The aim of this report is to provide an overview of results of research based on diary resources in folkloristics and to reconsider its place. Several ways analysis of diary resources in folkloristics is effective have been pointed out. For example, diary resources are effective materials for reproducing folk culture of the past for which interviews are impossible to conduct. In particular, diaries which were recorded over a long period of time are considered important resources in investigating the sequential continuity and transformations of folk phenomena. Diary resources have also been called useful for quantitative data analysis which is quite difficult to discover from ordinary interviews.

It is true that much research has been done based on such prospects and a certain amount of results have been attained. However, a sweeping statement that the use of written sources including diaries has only benefited folkloristics would be untrue. Excessive dependence on written resources is likely to close off the search for culture passed down orally, which has been the role played by folkloristics, along with the cycle of searching in daily life, which is woven by folkloristics.

Thus, the writer’s intent with this report is to readdress the relationship folkloristics has had with diary resources. This report investigates what kind of themes folklorists have extracted from diary resources, as well as what procedures were followed and what sort of developments such results caused in folkloristics.

Through such investigations, this report restructures the denotation of folkloristics and points out the potential for comprehensive analysis of vocal resources and written resources by expanding on the connoted potential of diary research itself.

Key words: diary resources, modern, folk culture, folk history, vocal culture