The Transition of Hunting and Fishing Activities in Hokkaido

NISHIMOTO, Toyohiro

In a previous paper, an analysis was attempted of hunting and fishing in Hok-kaido during the Jōmon and Epi-Jōmon culture by examining faunal remains. One of the conclusions was that although Ezo deer and salmon were generally maintained to be the main animals of subsistence, sea animals were also important good.

This paper is a sequel to the previous study, presenting research into subsistence activities, mainly the transiton of hunting and fishing activities in Hokkaido after the Epi-Jomon Period to the Edo Period. As a result, it is estimated that at the time of Satsumon Culture Period the society of Hokkaido was strong influenced by the peasant society of Honshu and that a great amount of crops were consumed in Hokkaido. But farming was not intensively carried out after the Period of Satsumon Culture. The Ainu People of Hokkaido after the people of the Satsumon Culture was engaged in economic activities centered in the money economy of Honshu. Although hunting and fishing were done, it seems that after the Satsumon Culture these activities were complement to crops and wageworking. Of course, this tendency is observed mainly in Southern Hokkaido, where there was a certain amount of communication between the people of Honshu and Hokkaido. In the Northern and Eastern districts of Hokkaido, people relied more on the traditional means of hunting and fishing. After the appearance of the Matsumae-Han and spread of Bashouke System throughout the island, Hokkaido was incorporated into the money economy of Honshu during the Edo Period. Needless to say, during this period the Ainu Culture was continued to be handed down through their culture system from generation to generation although it was transformed in many ways.