Saeid Alizadeh

Week 9 – Writing Task 1

Both of the reading and the listening talks about the exact time of human inhabitation in the America continent. The oldest known archaeological site (Monte Verde, Chile) shows human being reside around 12,500 years. The author of reading passage argues about the accuracy of this time and point out some problems on the evidence by using some reasons to result this time must be shorter than 12500 years. Meanwhile, the lecturer insists that evidences and researchers which lead us to 12500 years is right and authors proposed problems is not valid on this case.

To begin with, the author believes the artifacts did not contain weapons but that age human was a hunter and weapons as a sign of hunting must be discovered in that place, so these evidences have conflict. The lecturer counters by insisting that age human did not have knowledge of making weapons and their hunting, the lecturer mentions that hunting tools was a bones and stones which was found in that site.

In addition, the lecturer acknowledge that the monte verde site is a farmland and maybe surface soil goes under a lot of change, but it’s just happen for upper layer, while many of artifacts was fond in deep layer of soil which never touched for a long time of history. Based on this reasons the lecturer point out that artifacts can be valuable reference for dating peocess. But the reading makes argue about that farmers have damaged the site immensely, so the disturbing of the soil has made it impossible accurately to date any of the artifacts unearthed.

At the end, to argue against the reading’s assertion that presence of bitumen, the bitumen has made carbon dating difficult since it can affect the entire dating process, the lecturer argues that also bitumen make carbon dating useless, but until now more than 250 carbon dating experiments was done on the artifacts and 12500 years is a result of these experiments.

Time: 30 min