ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE GENDER ROLE IN THE JAPAN MIYAZAKI FISHING VILLAGE

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Introduction

The Miyazaki southern coast is enriched by water from rivers of various sizes flowing from the land, but when the hot and oligotrophic Japan Kuroshio Current comes close to the coast, it carries away the So, fishermen generally embark large boats heavier than 30 ton to fish tunas and bonitos in adjacent seas and deep seas. According to the analysis of relationships between occupational activities and divisions of work between the two sexes based on ethnographic materials from all over the world by Murdoch (1981), however, in more than 50% of the communities both men and women engage in fishing, while only men engages in fishing in less than 50% of the communities, and there are few communities in which solely women engage in fishing. Although men dominantly amount to about 70% and women's participation in fishing activities account for less than 30%, women's roles in fishing cannot be ignored (Akimichi 1995; li 2001, 2012). Sales of marine products are not necessarily carried out by women, but men are involved in such activities in various forms

This study aims to clear from view of environmental adaptation about the differences of the gender role allotment in the fishery and sale activities of coastal fishing village in southern Miyazaki.



The location of Meitsu Village and Odoutsu Village

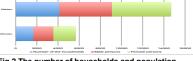


Fig.2 The number of households and population of Meitsu Village and Odoutsu Village

Table 2 The number of people according to the age-specific fishery in both villages

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Age of fisherms	20s		30s		1 -	10s	- 5	0s	60s	or older	Total		
Kind of the fishing	Meitsu	Odoutsu		Odoutsu	Meitsu	Odoutku	Meitsu	Odoutsu	Meiteu	Odoutsu		Odoutsu	
Bonito pole-and-line	15		23	1	30	2	42	12	53	39	163	54	
Tunes long-line	0		5		6		7	2	7		25	2	
Trolling	1		3		2		2		33		41	0	
Fixed shore net	0		2		1		3		20	1	26	1	
Small trawl net	0		0		0				0		0	0	
Small long line	0		0		0	2		3	0	16	0	21	
Others	0		- 1		0		1		36		38	0	
Total	16		34	- 1	39	4	55	17	149	56	293	78	

Table 3 The age-specific distribution of woman members

	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s or older	Total
Meitsu	2	8	13	31	43	33	130
Odoutsu	0	1	0	13	23	38	75

Fishing forms of Miyazaki Southern coast

Located 50-100 kilometers away from the nearest cities, the target villages, namely Odoutsu Village and Meitsu Village, are next to each other across the Nango River flowing into the Sea of Hyuga (Figure 1,

Fishing activities of Meitsu Village

The Meitsu Fisheries Cooperative has a membership of 293, a little less than 60% of which is made up of those in their 20s to 60s who take part in pole-and-line fishing of bonitos. 80% of those who engage in trawl-line and pole-and-line fishing are members in their 60s (Table 1,2). In 1931, about 100 tuna boats from Hoto Island of Oita used the port of Meitsu as their base for tuna fishing, which invigorated the port and helped developing tuna fishing of the village. In the late 1960s, more fishermen started to manage their businesses by owning plural boats for fishing both bonitos and tunas, so there arose a building boom of large boats of 40 ton and heavier In 1970, with the advancement of building of boats of 100 ton and heavier and the freezing technology, tuna fishing industry of Japan not only operated in closer seas such as the East China Sea but also began to go to deep seas in the Atlantic Ocean and near the coast of Africa. Then, however, the fishing industry went into a long slump. The causes were as follows: 200nautical-mile exclusive economic zones instituted internationally in 1978 being widely executed, surging fuel costs, increasing imports due to an oversupply of fish which were caught excessively worldwide, and the prices of fish remaining low.

In the early 1980s, with an upsurge in the number of bonito and tuna fishing boats as well as the use of larger boats of 50-100 ton, it became possible to operate overseas for a longer period from three months to half a year and to bring back the catches, two thirds of which was frozen and a third of which was raw. An imbalance between supply and demand caused by an oversupply of bonitos and tunas, how resulted in low prices. So subsidized by both national and prefectural governments from the 1985 fiscal year, they strived to stabilize the prices of fish through adjusting production and at the same time reduced the numbers of bonito and tuna fishing boats. Also they promoted coastal fishing in such a way as releasing fries and received foreigners who worked and were trained to acquire know-how and techniques concerning fishing. Their more efforts consists of activities to expand the consumption of fish and encourage people to eat more fish by selling fish and providing free fish dishes in various events or the festival for promoting industry, culture and welfare in autumn. In 2005, for further expanding the consumption of fresh marine products and spreading a diet including more fish, the Fisheries Cooperative opened a restaurant to serve fish dishes and sell processed marine products. Its annual sales amount to 170 million yen (Fig.3).

Fishing activities of Odoutsu Village

Odoutsu Village actively engaged in pole-and line fishing of bonitos in such good fishing grounds as off Okinawa and Taiwan. From the end of 1929, fishing boats became large, and the village attracted longline boats from all over Japan as the base for tuna fishing. From there to Tanegashima and Yaku Islands, they enjoyed unprecedented big catches, but World War II caused a gradual decline of economy concerning tunas. From 1946 after the war, however, the catches had increased. In 1964, coastal long-line fishing of tunas by small boats lighter than 10 ton using horse mackerels as live baits was thriving, and the village installed a refrigerator of which the volume is 100 ton and an ice-making machine. In 1969, with the catches increased rapidly by upsizing and modernization of fishing boats as well as the improvement of building of cargo boats, the village flourished. Then, however, confronted by continuous difficulties, such as oil shocks in 1973 and 1978, lowering fish prices, surging fuel oil prices, and restricted fishing grounds by 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones, the village's fisheries cooperative decided to merge with two neighboring villages' fisheries cooperatives in 1993 in an attempt to achieve a breakthrough. As of 2013, they own 33 fishing boats from 0.5-ton small boats to 137-ton bonito and tuna fishing boats. Before the merger, the membership was about 200, while it has decreased to 78 at present, a little more than 70% of which is made up of those who are in their 60s and over. A little less than 70% of the members engage in pole-and-line fishing of bonitos, and as to those who fish flying fish, members in their 60s account for a little more than 70%. They have 22 small boats lighter than 5 ton, 8 of which engage in long-line fishing of flying fish for about 180 days from September to next March. And in April and May, they go pole-and-line fishing of bonitos while carefully paying attention to tidal currents and market prices of fish (Table 1,2). Then from June to August, they fish dorados with long line. They also fish with small-sized set nets as well as fish horse mackerels, mackerels and sea breams with pole and line throughout the year. When the wind blows hard from the north, they go fishing flying fish, but their small boats tend to be unstable and exposed to danger, so their average daily catches are worth about 200 dollars. A little less than 80% of the members who go fishing on small boats are those who are 65 years old and over

Table 1 The scale of a fishing boat and the fishery in both villages (2013)

Group of the fishing boat	0-	~8t	3~	-St	8~	10t	10~	-20t	63~80t	100~	-120t	137~	140t	199t	200tons	300tons	Tot	nl .
Kind of the fishing	Moltau	Odoutsu	Meltsu	Odoutsu	Meltsu	Odoutsu	Meltau	Odoutsu	Odoutsu	Meltsu	Odoutsu	Meltsu	Odoutsu	Meltsu	Meltsu	Meitsu	Meltsu	Odoutsu
Deep seas bonito pole-and-line												3					3	0
Adjacent seas bonito pole-and-line							1	2	4	10	2						11	8
Deep seas tunas long-line												1	1	2	1	1	5	1
Adjacent seas tunas long-line							3	2									3	2
Trolling	14		6		4		4										28	0
Small pole-and-line		1		6													0	7
Large fixed shore net	2		1				1										4	0
Small fixed shore net	19	1	- 1														20	1
Small trawl net			2														2	0
Small pole-and-line		14															0	14
Others	30																30	0
Total	65	16	10	6	4	0	9	4	4	10	2	4	1	2	1	1	106	33

The activities of the Women's Division

According to the National Liaison Conference of Women's Division affiliated with the Japan Fisheries Cooperatives, the women's divisions are the organizations consisting of women living in the area of each cooperative, who themselves belong to the cooperative or whose family members belong to the cooperative. They are unique organizations united by the power and energy of women who work on the beaches and have been making a persistent effort to pursue sound development of the cooperatives as well as wealthy and comfortable fishing villages.

Women's Division of Meitsu Village

According to Ms. M, president of the division, who was born in Meitsu in 1947, the Ladies' Division of Meitsu Fisheries Cooperative was established in 1978. When founded, its membership was about 400, but had decreased to 130 as of 2012. Members in their 60s and over make up a little more than 60%. Members in their 20s and 30s account for a little less than 10%, for they are busy taking care of little children (Table 3). Women whose husbands belong to the fisheries cooperative automatically join in the women's division, but today ordinary women who are not related to the fishing industry are invited to join. The women's division activities comprise: 1.assistance for various events; 2. promotion of detergents which are friendly to maritime environment; and 3. encouragement of diet including more fish through giving cooking lessons to show how to cut, trim and cook fish at elementary schools twice a year, at junior and senior high schools four times a year as well as to elderly people living alone. A member who owns bonito and tuna boats deals with accounting and management of wages, insurance premiums. Spiny lobster fishing is carried out by a husband and a wife, and in cases of trawl-line fishing and long-line fishing, a wife help putting baits on the hooks.

Women's Division of Odoutsu Village

In 1952, the forerunner of the division was founded and named Ladies' Division. It started to give cooking As of 2012, there are 75 women belonging to the division, and those in their 60s account for a little less than 80% (Table 3). The staff in charge of management and operation of the local processing center consists of twenty women, and two (2) in their 50s, eleven (11) in their 60s, and seven (7) in their 70s. In 2001, it entrusted the operation to the women's division. They process bonitos, dorados and flying fish which are caught in quantities in such a way as to create the flavors demanded by consumers and produce local products of their own brand. According to the sales, the mount of catches, and various events in which they participate as well as to satisfy the demand at open-air markets held in the morning twice a month and bulk orders, they work together to make the products. Also, they visit elementary schools and high schools to give cooking lessons so that young people may eat more fish. If they work from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, their daily wages are 5,000 yen. The processing center operates for 130 days a year and its annual sales amount to 10 million yen, which is appropriated for investment in equipment, management and administration, and personnel expenses. Popular products of their own brand are sakana-udon or noodle made from ground fish meat, katsuo-shoyu-bushi, and shiira-no-surimi tempura or deep-fried ground meat of dorados. Sakana-udon originates in noodles that were made from ground meat of flying fish instead of rice during the war, for there wasn't enough rice but flying fish were abundant. Katsuo-shovu-bushi was made as preserved food in the port communities (Fig.4). Tempura used to be eaten on the occasions of the Bon festival and the New Year holidays

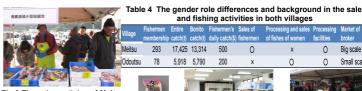


Fig.3 The sales activies of Meitsu Village small-scale fishermen

and fishing activities in both villages 293 17 425 13 314 0 Big scale 500 Small scale

ing and sales activities of the fish of the woman members in the Odoutsu Village(The left: Katsuo-shou-bushi)

Conclusion

As the above, even between the villages with almost the same forms of fishing, the roles of men and women differ depending on the scales of fishing industry and fisheries cooperatives as well as the ways of responding to the changes of social situations and the environment(Table 4). Divisions of roles between men and women are not so simple as men go fishing while women sell fish, but take various and variable forms. Further studies may be required to show differences of the processes in which divisions of roles concerning occupations between men and women are formed among fishing villages with totally different forms of fishing as well as compared with village communities having totally different forms of occupations, namely farming villages and mountain villages. This may be a theme for research in the future.