

I 次の文を読んで、以下の設問に答えよ。

There was a time when people ventured into the jungles of Thailand and Cambodia to capture wild elephants, using them to do their heavy work for them. The result was that these magnificent creatures became an endangered species in the region. The population is now down to fewer than 45,000, a situation so desperate that millions of dollars have been put aside for their protection and preservation. For more than seven centuries elephants were Thailand's primary means of transportation. Now the people of that country must give preference to the future of that animal over their own needs; さもないと、象はすっかり姿を消してしまうかもしれない。^(A)

At the turn of the century forest covered as much as 90 percent of Thailand, and it is assumed that as many as 300,000 elephants may have lived there.⁽¹⁾ The elephant was an essential part of the life of both princes and peasants. Its image can be seen on numerous Buddhist temples; a white elephant was once the symbol that appeared on the national flag.

Thais have many proverbs that mention elephants. A father might tell his son, "Were you called upon to inspect an elephant, it would be wise to examine its tail."⁽²⁾ When choosing a bride, examine her mother." (Imagine thinking of an elephant's tail as being like someone's mother!)

The King of Siam, as Thailand was once known, had offered elephants to the United States. President Lincoln had apparently declined the offer,⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ telling the king that in his country people used steam for transportation instead of elephants. That which was essential in one country might be impractical in another.⁽³⁾

Today the situation in Thailand is far from good. And it is no better in Africa, where elephants once roamed freely across the continent. There farmers have stripped forests where elephants were living. Separated from each other, they have taken refuge in small groups in national parks. But

even these parks are not safe. Hunters still come in and shoot them. Farmers would poison straying elephants to protect their crops from these enormous eaters. After all, an adult can consume up to 400 pounds of vegetation in a single day. This is not a happy prospect for a farmer whose life — and the lives of whose loved ones — depends upon his crops.

We are all involved in subtle interrelationships. We must protect animals as best as we can, wherever their natural habitat is. But we must also protect the lives of the people who live near them. If we don't find a way, all creatures on our planet will be the losers.

I — 1. 下線部(i), (ii), (iii)ともっとも意味の近いものはどれか。それぞれの記号を記せ。

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| (i) ventured | (ア) made an invasion |
| | (イ) took a vacation |
| | (ウ) took the risk of going |
| | (エ) went to settle |
| (ii) declined | (ア) been at a loss for |
| | (イ) been in doubt about |
| | (ウ) received |
| | (エ) refused |
| (iii) straying | (ア) bordering |
| | (イ) ill |
| | (ウ) unhappy |
| | (エ) wandering |

I — 2. 下線部(A)を英訳せよ。

I — 3. 下線部(1), (2), (3)を和訳せよ。

I — 4. 下線部(a)はどのような内容か。できるだけ具体的に日本語で説明せよ。