

‘The body techniques’ of Baka Pygmies on their sharing in Cameroon

2nd year student

Namibia Field School

Research Area : Republic of Cameroon

SONODA Koji

Key Words : hunter-gatherer, distribution, behavior, delivery,

Back Ground and objectives of my research

“Distribution” is one of the reason that the society of the hunter gatherer in Africa have been talked by word “equal society”. They live in a community while sharing various ones from daily life goods to meal. The research of “distribution” has been discussed from the point of view of the food, the place, and the frequency of it. In this study, however, our concern is to consider their behavior which is seen at the delivery of the thing. It tries to describe the inner world of the hunter-gatherer by considering the meaning given to those behaviors.

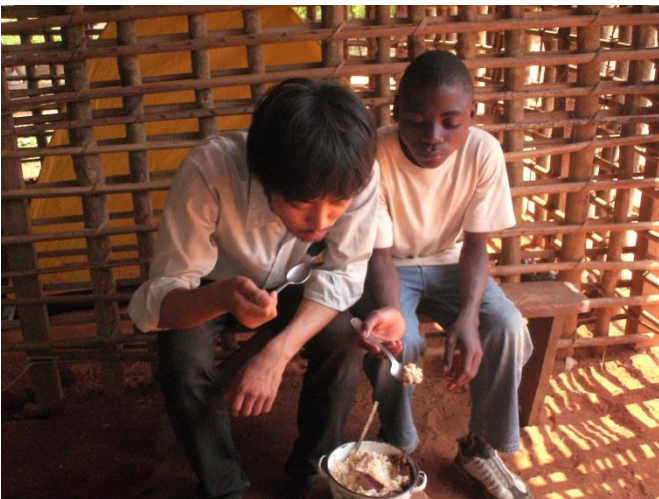
The author tried the investigation of behavior for the hunter-gatherer, Baka Pygmies, who live in south-east part of Cameroon. This investigation suggests that there are various behavior related to the delivery in their society. Delivering money by hand provides an example. Money is wrapped with the hand of two people to conceal it, and occasionally thrown out. They use a lot of behaviors according to the thing given to partner, and relation between both. It seems reasonable to suppose that they carry out the custom “distribution” while maintaining the distance with others through a lot of body techniques.



[Picture 1: hunter-gatherer people, Baka in Cameroon]



[Picture 2: at the camp in the forest]



[Picture 3: sharing of meal in the village]