

Master's Thesis Abstract

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The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
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Title

Formation of Paddy Rice Farming Settlements Based on Reexamination of Yayoi Middle Early Phase Pottery: Focus on the Tsugaru Plain.

The purpose of this study is twofold. Firstly, to elucidate the chronological and parallel relationships between the pottery of the mid-earliest phase of the Yayoi period in the Tsugaru Plain. Secondly, to discuss the formation of paddy rice farming Settlements during this period in the Tsugaru Plain based on the results of pottery chronology, and to explore the relationships between the communities in the Tsugaru Plain and those in other regions.

In the process of chronological analysis, a total of 1677 pottery items from six archaeological sites located in Hirosaki and Hirakawa City, Aomori Prefecture, were selected. These materials were classified into eight types of vessels: pots, pots with stand, necked jars, neckless jars, exotic pots and jars, Shallow bowls, including those with stands, and lids.

After that, focus on the forms and patterns, and types were established based on the combination of these attributes. Established typologies were examined for chronological relationships within vessel types and parallel relationships between vessel types based on commonalities and instances of excavation of the elements.

As a result, the analyzed pottery was divided into three stages. Stages 1 and 2 were assigned to the mid-early stage of the Yayoi period, while Stage 3 was positioned within the mid-mid stage of the Yayoi period, identified as the Tareyanagi 3 type.

Based on this timescale, the distribution of pottery was analyzed from a broad perspective, including the Tsugaru Plain and adjacent areas. In conducting this analysis, 48 archaeological sites were targeted.

As a result of the analysis in the Tsugaru Plain, the following findings were revealed. Firstly, during Stages I and II, pottery was distributed in both the hilly and lowland areas, with a tendency for a more concentrated distribution in the lowland areas during Stage II. In the Tareyanagi 3 type stage, pottery exhibited an intensive concentration in the lowland areas, expanding the distribution range within the lowland areas.

The results of the analysis of the extensive distribution patterns showed gradual changes in distribution. Firstly, for the Tsugaru and Shimokita Peninsula, it was found that pottery from this region consistently existed within the Tsugaru Plain. In the Yoneshiro River basin and the northern part of the Noshiro Plain, there was a gradual decline in distribution, while in the Sanpachi and Kamikita regions, it became evident that there was a gradual distribution.

Based on the analysis, the following considerations can be made. Initially, in the Tsugaru Plain during Stage I, people advanced into several locations in the lowland areas, forming paddy rice farming settlements. Subsequently, people gradually concentrated in the lowland areas with this as the nucleus. In the Tareyanagi 3 type stage, there was an expansion or movement of activity areas, attributed to the large-scale organization of communities and the optimization of livelihoods. Regarding the relationship between the Tsugaru Plain and other regions, the following considerations are made. Firstly, there was a constant relationship between Tsugaru and the Shimokita Peninsula, with the movement of people and goods. For the Yoneshiro River basin and the northern part of the Noshiro Plain, the relationship gradually weakened. In the Sanpachi and Kamikita regions, it became apparent that a relationship was established with the people of the Mabuchi River basin from Stage II onward through the people in the upper reaches of the Oirase River. Through these regional interactions, there were occasional contacts with groups from more distant areas.