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The Lost Decade of Acceptance of Plate Tectonics and Geological Revolution in Japan

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It is often said that Plate tectonics was not accepted by Japanese Geological Society in 1970's, for the opposite theory, called "The Lost Decade". However, many geologists consider that acceptance of Plate tectonics was not delayed though the stormy controversy. I think that the difference of historical views should explain as follows. First, the research technology of the geology progressed greatly in the 1970's. For instance, the new biostratigraphic research on radiolaria progress rapidly from 1969 in Japan. As a result, these researches become popular explosively after 1979, known by "Radiolaria Revolution". These cases has obviously received the influence from Plate Tectonics theory. However, the Acceptance of Plate Tectonics was "invisible", because these technical improvements were attended by many extremely special arguments. Second, for these researches, many geological periods had been fundamentally reviewed for Japanese complex accretionary prism were distributed. Therefore, we can say that it is relatively postponed to observe a tectonic revolution of Japanese Islands.

Meanwhile, the criticism from the viewpoint of the seismology can be understood as follows. The confidence and the mistake are included in "Plate words" taken up by Matsuda (1992) and Tomari (2008), if these words see in Social Statistical Science. It is regarded that the structure of criticisms of Society as the difference of "Science Capital" of geology and the seismology in Japan, by the concept of "champ/field" in Bourdieu's theory of "Sociology of Science". The possibility exists that it is a matter of positioning at Earth Science, the "High-champ/field". In addition, as can be seen from concept, since many opponents disputed rather outside than inside, the argument results in "visible" for the outside.

More general science history research is necessary because the complex structure is included in the rejection and acceptance of Plate tectonics in Japan.

Keywords: plate tectonics, Radiolaria Revolution, science history, Earth Science