Folklore and Researches in Cities

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One of the problems that arises when considering the relations between the folklore and city is how to define the city. In this paper, it is thought that a city is a concept set against a village and, fundamentally, it can be grasped by the spatial recognition. Although a city and a village are not always set against with each other, I would like to position them that they are opposed with each other in order to make clear the nature of a city. When a space of a city is considered based on such assumption, there are various spaces different in nature and it can be thought that those spaces combine together to form a city. A folk life in such city may be grasped from the aspect of changes based on the historical interest and from the aspect of event analysis of the actual life based on the social interest.

The life in a city grasped as such can be considered especially from the lore aspect in the folklore study. In the past, there was a tendency that lores were hard to exist in such city. However, there was a strong tendency that lores that were taken up as subject of the folklore study were set in the subjective framework of the surveyers and researchers. It can be said that the main interest was placed on villages and the framework of lore was considered under such foundation. Therefore, the author believes that by taking interest in cities, new lores may be discovered in cities. Those lores may be different from those in village, but certainly, they are also the Japanese lores.