

Study on the legends of ancient and historical tsunamis hanbed by Ainu Race

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It is well known that there are many traditions of tsunamis in the legend of Ainu race, Hokkaido. On the other hand, geologists recently clarified that deposits of tsunami carried sand were found out at several places on the Pacific coasts of Hokkaido, and several tsunamis hit the coast and in some cases inundation height reach more than 20 meters (Hirakawa et al., 2003,2005), Nanayama et al.(2001, 2001, and 2003).

There are 16 points where the legends of tsunamis were handed down in Iburi and Hidaka Provinces, south coast of Hokkaido. In the present study, we made field survey for those 16 points, and measured the inundation heights.

Those traditions can be divided into two categories; 1) the events happened after the beginning of 16 century, 2) the events which happened in ancient period.

The distribution of tsunami heights is shown in the figure.

Keywords: tsunamis in Hokkaido, legend of Ainu, historical tsunamis, Iburi province, Hidaka province

