

次の文章は、2018年10月2日に THE JAPAN NEWS by Yomiuri Shimbun に掲載された“AI system helps lawyers check legal documents, sometimes in seconds”という見出しの記事である。これを読み、以下の設問に答えよ。なお、*のついた語には注がある。

Artificial intelligence has moved into the world of corporate legal matters: A Tokyo-based start-up founded by young lawyers is using AI to check for omissions and mistakes in contracts, sometimes taking only one second.

There have been calls lately for greater legal compliance, and (1)the service is [it / over / can help / attention / whether / drawing] streamline corporate legal practices.

A lawyer's office in Tokyo was established in April last year, and is led by 31-year-old lawyer, who quit a leading law firm to go into business (A) himself. Even with only seven employees, his office checks contract documents such as a confidentiality agreement between companies.

The service uses AI to automatically check such things as provisions or phrasing that could be detrimental* to a company, (B) omissions or incomplete elements. If there are points that need to be corrected or revised, the AI provides correct phrasing as a reference.

Lawyers and company officials in charge of legal affairs ultimately go through the document and make necessary changes.

About 10 companies have so far used the service on a (C), including Dentsu Inc., Kao Corp. and Sojitz Corp. Kyoto University's Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies provided technical assistance. A technology called “natural language processing” has been applied, whereby a computer processes the language used in people's daily (D).

This kind of screening has normally been done by lawyers with technical knowledge, or a person in charge of legal affairs within a company, who check every word of a document.

Business contracts regarding such matters as mergers and acquisitions*, or joint development projects, can be more than 100 pages long. According to the lawyer's office in Tokyo, (2)AI has made it possible to shorten the time required for screening, document preparation and other tasks to about one-third the usual time.

Only a limited number of people with expert knowledge work in the field of corporate legal affairs, so companies' legal affairs departments and the lawyers in charge are usually (E) busy.

“By using AI, we'll be freed from labor-intensive work that requires knowledge and experience, and instead be able to spend more time on sophisticated judgement and thinking,” the lawyer in the office stressed regarding the effectiveness of the service.

Using things like information technology and AI in the legal business is called legal tech. Many start-ups have been established in the litigious* United States, with the related market estimated at 1.8 trillion yen.

In Britain, (3)technology has been developed to predict court rulings with high probability. According to research by the University of Oxford and other groups, paralegals — people who provide support to lawyers — are believed to be a (4)vanishing profession that could be replaced with AI and robots in the future.

[注] detrimental 「不利益な」; mergers and acquisitions 「M&A (合併・買収)」;
litigious 「論争好きな, 訴訟好きな」

[設問]

問1 空所(A)～(E)にふさわしい語句を, 次のア～エからそれぞれ一つずつ選べ。

(A)

(ア) above

(イ) for

(ウ) on

(エ) with

(B)

(ア) also known as

(イ) as well as

(ウ) excluding

(エ) in contrast with

(C)

(ア) basis daily

(イ) natural cause

(ウ) tight budget

(エ) trial basis

(D)

(ア) conservation

(イ) conversation

(ウ) needs

(エ) route

(E)

(ア) extreme

(イ) extremely

(ウ) rare

(エ) rarely

問2 下線部(1)が文脈に合う意味を表す英文になるように, []内にある語句を正しく並べ替え, 3番目と5番目にくる語句を答えよ。

問3 下線部(2)を和訳せよ。

問4 下線部(3)とあるが, これはどのような意味か。文末が「～が開発されている。」に続く形で, 25字程度の分かりやすい日本語を用いて説明せよ。(指定字句「が開発されている。」は文字数に含めない。)

問5 下線部(4)とあるが、これはどのような意味か。最も適切なものを次の(ア)～(エ)から一つ選べ。

- (ア) 専門家不在の論争
- (イ) プロ顔負けの輝かしい業績
- (ウ) 将来的には存在しなくなる職業
- (エ) 専門家を補助的に支える役割

問6 本文について正しく述べているものを、次の(ア)～(オ)から二つ選べ。

- (ア) 契約書に漏れや誤りがないかどうかのチェックは AI を用いれば最短 1 分で行うことができる。
- (イ) AI による書類チェックでは、契約書の条項が企業にとって不利になる内容になっていないかどうかを確認できる。
- (ウ) 企業法務の分野では、専門的な知識を持った人物に限られるため、書類のチェックは担当者の負担が非常に大きかった。
- (エ) AI を活用することで、知識や経験が要求される労働集約型の働き方が可能になり、より高度な判断に時間をかけられる。
- (オ) 法務分野に IT や AI などの技術を取り入れることをパラリーガルと呼び、訴訟社会の米国での関連市場は 1 億 8000 万円ほどである。