはじめ各種メディアおよびコーパスでの共起例を基に次の2つの形式を考えることができる。この場合のNIは肯定文、否定文、疑問文のいずれかを従える。XとYの関係では、前文で取り上げられた話題と全く同じものを指すのではなく、関連した事項を受け手の発話の前提として新情報を付加する。しかしながら、(19)のように話題の

the disabled が特に先行文脈と明らかな関連性を持っておらず、あたかも新しい話題として登場し、それについて新しい情報を付加していると思われるものも存在する。

1. A:X.....

B: When it comes to Y,NI..... .(X ≐ Y)

2. A:X.....

B:NI.....when it comes to Y. (X ≐ Y)

※ NI=New Information

(19) A little town in Alabama has a big jump on the skyscraper when it comes to accommodating the disabled. (E-DIC)

8. インフォーマント調査

23人の英語母語話者を対象（大学レベルでの非常勤講師を含む英語母語話者教員）にインフォーマント調査を行った。談話辞 “when it comes to X” が出現する発話の位置（主節の前、主節の後）と文体（肯定文、否定文、疑問文）との共起を、また、前号で聞き取り調査をした “speaking of X” の特殊な用法としての “speaking of which” と対象となる “when it comes to which”（実際に存在するかどうかは別にして）をも敢えて含め、下記の12の文例を提示し「容認する（○）」「容認しない（×）」の二者選択形式で行った。英文例は全て各種英英/英和辞書・文法書等に例示してあるものである。先行文脈がなくセンテンスレベルのみでの判断は難しいと回答した場合（「？」）は「×」に含めることにした。

<affirmative sentence>

1. ○23、×0 When it comes to computers, he’s a bit of an expert.

2. ○17、×6 He’s a bit of an expert, when it comes to computers.

<negative sentence>

3. ○ 5、×18 When it comes to movies, I have never seen *Gone with the Wind*.
4. ○ 1、×22 I have never seen *Gone with the Wind*, when it comes to movies.

<interrogative sentence>

5. ○ 6、×17 When it comes to plays, have you ever read Shakespeare?
6. ○ 2、×21 Have you ever read Shakespeare, when it comes to plays?
7. ○ 0、×23 When it comes to birthdays, when's yours?
8. ○ 1、×22 When's yours, when it comes to birthdays?
9. ○ 1、×22 When it comes to birthdays, don't you have one coming up?
10. ○ 0、×23 Don't you have one coming up, when it comes to birthdays?

<relative pronoun "which">

11. ○ 0、×23 I'm working hard for the money. When it comes to which, you hand in your application?
12. ○ 0、×23 When it comes to which, you hand in your application? I'm working hard for the money.

また、インフォーマントによっては下記のように示唆に富む細かな意見を提供していただいたことも触れておく。このインフォーマントは Discourse Analysis を専門とする研究者であり、各種辞書では説明しきれていない英語母語話者の直観性とこの分野の研究者として談話分析の視点からの見解を示している。先行文脈のない独立した発話では談話辞は機能しにくいことを考慮すれば、有意義な情報提供である。敢えて回答を原文のまま掲載させていただきたい。

<affirmative sentence>

(○) **When it comes to** computers, he's a bit of an expert.

In this case, the 'he' seems to have been already topicalized. i.e. we were

already talking about ‘him’ and possibly his abilities, and now we are focusing in on his skills regarding computers.

Alternately: If the word ‘He’s’ is stressed we could be nominating a person from a known or understood group as knowledgeable about computers. The pronunciation of this could affect the meaning.

(?) He’s a bit of an expert, when it comes to computers.

Again, not wrong per se but the order of propositional statement followed by topic relevance seems like a strategic move, as in the above case. Of course, as a spoken utterance the comma is not present and intonation or stress could mark different nuances/meanings. (i.e. ‘When it comes to computers, but not when it comes to cars’ or ‘An expert in computers only, but not in anything else.’)

<negative sentence>

(×/?) When it comes to movies, I have never seen *Gone with the Wind*.

Similar to above but even more so. Topicalizing movies, and then talking about movies you have never seen (A large set) and then mentioning this movie in particular as one you have never seen needs some kind of further contextualization.

(×/?) I have never seen *Gone with the Wind*, when it comes to movies.

Again, marginal. It seems like the topic may have been ‘non-experiences’ within certain categories. E.g. “ Well I’ve never tried skiing, snowboarding or any winter sports like that, and I’ve never seen Kabuki or Noh or those kind of things. And I’ve never seen Citizen Kane or *Gone with the wind*, when it comes to movies.” In this case it is implied that these two movies are classics and representative of great movies that a person could be expected to have seen rather than a random movie that one hasn’t seen.

Perhaps this makes more sense:

“I’ve never seen *Gone with the Wind* when it comes to great movies everyone should see.”

“When it comes to” seems to only collocate with YN questions, not WH question.

“Speaking of” seems to collocate with both WH and YN questions.

I can’t really assess these due a lack of context. I’m not clear on the logical connection between handing in an application and working hard for the money.

General.

The two expressions you have focused on seem to be primarily topic management structures and are therefore highly context dependent, and without that context it is hard to generalize as to acceptability or unacceptability.

“Speaking of “ to my mind is involved in ‘stepwise transition’ of topic in that it takes something that was previously mentioned (and it should be temporally proximate, not distal in the conversation) and promotes it to current topic centrality.

“When it comes to” seems to be more contrastive in its meaning, and topicalizes one aspect of an item/trope/ above other aspects that may have equal weight objectively.

9. 次稿にむけて

前号の “speaking of X” に引き続き、本稿ではその類似表現である談話辞 “when it comes to X” の用法について、学習英和辞典、英英辞書、メディア英語、コーパスでの共起例を示すことでその用法が明らかになってきた。次稿ではこれらの2つの談話辞を、特に先行文脈との関連性（話題転換、新情報、

旧情報) と文体の視点から比較することで用法の違いを考察することにする。

謝辞

本研究にあたり、“speaking of X” と比較することで、倉田誠先生（京都外国語大学）から貴重な助言や共起例のご提供をいただきました。この場をお借りして感謝の意をお伝えしたい。

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