One Case Example in Tohoku Area with less *Miya-za*: The *Tonin* Festival of Tokoyasaka Shrine

INE Yuji

*Miya-za*, as a form of an organization for worshipping village *ujigami*, is concentrated highly in the Kinki area. However, by comparison with the forms of religious services in other regions, it will be possible to know further characteristics of the practice of *miya-za*. Therefore, this article examines the cause of the formation of *miya-za* based on one case example in the Tohoku area where *miya-za* is rare. The *Tonin* Festival of Tokoyasaka Shrine across two regions of former Tennomachi (current Katagami City) and Funakoshi, Oga City in Akita Prefecture is designated as a national significant intangible folk cultural asset. This article examines mainly the organization for this *Tonin* Festival. *Tonin* mentioned here is a person who assumes a central role in an organization for religious services. This article clarifies that the inheritance of this *tonin* system is the core of the festival of Tokoyasaka Shrine.

Key words: *Tonin*, Tokoyasaka Shrine, *Otake, Ohakisama, Ushinori, Kumomai*