



"Place Names" as a Disaster Prevention Perspective

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Our memory of disasters: We tend to forget painful memories and the lessons passed down from our ancestors.

- 300 tsunami stone monuments in Tohoku region.
- Association between place names & disasters

1. Background (Place Names & Disasters)

- ◆ "Ume" (梅 / plum tree) → the "ume" in "umetatechi" (埋立地 / reclaimed land)
- ◆ Both Kahoku Town and Obanazawa City in Yamagata Prefecture have a place named "Oshikiri (押切)."

2. Hypotheses

- 1) Oshikiri districts in the two towns were named after past floods.
- 2) Those who have experienced disasters more associate the place names better.

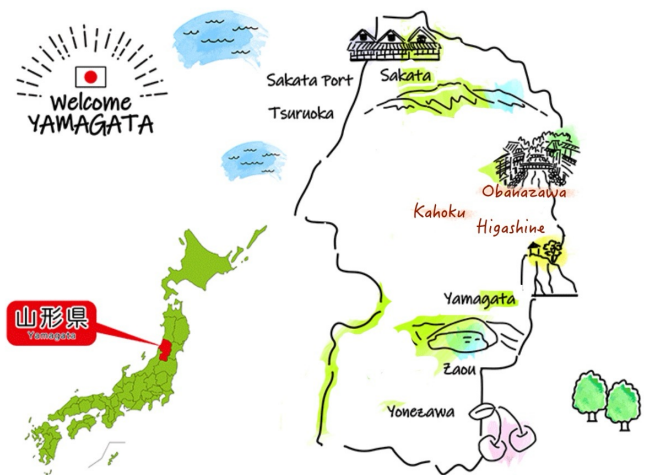
3. Research methods

- 1) Literature research and interviews with administrative officials of each city, as well as the district leaders of each area.
- 2) Survey in both Kahoku Town and Obanazawa City and compared the results with another survey conducted by the Cabinet Office..

3. Results

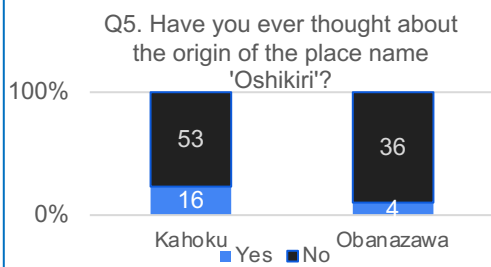
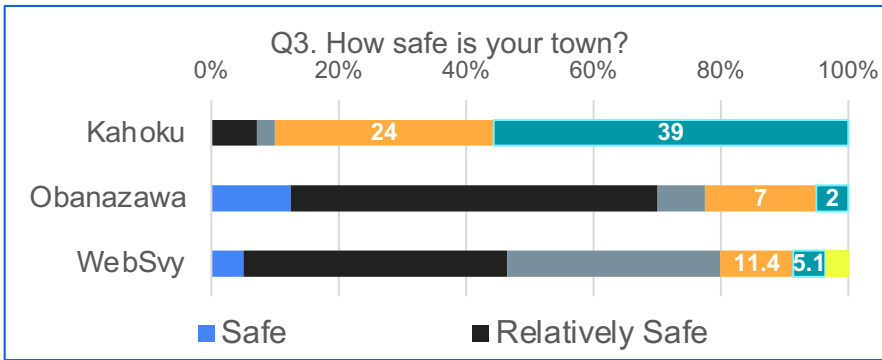
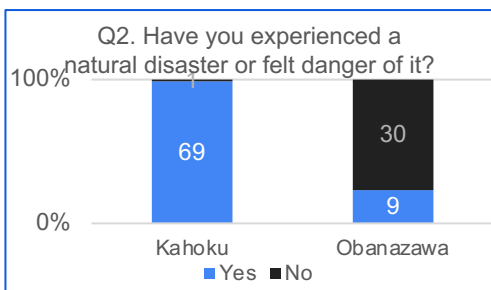
1) Past Floods

Kahoku Town	Obanazawa City
■ 1969	■ 1974 (226 points of riverbank collapse)
■ 1976	■ 1976 (5 points)
■ 1997	■ 1987 (43 points)
■ 2013	■ 1999 (10 points)
■ 2020	■ 2002 (5 points)



3. Results

2) Survey



4. Discussion

Sense of crisis & association between place name & disaster ← Experience
[Warning] According to Obanazawa City Hall, Oshikiri district is now expected to experience flooding of 3 to 5 meters in the revised hazard map.
[Significance] We should learn more from the 'place names' given by our ancestors.



5. References

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