Analysis of Mat Print at the Bottom of Pottery from Shimo-yakebe Site: Woven Items Used for Making Pottery

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This paper is an analysis for woven prints at the bottom of Jomon pottery from Shimo-yakebe site. Large numbers of woven items has been founded in Shimo-yakebe site which is a rare site where woven items and woven print at the bottom of the pottery are founded to be of the same period. In this paper, impression method by replica is used to reconstruct the mat print which is compared with excavated woven item in order to give a general view on woven item’s features that has been adopted into pottery production.

As a result, the comparison on material width between mat print and woven items shows that the data obtained from mat print are most likely to concentrate on narrow area on the graph. From this, it is reflected that woven items that have narrow width with tight weave were selected and converted to be used in the pottery production. Material analysis of the replicas, using SEM which shows the common parts in structure, form and feature suggest that, like woven items, mat print was also originated from bamboo-woven items.

This study shows the importance of analysis both from mat print and excavated woven items. By examining the mat print, I suggest that there is a need to consider that there are some effects of selection by human which can be reflected in the process of pottery production.

Key words: Mat print, Print of woven items at the bottom of pottery, The impression method using replica, Material