Subsistence and "Nature Space of the Relations": The Uncertain, Unstable Space of the River

SEKI Reiko

In this paper, I will refer to the various intersections of the people and nature as "Nature Space of the relations" and I will consider the "relations", and the changes in such relations, between the actions of multiples subsistence by the people and the river, in the reaches of the Agano River, in Niigata Prefecture.

The Agano River frequently overflowed and changed course. When the river broke its banks, it washed away the existing soil and created new soil. However, the people of the basin villages took multiple subsistence as a life strategy, which brought great advantages to their life from the uncertain and unstable river.

Here I will focus on the ways of multiple subsistence and discuss the characteristics of "Indigenous Risk Avoidance" and multiple "relations" which caused various subsistences to be developed. These "relations" were concerned with the unstable space of the Agano River; they gave rise to various local culture of everyday life, made the idea of ownership unclearly, and made stable knowledge useless because of changes in the river space.

Thus I will show that the change of the subsistence and the local culture of everyday life altered the people's "relations" with the river.