

# On my mind と in my mind の違い

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## 0. 序

本論文では on my mind と in my mind の違いについて考察する。データの収集はコーパスとして British National Corpus World Edition (以下 BNC と表記) を用い on my mind を含む例をすべて抽出し、その中から ideas impressed on my mind のような、動詞と on の結びつきが on と mind の結びつきよりも強いと思われる例を除外した。<sup>1</sup> それが 65 例になる。それに数を合わせるべく BNC から in my mind を含む例をアトランダムに 65 例抽出した (in my mind の例は全部で 406 例あった)。両者の比較の結果、構文による違いが顕著であることがわかった。第 1 節では on my mind について、第 2 節では in my mind について考察する。第 3 節は結論である。

## 1. On my mind (65 例)

本節は on my mind 表現を取り扱う。On my mind 表現には構文に特徴がみられるので、そのパターンを先に示し、その後で例文を挙げる。次の 8 つのパターンである。

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① I have things on my mind のパターン

I have の代わりに I've got が使われるバリエーションがあり、things の前には many, a few, important などの形容詞がくることも少なくない (65 例中 14 例)

② I have a lot on my mind のパターン

I have が省略されたもの、I have の代わりに I've got が使われるものや a lot の代わりに (so/very) much, plenty, a great deal が使われるバリエーションがある。(65 例中 14 例)

③ X is on my mind のパターン (65 例中 15 例)

④ something on my mind のパターン (65 例中 7 例)

something else, another (thing) も something のバリエーションとして処理した。

⑤ X is the (very) last thing on my mind か、あるいは the (very) last thing on my mind is X というパターン (65 例中 6 例)

⑥ I have X on my mind のパターン (65 例中 4 例)

⑦ With X on my mind のパターン (65 例中 3 例)

⑧ There be X on my mind のパターン (65 例中 1 例)

それでは、グループ別に例文を挙げる。

① I have things on my mind のパターン

- (1) I had other things **on my mind**.
- (2) I had other things **on my mind**.
- (3) I had other things **on my mind**.
- (4) I've other things **on my mind** at the minute.
- (5) Last night I had a few things **on my mind** to be able to apologize.

- (6) I've had a few things **on my mind**.
- (7) I have more important things **on my mind**.
- (8) That way I avoid being plagued by calls from obscure planets when I have important things **on my mind**.
- (9) No, it's not that. She gave him an apologetic little smile. I've had things **on my mind**, that's all.
- (10) I've got things **on my mind**.
- (11) I've got so many things **on my mind** but when you're here running things, well, I know everything's all right.
- (12) I've got things **on my mind**.
- (13) So I've got other things **on my mind** ... .
- (14) we were walking down by the side of the road! but things **on my mind** er, my my mind to be able to apologise.
- ② I have a lot on my mind のパターン
- (15) Such a lot **on my mind** since yesterday.
- (16) It didn't occur to you that I might have a lot **on my mind**?
- (17) I've got a lot **on my mind**: the state of the economy, interest rates, disarmament in the Warsaw Pact ... .
- (18) I've rather a lot **on my mind**, Meredith said.
- (19) I've a lot **on my mind**.
- (20) I've got rather a lot **on my mind**.
- (21) You see, I've had rather a lot **on my mind** recently.
- (22) I've got so much **on my mind** at that time to to sort out that threat ... .
- (23) I had much **on my mind**, and I wanted to ponder over my problems, real or imaginary.

- (24) Jordi was still very much **on my mind**.
- (25) Going back to Wembley is very much **on my mind**.
- (26) I've got so much **on my mind**, said my mother irritably, letting us know that she was bearing the full burden of the forthcoming taxing ceremony.
- (27) I had plenty **on my mind**, including a desperate hangover, and was in no mood for complications.
- (28) I happen to have a great deal **on my mind** at the moment.

③ X is on my mind のパターン

- (29) Every day I'm ready. I dream of it. It's always **on my mind**.
- (30) Retirement is certainly not **on my mind**.
- (31) It's always been **on my mind**.
- (32) You're always **on my mind** when we're apart.
- (33) Laura was more **on my mind** than Louisa.
- (34) Don't tell me that you care what the hell is **on my mind**, she thought to herself.
- (35) It's constantly **on my mind**, she agreed solemnly, thinking how hard she had to budget.
- (36) It's been **on my mind** since Bruges.
- (37) And while babies are **on my mind**, my best wishes to Patsy Kensit on the birth of her son.
- (38) What was mainly **on my mind** just then in fact, preying on it was another obscure planet.
- (39) Death was very much **on my mind**, yet I could not tear my attention away from the cavortings of those two inhuman beings.

- (40) I was just going to tell them about all the things that were **on my mind**, about my dad and about Jesus and about aliens ... .
- (41) I could see how dark it was and it was **on my mind** and I thought she rushed a little bit ... .
- (42) I was heavily involved before, but now the job is **on my mind** a lot – it never leaves you.
- (43) Now it'll be **on my mind** now
- ④ something on my mind のパターン
- (44) I'm sorry, I had something **on my mind**.
- (45) I had something else **on my mind**.
- (46) I have another **on my mind**, she said, apparently not joking.
- (47) I've something **on my mind**, the landlord said softly to a concrete wall.
- (48) I've got something **on my mind**, he said sharply, sipping at the drink he cradled in his hand.
- (49) It was just something **on my mind**.
- (50) This is something that's been **on my mind** for a very long time ... .
- (51) It was something that was more or less always **on my mind**.
- ⑤ X is the (very) last thing on my mind か、あるいは the (very) last thing on my mind is X というパターン
- (52) Yet the last thing **on my mind** is business when I look at you in that witchy little dress!
- (53) the last thing **on my mind** from that moment on was work.
- (54) Well, sex was the last thing **on my mind** when I got out. I didn't need

it.

- (55) It may surprise you to hear that typing is the last thing **on my mind**, he said softly, sitting down beside her.
- (56) I can think of a couple of occasions when patronising you was the last thing **on my mind**.
- (57) In fact, making love to you is just about the very last thing **on my mind** at the moment.

⑥ I have X on my mind のパターン

- (58) I have so much more important concerns **on my mind** that I am hardly fit for anything ... .
- (59) The last time I won was here and I had that **on my mind** most of the week.
- (60) When I do prison trips, I always have **on my mind** what happened.
- (61) Just got some stuff **on my mind**, she told Josie, and Josie didn't press her further.

⑦ With X on my mind のパターン

- (62) Sleep? she cried. With all you've just said **on my mind**?
- (63) You can't lock me away with that **on my mind**!
- (64) At a later date I went to evening classes and with this suit still **on my mind** asked the instructor's advice.

⑧ There be X on my mind のパターン

- (65) There are several thought-provoking, unsensationalist articles **on my mind** today.

## 2. In my mind

本節は in my mind 表現を取り扱う。まず構文的特徴として、there be no doubt in my mind (no の代わりに little などの否定表現がバリエーションとして在る) という例文は多く、in my mind で固定されていると思われる。There be no doubt on my mind という例は BNC には存在しないからである。このパターンの in my mind 表現は 63 例中 9 例という出現率であった。全体では 406 例中 44 という出現数であった。まず、その例を挙げる。

- (66) There was no doubt **in my mind** what I would do and I've never regretted going into the business because we've seen it grow enormously.
- (67) However, there is no doubt **in my mind** that it would be quite wrong to confine her in a geriatric home among seriously deranged patients.
- (68) There is no doubt **in my mind** that diesel was the right decision for us, he says.
- (69) And there is no doubt **in my mind** that this infant is of higher than average intelligence.
- (70) There is no doubt **in my mind** ... that we have all lived many lives before ... .
- (71) The moment it becomes unprofitable to do so, there is no doubt **in my mind** that the tree-farmers will abandon these forests.
- (72) there is no doubt **in my mind** that he must have savoured the aroma of that rare emotion.
- (73) There is little doubt **in my mind** that the case was Nitric Acid from the very beginning ... .
- (74) There is not a shred of doubt **in my mind** that we will win, he says.

次に、on my mind 表現でまとめた構文別に in my mind 表現を見てみよう。

① I have things in my mind のパターン

アランダムに抽出した例の中にはなかったので全体から検索したが、この構文を持つものはなく、things in my mind という文字列を持つものは 406 例中に次の 1 例だけであった。

(75) Anyway I was going over a few things **in my mind**.

従って、この構文は on my mind 表現に特有のものであると仮説を立てることができそうである。

② I have a lot in my mind のパターン

アランダムに抽出した例の中にはなかったので全体から検索したが、この文字列を持つものは次の 1 例だけであった。

(76) the effect on the children remained very much **in my mind**.

従ってこの構文についても on my mind 表現に特有のものであると仮説を立てることができよう。

③ X is in my mind のパターン

(77) I mention all this because it's been **in my mind** a lot recently.

(78) Besides, socialism was, **in my mind** at least, associated with the sharing of resources and pleasures ... .

(79) It's **in my mind**, grandfather, that Lachlan may rue the day he called



in on Marion Aluinn again!

- (80) It's **in my mind** she's of greater importance than she seems.
- (81) I felt that **in my mind** was a compass, not of our short journey here but of our life to eternity.
- (82) It was played incessantly on the radio and at least once at every dance I went to, and the haunting melody was nearly always **in my mind**.
- (83) All that was **in my mind** was to abort this mission.
- (84) That possibility, always present **in my mind**, became, I must admit, an added thrill.
- (85) She is still **in my mind** and so I can be totally accurate in recording my responses and in describing what took place.

Always ((82), (84)), still ((85)) のように継続性を表すことばと共起しているのが目につくが、これは on my mind の例 ((29), (31), (32), (35)) でも見られることなので、in my mind と on my mind の違いとはならない。

④ something in my mind のパターン

アランダムに抽出した例の中にはなかったので全体から検索したが、この文字列を持つものは 406 例中次の 2 例だけであった。

- (86) But something **in my mind** hated them.
- (87) I don't mind, that's still something **in my mind** ... .

従って、この構文についても、on my mind 表現に特有のものであると仮説を立てることができよう。

- ⑤ X is the (very) last thing in my mind か、あるいは the (very) last thing in my mind is X というパターン

アランダムに抽出した例の中にはなかったので全体から検索したが、この構文を持つものは次の 1 例だけであった。

- (88) That is the last thing **in my mind**.

この構文については on my mind は 65 例中 6 例、in my mind は 406 例中 1 例ということを見ると、やや on my mind に多い表現と言え、特徴として挙げてもよいのではなかろうか。

- ⑥ I have X in my mind のパターン

- (89) I had this thing **in my mind** that she had to be in a place where I could get to her and she would be well looked after.

- (90) I have had **in my mind** recently the image of a great bridge, how the pillars rise up and sweep down again with an immense force and weight.

- (91) On reading R. Penfold's article in the April 92 issue of Everyday Electronics, I had a similar query **in my mind** to that of Mr G. I. Smith ...

- (92) And he said, I have **in my mind** a million notes, and every one which is not perfect makes me mad.

- (93) When I conduct a symphony or make a film, I have the impression of the complete work **in my mind**.

- (94) I had **in my mind** the difference between false pretences and stealing by trick.

この構文における on my mind の例 (58) - (61) とこれらの (89) - (94) を比較しても明らかな違いは認められない。

⑦ With X in my mind のパターン

(95) With Amantani fresh **in my mind** it seemed to me that more than the cattle were tethered here.

この構文においても on my mind の例 (62) - (64) と in my mind の例 (95) の違いは感じられない。

⑧ There be X in my mind のパターン

(96) Amid the general rejoicing at South Africa's return to international sport, there is a reservation **in my mind**.

(97) There have never been any thoughts **in my mind** that I would get something from the Government.

(98) **In my mind** there is not an out-and-out favourite to cross Westminster Bridge because it's the most open race of all time.

この構文においても on my mind の例 (65) と in my mind の例 (96) - (98) の違いは感じられない。

これまでの考察から、on my mind 表現と in my mind 表現とでそれぞれに特有の構文があり、同じ構文を取るものもあることがわかる。同じ構文を取るものに関して両者で比較してみても違いはわからない。

これまでは両者を構文別にみてきたが、on my mind 表現はほぼすべての例をグループ分けできるのに対して、in my mind 表現はありとあらゆる構文を

取る。これまでの構文の分類にあてはまらない用例がまだ残っている。In my mind 表現の例を挙げ表現されている内容のみてみよう。Mind (心) の中にあるものであるからそれは当然、気持ち (feeling)、記憶 (memory)、観念・想像 (imagination)、考え (opinion) といったものになる。それぞれについて例文を2つずつ挙げる。

#### 気持ち (feeling)

(99) What really stands out **in my mind** was the homage that was instantly paid to a good poem and the individual who had written it.

(100) When I left Uganda, people used to wear tight pyamas and Kamiz, but these too they did not approve of. So I gave them up, gave them all up. But **in my mind** I suffered.

(99) では気持ちの中に敬意 (homage) があったこと、(100) では実際の気持ちとしては苦しみがあったことが表現されている。

#### 記憶 (memory)

(101) I wouldn't mind losing my stuff but I'd hate to lose my films. I mean, they're memories. And **in my mind** I saw them reaching between their legs to clutch their precious bags.

(102) I relived the experience **in my mind** and grinned.

(101) では記憶の中で見たものが描かれており、記憶の中で今も鮮やかに残っていること、(102) では記憶の中の経験を思い出していることが描かれている。

考え (opinion)

(103) **In my mind** it's common sense that makes a good policeman, not education.

(104) People call him a clown after he's made a mistake, but **in my mind** he's a master goalkeeper. Such is his make-up that he will come for just about any centre because he believes he can reach the ball. I wish I had his self-confidence.

(103) では良い景観についての自分の意見、(104) では世間では酷評されているスポーツマンについての私見が述べられている。これらの例においては in my mind は in my opinion に近い。

観念・想像 (imagination)

(105) **In my mind**, I had pictured Charles, Anne and myself standing in the middle of an otherwise empty common room ... .

(106) **In my mind** I am climbing higher into the past, climbing higher towards Machu Picchu.

(105) では頭の中で人物の様子を思い描いたことが描写されており、(106) では climb している自分の姿が想像されている。

### 3. 結論

以上の考察から次のことが結論として言えよう。On my mind 表現と in my mind 表現とでは取る構文に顕著な違いが見られる。

On my mind に特有な構文：

- ・ I have things on my mind のパターン
- ・ I have a lot on my mind のパターン
- ・ something on my mind のパターン
- ・ X is the (very) last thing on my mind か、あるいは the (very) last thing on my mind is X というパターン

In my mind に特有な構文：

- ・ there be no/little doubt in my mind のパターン

両者に共通に見られる構文：

- ・ X is on/in my mind のパターン
- ・ I have X on/in my mind のパターン
- ・ With X on/in my mind のパターン
- ・ There be X on/in my mind のパターン

On my mind 表現に特有の構文、I have things on my mind と I have a lot on my mind のパターンにおいて、things は複数、a lot は数量的に多いということが言えるので、on my mind は量的に mind にのしかかる、負担が大きいというイメージがあると言ってもいいかもしれない。また、構文に関して次のことが言える。On my mind はほぼ固定した構文で用いられるが、in my mind はあらゆる構文を取り、グループ分けができないものも多く存在する。また、同じような構文で表現された場合、on と in とでの違いは明確なものはない。

## 注

1. British National Corpus World Edition は、1 億語のイギリス英語の書き言葉 (90%) と話し言葉 (10%) の品詞標識付きコーパスであり、大半は 1990 年代のテキストである。なお、コンコーダンス・ソフトは TEXANA Learning Edition Ver. 1.61 (赤瀬川史朗氏による) を用いた。また、引用例への太字の施しは筆者によるものである。

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