When thinking of the history of exchanges between Old Japan and the Yeongsan River Basin, what emerges as an issue of document, is that it will first be necessary to confirm the period when the Cholla-Namdo (South Cholla Province) and the Tamna yielded allegiance to Baekje. Further, it will be essential to analyze the content of the activities of the migrant groups of Wajin who were subdivided into the Kitakyushu lineage and the Kinai lineage. Besides, it will also be necessary to compare with the groups migrating to the Gaya region. Below we examine by focusing on the Japanese government officials of Baekje whom one comes across occasionally in the Kinmei period of “Nihon Shoki” (Chronicles of Japan) that is used as material to discuss this issue.

Currently, theories about persons buried in the large zenpo-koen-fun or keyhole-shaped tomb mounds of the Yeongsan river basin are broadly divided into the theory that considers the local heads or the indigenous people and the theory that considers the Wajin or the people of the Wa lineage as those buried in the tombs. In this paper, we suggest the possibility of the latter, emphasizing the fact that they appear abruptly at sites different from the ones of local chieftains’ lineage.

In conclusion, if we speculate, we can assume that the figures of persons buried in the zenpo-koen-fun of the Yeongsan river basin that are limited to a specific period since late 5th century were the powerful Wajin families. They were entrusted with the rule of the classes inferior to those of the prefectural castle under the Baekje royal family who were kings of the place or followers of warlords, including in Kitakyushu. As they eventually gathered in the capital of Baekje before long, were bureaucratized, and were promoted to responsible posts including diplomatic negotiations with Wa, the Kofun may have disappeared as a temporary phenomenon. The reasons the zenpo-koen-fun were concentrated solely in the Yeongsan river basin or the detailed process of the migration are unclear, and there is a need to examine this in the future.

Key words: Burial mound with a square front and around back, Yeongsan River, Bureaucrat of Kudara of the Wajin native place, Kitakyusyu, Bokan