Structures of Transferring Material Cultural Attributes on Intercultural Contacts in Epi-Jomon Culture

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Ruins and artifacts from Epi-Jomon culture have the expressive attributes of "high variability, wide-ranging localization, being easily transferable and not going missing when transmitted." They possess the inherent attributes of "low variability, narrow-ranging localization, being not easily transferable and becoming easily lost when transmitted." And they possess the neutral attributes between the expressive attributes and the inherent attributes. The strength or weakness of the immutability and localization of attributes means "the inherent attributes of ruins ≥ the inherent attributes of artifacts > the expressive attributes of ruins > the expressive attributes of artifacts.

Further, inherent attributes are transferred through close contact and expressive attributes develop under estranged contact. As a result, the transfer of inherent attributes constitutes a "major change" in type and the transfer of expressive attributes constitutes a "minor change" in type.

Type changes to ruins and artifacts involve the transfer of attributes over time and space and appear in first to fifth types that represent variations in spatial distribution. Attributes transfer incidentally with the transfer of abstract things, material things and people, and bring about cultural assimilation, cultural dissimilation and cultural replacement at the destination of the transfer.

The exchange of material things is a type of cultural contact. In heterogeneous contact (overseas trade) there is "involvement" in order to move "material things" and physical distance is overcome by making close-knit social relationships ("outside" relationships become "inside" relationships). In the case of homogeneous contact (intraregional trade), "Material things" move as a result of "involvement" and this contact occurs on top of relationships ("inside" relationships) with constantly narrowing social distance.

In Late Yayoi the advent of iron edge tools in the Tohoku region was a contributing factor to overseas trade, intraregional trade and subsistence relationships. Later, the increase in the distribution volume of iron goods demanded stronger regulation of traded goods in intraregional trade, which created a dual subsistence structure of hunting for fur as a resource for trade and the subsistences that supported it. In the IIa stage of overseas trade, cultural dissimilation occurred as a result of the direct coupling of overseas trade, intraregional trade and subsistence. In stages III-IV of overseas trade, cultural dissimilation continued due to constant demand for steel materials and iron goods. In stage IV, cultural dissimilation converged, and there was further transfer of attributes from the Tohoku region to Hokkaido as Epi-Jomon people from Hokkaido living in Tohoku returned to their homeland after losing their role of trade intermediaries (the advent of Satsumon
culture).

Keywords: the expressive attributes, the inherent attributes, the neutral attributes, overseas trade, intraregional trade, cultural assimilation, cultural dissimilation, cultural replacement