

## Acceptance of plate tectonics in Japan and "Sinking of Japan"

Miyoko Shibazaki<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Osaka City University

"Sinking of Japan" (Nihon Chinbotsu) is a disaster novel written by Sakyo Komatsu, published in 1973. The story of it was made into a movie in the same year. Both the book and the movie were big hits in Japan. By the hits of them, the public at large thought plate tectonics as an established theory or a hypothesis.

Acceptance of new scientific theory, however, needs many researches and arguments. In geology, acceptance of plate tectonics was also taken in the different style, because purposes for research and techniques between each science were quite different. Acceptance of plate tectonics in geology started since 1969 in the world. In Japan, examination of the geological structure of the Japanese islands with this theory started in the 1970s.

The scientific research in geology was progressed by the radiolarian research called a "radiolarian revolution". However, scientific research in Japan took time because of complicated geological structure. It was very earlier than a scientific research that the theory was generally known in Japan. By the record, acceptance of plate tectonics in geology seemed to be later. About research of the acceptance of the scientific theories in each community, how research was progressed should be taken into account.

Keywords: plate tectonics, science history, movie, Nihon Chinbotsu