

Master's Thesis Abstract

Student ID Number: 22GH101

Name:

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Major Program / Course :
• Cultural Arts Course

Kei Asano

Title

Lithic raw material Consumption Strategies during the Jomon-Yayoi Transition in the Northern Tohoku region: Focusing on the Tsugaru Plain Area

In the Tsugaru Plain area, the hunter-gatherer culture was transformed after the introduction of paddy rice farming culture in the late Yayoi Period, about 2300 years ago. While changes in pottery types, subsistence, residential patterns, and social structure have been noted, lithic tools made by knapping stone evaluated as "Jomon-like" because no changes in stone materials and types of tools since the Jomon period. However, such an evaluation has not been made through detailed observation and basic analysis of the actual materials, and it is difficult to evaluating within the cultural and social theory. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze the technological structure of the lithic tool assemblages from the transition period between the Jomon and yayoi period in the northern Tohoku region, the stone resource environment, and the relation with habitation and livelihood, and to clarify the consumption strategy of stone resources to pursue the social and cultural theory from a new perspective.

The methods of this study are as follows. First, I observed refittings and analyze attributes related to lithic production techniques and clarify lithic material consumption techniques. Second, a survey of the stone environment in the southern Tsugaru Plain area to determine where the stone was obtained. Third, compared with the Stone consumption strategy during the introduction of paddy rice farming in each region, Sea of Japan coastal area and Shimokita Peninsula in the Tohoku region and Sendai Plane region, Kanto Plane region, and Kinki area.

As a result of the above analysis, shale was consistently used as the main material for lithic in the Tsugaru Plain area. In the latter of the Late Jomon Period, shale was acquired and consumed in the western Iwaki Mountains area and in the eastern Shirakami Mountains area, where it is estimated that large flakes were produced, but in the early Yayoi Period, shale shards were acquired directly, and flake materials were used sparingly. In the middle late Yayoi period, with people moved into the plains and began rice cultivation on a large scale, it became clear that they consumed shale mainly from the Hirakawa River near their villages. On the other hand, the use of stone resources other than shale mainly consisted of obsidian and gemstone from the Japan Sea coast region, but the rate of use declined with the introduction and expansion of rice paddy farming, and traces of production within villages became scarce by the middle to late Yayoi period, the use of igneous rocks from the Hirakawa River basin had begun. This change in stone resource consumption technology was interpreted as the result of a shrinking area for the acquisition of resources for daily use due to the expansion of rice paddy farming, the shift of settlement to the plains that progressed throughout the Tsugaru Plain region, and changes in the location of settlements.

In the Sea of Japan coastal area and the Shimokita Peninsula region, people consistently used abundant shale stone that could be obtained within a 5-km radius of villages. In the Sendai Plain region, Kanto Plain region, and Kinki region, the introduction of paddy rice agriculture reduced the area of stone resource acquisition, but there were also differences in the way stone resources were acquired through other groups, as lithic production was sometimes incorporated into the production of polished stone tools. By comparison with other regions, it was concluded that the stone consumption strategy in the Tsugaru Plain region was formed as a result of the consistent use of independent lithic technology and direct acquisition of stone resources, and that changes in livelihood and residential patterns triggered by the introduction of rice cultivation led to a shift in stone resource acquisition and consumption strategies in tandem. The stone resource acquisition and consumption strategies were also shifted in tandem with these changes.