Position of Omi in Miya-za Studies: Meaning of the Case Example in Shiga Prefecture in the Formation and Development of Miya-za Theory

HASHIMOTO Akira

Studies on miya-za have attracted the attention of researchers of historical studies, folkloric studies, sociology, and other academic fields. Discussions on the subject had developed in an interdisciplinary environment in which researchers from various fields such as historical studies, sociology, etc. worked on the studies on miya-za. However, studies on miya-za have not made significant progress as research themes have been subdivided further. Nevertheless, the miya-za saishi inherited as a folk custom in each region is an effective indicator to clarify village history and the reality of village communities. To take up the subject of miya-za for discussion once again in the studies of each field, it will be necessary to verify how the past discussions were presented by researchers, what kind of background the researchers had, and how the target case examples were treated in the process of the development of the discussions. The full-scale research by Kazuo Higo on miya-za in Shiga Prefecture started from the research on the case example of miya-za in Omi such as Ryoho and made public the themes of "kabu-za" and "mura-za," which approached the essence of the concept of miya-za. The interpretation of "typical miya-za" suggested by Tatsuo Hagiwara with the subject of miya-za in Mabuchi also sparked discussion on "what is miya-za." However, it seems that there is some vulnerability in miya-za studies overemphasizing the case example in Shiga Prefecture. The aspect of the relationship between miya-za and the village history assumed from folkloric examples might also change completely depending on the impression for the case example of researchers of miya-za as seen in the discussion on whether "typical" or "transformational" against the theory of Hagiwara over miya-za in Mabuchi.

Key words: Miyaza document catalog, Higo Kazuo, Hagiwara Tatsuo, historical sources and tradition, narrative discourse