

論文要旨

論文題名 : Essays on Economic Geography:

International Income Inequality, Regional Utility, and Economic Division

(経済地理学についての研究)

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Economic activities are not necessarily uniformly distributed. These are concentrated in relatively narrow areas. This dissertation empirically examines this spatial disparity of economic activities by using the New Economic Geography (NEG) theory, with a particular focus on the role of market potential which indicates the geographical accessibility to markets.

This dissertation is organized into three parts. The first part centers on international income inequality. The second part involves interregional utility differential. It examines the assumption of NEG on the decision-making of migrants. The last part deals with the economic division. The following is an overview of the chapters.

In Chapter 2, we examine international income disparity that represents the globally skewed distribution of economic activities. We use a structural model of NEG and empirically investigate this disparity. Previous studies have mainly emphasized the importance of geographical accessibility to foreign markets. In addition, we investigate the effect of accessibility to foreign knowledge. By using cross-country data of income per worker, bilateral trade, and bilateral flight passengers, we provide evidence that the accessibility to foreign knowledge affects the cross-country variations in per capita income.

In Chapter 3, we examine interregional inequality. To evaluate regional inequality, we need a measure of regional utility. Although real wage has traditionally been used as a measure of regional utility, we estimate it directly by using data on migratory movement. Migration behavior can be defined as the movement to pursue higher utility (Voting One's Foot by Tiebout, 1956), and the NEG theory assumes economic agents who adopt such migration strategy. If the assumption is satisfied, we can extract the regional utilities from migration behavior that reveal preferences. The examination of long-term Japanese data on interregional migration revealed three stylized facts of migration behavior. Based on the facts, we formulated an operational model and estimated interregional utility differentials. We found that the interregional utility differentials have been converging until the late 1970s. We showed that the utility estimates are highly correlated with per capita real income. Further, we applied the

model to interregional migration in the United States and Canada as well as to the interindustry movement in Japan and confirmed the model's validity.

Chapter 4 focuses on the economic integration and division issue. We empirically investigate the effect of accessibility to markets on economic growth by using an NEG model and the case of the economic separation of Japan and Korea after World War II. Korea was a Japanese colony from 1910 to 1945, and it gained independence after World War II. This historical relationship between Japan and Korea can be interpreted as one of economic integration and division. We focus on the period of division and estimate the effect of the loss of the accessibility to the Korean market on the growth in postwar Japanese cities. By using a difference-in-differences (DD) methodology, we confirm that cities located close to Korea showed a relatively greater decline after the loss of this colonial market, implying that accessibility to markets positively affects economic growth. Moreover, our results suggest that the large Japanese migratory movement observed from 1950 to 1970 can be interpreted as the relocation of industry that resulted from the division shock of 1945.