

Rules of Residence in the Kyūshū District during the Yayoi Period

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The paper analyzes the rules of residence after marriage in Kyūshū District during the Yayoi Period, based on the remains of cemeteries. In the analysis Kyūshū is divided into three sections: North, West and South.

The cemeteries of Northern Kyūshū sometimes have *Kamekan* (pot shaped coffins) placed in two rows. They consist of two-rowed cemeteries which can be divided into small groups. In each row men and women were buried and the ratio was approximately the same. There is a possibility that original members of the group (kin) were buried in the same row, whereas others married into the group were buried along the other row. If so, the societies of Northern Kyūshū during the Middle Yayoi Period must have adopted bilocal residence. Moreover, the units of the small groups that can be identified in the cemeteries must have been households and this proves to be evidence for the tendency for households to have gained relatively independence during the Yayoi Period.

In Western Kyūshū, sex distinction is found in the burial rules as in the Jōmon Period. In the ruins of Nejiko, type 4I tooth extraction are found among women, while men are the type 2C. In Western Kyūshū, generally speaking, shell bracelets were worn by women. In the Late Jōmon Period, there was a tendency for those who were type 4I to wear personal ornaments, and they seem to have been original members of the settlement. Meanwhile, it is possible that the type 2C were members from other groups. Thus in Western Kyūshū during the Middle Yayoi Period, and inference can be made that matrilineal residence was predominant.

In Southern Kyūshū, at the Hirota Site on Tanegashima Island, skulls with tooth extraction are found; the right or left lateral incisor and canine have been extracted from both sexes. The ratio of tooth extraction is almost the same, while the ratio of people wearing personal ornaments is men 1 to women 2. Whether the extracted tooth is on the right or left serves as a clue in identifying difference of descent. If the hypothesis is made that the original members of the group wore bracelets, the conclusion that bilocal residence was adopted and that

matrilocal residence was predominant in Southern Kyūshū is possible.

An inference can be made that the rule of residence in Kyūshū during the Jōmon Period was matrilocal; thus during the Yayoi Period, when rice cultivation started, a differentiation of residence rules occurred in these districts.