

Human migration, reasons for it, and the unlikelihood of continental-scale language shift as the main factor to explain language families

Peter Bellwood (Australian National University)

2013 will see publication of two new books on prehistoric human migration:

- (1) Ness, I., Bellwood, P. (eds). 2013. *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*. 5 volumes (Volume 1, Prehistory, edited by Peter Bellwood). Malden (Massachusetts, USA) and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. This is already in print and I will bring a copy with me to Kyoto.
- (2) Bellwood, P. *First Migrants: Ancient Migration in Global Perspective*. Malden (Massachusetts, USA) and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Due for publication in September 2013.

Both volumes deal with migration from early hominins to the second millennium AD, hunter-gatherers and farmers alike, albeit all beyond the light of written history.

The publication of these two volumes gives me some excellent ammunition to discuss two questions.

- 1) Why did selected examples of human population migration occur, e.g. Paleoeskimos and Thule Inuit, Athabaskans and Apacheans, Pama-Nyungans, Austronesians and Polynesians, Indo-Europeans, and so forth? Some, but not all, were farmers, so the Renfrew and Bellwood Farming/Language Dispersal Hypothesis can be raised. But it does not explain everything. In each case, the most important determinants were demographic growth, environmental opportunity, and technological/economic advantage. All successful migrations that left archaeological and linguistic traces outside the written record must have been based on increasing rather than decreasing human numbers.
- 2) Why did major language family foundation dispersals occur, in all significant pre-AD 1500 cases long before any written records or conquest states? This raises issues of human migration as a mover of languages, versus language shift. No one can deny the importance of the latter in recent history, but over how large a scale did it operate amongst the small-scale societies of pre-state prehistory? I suspect it was a very small scale indeed, and Melanesia offers some food for thought here.

ヒトの移動とその動機および大陸規模での言語移行の不可能性について
ベルウッド・ピーター (オーストラリア国立大学)

今年、先史時代におけるヒトの移動に関する書籍が2冊出版される((1)は出版済):

- (1) Ness, I., Bellwood, P. (eds). 2013. *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*. 5 volumes (Volume 1, Prehistory, edited by Peter Bellwood). Malden (Massachusetts, USA) and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- (2) Bellwood, P. *First Migrants: Ancient Migration in Global Perspective*. Malden (Massachusetts, USA) and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Due for publication in September 2013.

これらは2冊とも、有史時代の観点を超えた狩猟採集社会・農耕社会のような、初期ヒト族の時代から二千年紀に至るまでのヒトの移動を扱っている。

これら2冊の中で、発表者は以下の2点を主張する

- 1) なぜヒトの移動が起こったのか。「農耕／言語拡散仮説」で全てを説明することはできない。ヒトの移動の重要な要因は、人口の増加、環境機会、そして技術的／経済的有利性である。書記記録以外に考古学的・言語学的証拠を残しているヒトの移動は、人口の減少ではなく増加に基づいていたと考えられる。
- 2) なぜ先史時代に大きな語族の拡散が起こったのか。ここで、「言語移行(language shift)」に対する「言語の運搬者としてのヒトの移動」という問題が浮かび上がる。「言語移行」は先史時代の小規模社会にどれほどまであったのであろうか。発表者は、実際に「言語移行」がはたらいた範囲はとても小さな規模であったと考えており、メラネシアはその傍証となる。