

"Migration and language shift in ancient northern Tohoku based on archaeological evidence and place names"

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Distribution of placenames with Ainu cognates in the Tohoku region largely overlaps with the distribution of Epi-Jomon pottery (Kohoku C2・D and Hokudai I type). Moreover, in Tohoku and southern Hokkaido, people used almost the same type of pottery and material culture from the Early Jomon through the Epi-Jomon period. It was after the Asuka period, in the 7th century, that the material culture of the areas on either side of the Tsugaru Strait became different completely.

It should be added that during the time corresponding to the Late Yayoi to the Late Kofun periods (the 2th to the 6th century), northern Tohoku was sparsely populated,. From the Asuka to the Heian period, the settlements displaying the lifestyle and habitus characteristic of the region of premodern Japanese state increased rapidly in number. On the basis of material culture, it can be concluded that most residents of such settlements were migrants from the Tosando district (the eastern mountainous zone of Honshu island) . On the other hand, in Hokkaido, the inhabitants produced Epi-Jomon culture, Satsumon culture, and Ainu culture in that order, taking in some cultural elements from the surrounding area, from the Jomon period onward.

On the basis of these facts, in northern Tohoku, probably people spoke a language cognate with Ainu-cognate language up until the period of Epi-Jomon pottery , Kohoku C2・D and Hokudai I type (the early 3th to the late 5th century) , as in Hokkaido, but that language underwent a shift, due to the many migrants from the region of the premodern Japanese state, ultimately to be replaced by the Yamato language (Old Japanese) , after the Asuka period in the 7th century. Settler immigrated to the eastern region of northern Tohoku in the 7th century bringing with them millet cultivation and horse breeding, while other newcomers immigrated to the western part of the region bringing rice cultivation subsequent to the 9th century.

「考古学資料と地名より見た古代東北北部における移住と言語の取替え」

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東北地方のアイヌ語系地名の分布は、続縄文土器（後北 C2・D 式、北大 I 式）の分布とほぼ重なる。また、東北地方から北海道南部にかけては、縄文時代前期以来、続縄文時代まではほぼ同じ土器文化圏に含まれていた。津軽海峡を挟んだ両地域の物質文化が完全に異なるものになるのは、飛鳥時代、およそ 7 世紀以降である。

ところで弥生時代後期～古墳時代後期（2～6 世紀）に併行するころ、東北北部は人口が希薄であったが、飛鳥～平安時代に、古代日本国域の生活様式を持つ集落が急増した。物質文化にもとづき、居住者の大部分は東山道域からの移住者と推測できる。一方、北海

道では、縄文時代以来、人々は、周辺地域の文化要素を取り入れながら、続縄文文化、擦文文化、アイヌ文化を担ってきた。人々の言葉は縄文時代の北海道～東北北部地域の言葉を基本にして徐々に変化し、現代のアイヌ語が成立したのであろう。

同様に考えると、東北北部では、後北 C2・D 式、北大 I 式（3 世紀後半～5 世紀前半）の続縄文土器使用期までは、おそらく北海道と共通のアイヌ語系言語が使われていたが、飛鳥時代、7 世紀以降、南からの多くの移住者によって、やまと言葉に取り替えられていた。7 世紀における東北北部の東側への入植者は雑穀栽培と馬飼いを生業としており、その後 9 世紀に新たに東北北部の西側に入った人々は水稻農耕を主な生業としていた。