

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR IN JAPAN AND SLOVAKIA

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to clarify migration behaviour in Japan and Slovakia based on their regional characteristics. The analysed data were extracted from the questionnaire distributed between the students of Gifu University, Japan and Comenius University, Slovakia and their parents in summer and autumn 2002. In this article we analyse the attributes of the respondents, migration flows, their origin and destination, migration processes, hierarchy of migration and reasons for migration in Japan and Slovakia.

Keywords: migration behaviour, migration process, questionnaire, regional characteristics

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to clarify migration behaviour in Japan and Slovakia based on their regional characteristics. Migration is a phenomenon occurred in the place of origin and stopped at the place of destination. The size and socio-economic condition in these places influence the volume and direction of flows, and also influence the composition of migrants. In other words, we can see characteristics of these places investigating details of migration flows and migrants.

Migrants do migration for individual reasons. At first, a child may move with his or her parents. With ageing, the person may take opportunities of migration such as school attendance, taking the first job, marriage, a new house, retirement and so on. Migration reflects all such events of the person's life cycle. So, on the samples of individual migrants we can see common and different experiences occurring in Japan and Slovakia through the course of migration.

The data of this study are based on questionnaire distributed between the students of Gifu University, Japan and Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia in summer and autumn 2002. The questionnaire consists of two parts of questions. The first one contains general questions about the attributes of students' parents, for example, year of birth,

number of children, number of siblings, attained education, nationality, religion, occupation, house conditions and permanent residence or domicile. The other questions are concerned with migration behaviour of the parents, such as birthplace, place of staying over one year and reason for migration. The rate of the questionnaire return was 62.2% in Gifu University.

2. ATTRIBUTE OF RESPONDENT

Fig. 1 shows age and sex composition of the respondents, presenting the difference of population pyramid between Japan and Slovakia. The average age is 50.9 for 48 fathers and 48.3 for 50 mothers in Japan. The average age in Slovakia is 51.5 for 41 fathers and 49.3 for 41 mothers. At first glance, the difference between the two countries is not so clear in this indicator. But, based on the shape of population pyramid, we can see the differences better. Especially, in the percentage of mothers, we can see the maximum value at the age of 47 in Japan and 51 in Slovakia.

Fig. 2 shows the percentage in the number of children and siblings of respondents. The range of the number is from 1 to 4 for children (students' generation) and from 1 to 6+ for siblings (parents' generation) in both countries. It seems to reflect the general tendency of decreasing birth rate between the two generations in Japan and Slovakia. Bearing in mind the total fertility rates in both countries, it could be expected that the Slovak respondents would show the larger number of children and siblings, but it is not evident from Fig.2. The reason of the similarity may be explained that Slovak fathers and mothers belong to the relatively high rank of socio-economic group, and the inclination is stronger than the case of Japanese sample.

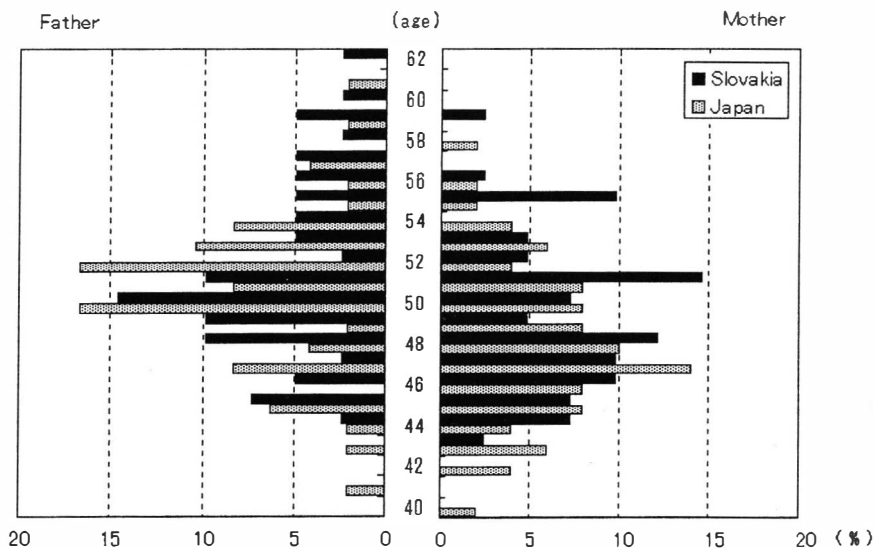


Figure 1 Age and sex composition of respondents

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

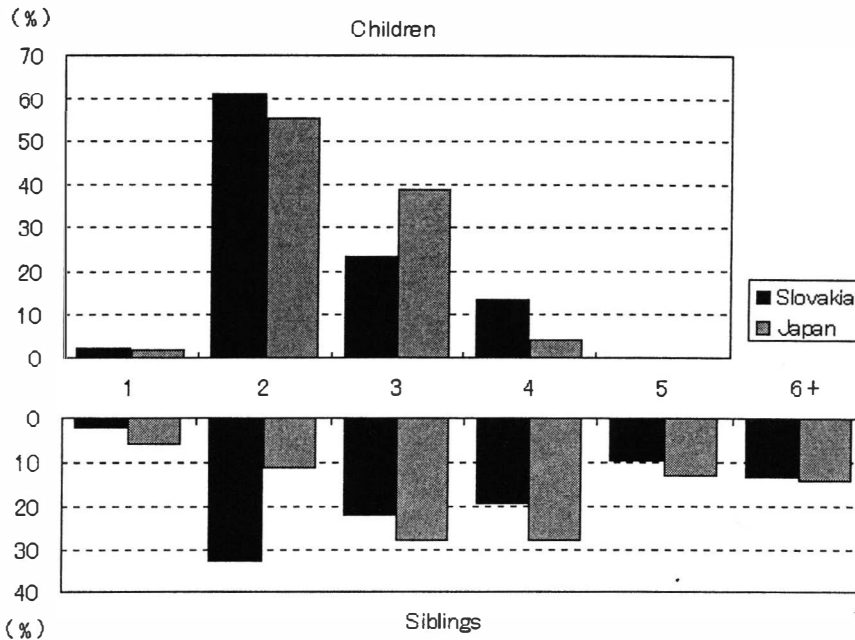


Figure 2 The percentage of the number of children and siblings of respondents
 Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Fig. 3 shows the number of respondents by education career. The percentage of respondents with university level of education is 50.5% in Japan and 34.1% in Slovakia. It means that the value is two times higher than the national average in Japan (24.6%) and three times higher comparing with the national average in Slovakia (12.3%).

Fig. 4 shows the number of respondents by occupation. The Slovak respondents are characterised by the low level of unemployment rate (4.9 %), which is much lower than the official national rate (18.6%). Moreover, especially Slovak mothers are also characterised by the high rate of managers, doctors of medicine and teachers among them. On the other hand, Japanese mothers demonstrates the high level of unemployment rate, comprising 34.7% of house wives. They also shows the high rate of part-timers, contrasted to 0% of the Japanese fathers.

So, the respondents of this survey may be characterised as highly educated, with lower number of children in the case of Slovak parents and engaged in housekeeping for many Japanese mothers. Especially for Slovak parents, the questionnaire tends to be spread in regions adjacent to Bratislava as mentioned later, so that many of them could gain higher education during 1950s and mainly 1960s. During the previous regime, the education was free and quite available. The high amount of managers, teachers and doctors is then the plain result of gained education level.

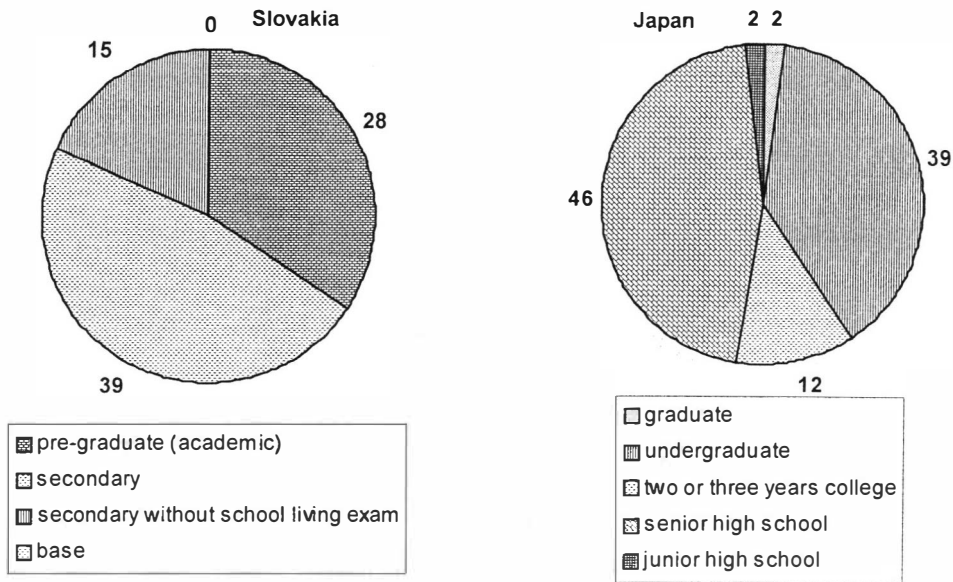


Figure 3 The number of respondents by education
 Source: Questionnaire in 2002

3. MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR OF RESPONDENTS IN SLOVAKIA

Fig. 5 shows the distribution of respondents in Slovakia. The respondents tend to concentrate in the northwestern part of Slovakia, which almost correlate with the distribution of population density. It means that the Comenius University acts as the national centre of university education.

63 (77.8%) out of 82 respondents, had experience one or more times of migration. Fig.6 shows the respondents' migration flows from the birthplace to the present place of residence within Slovakia. We can see that Bratislava is the most important centre of migration, which absorbed 13 flows from Košice, Banská Bystrica, Zilina, Nitra, Trnava regions and the rest of Bratislava region. Only one flow was detected as the outward migration from Bratislava to Banská Bystrica. And it is not easy to detect the other centres of migration. One possibility is Piešťany District, northeastern part of Trnava region, with three in-flows and one out-flow.

From the birthplace to the present place of residence there are detected 123 migrations, where only one respondent experiences the maximum of six migrations. Table 1 shows regional hierarchy of migration process or migration sequence in Slovakia. The hierarchy means three kinds of hypothetical migration centres, which are the national centre of Bratislava, 7 regional centres, and 64 district centres.

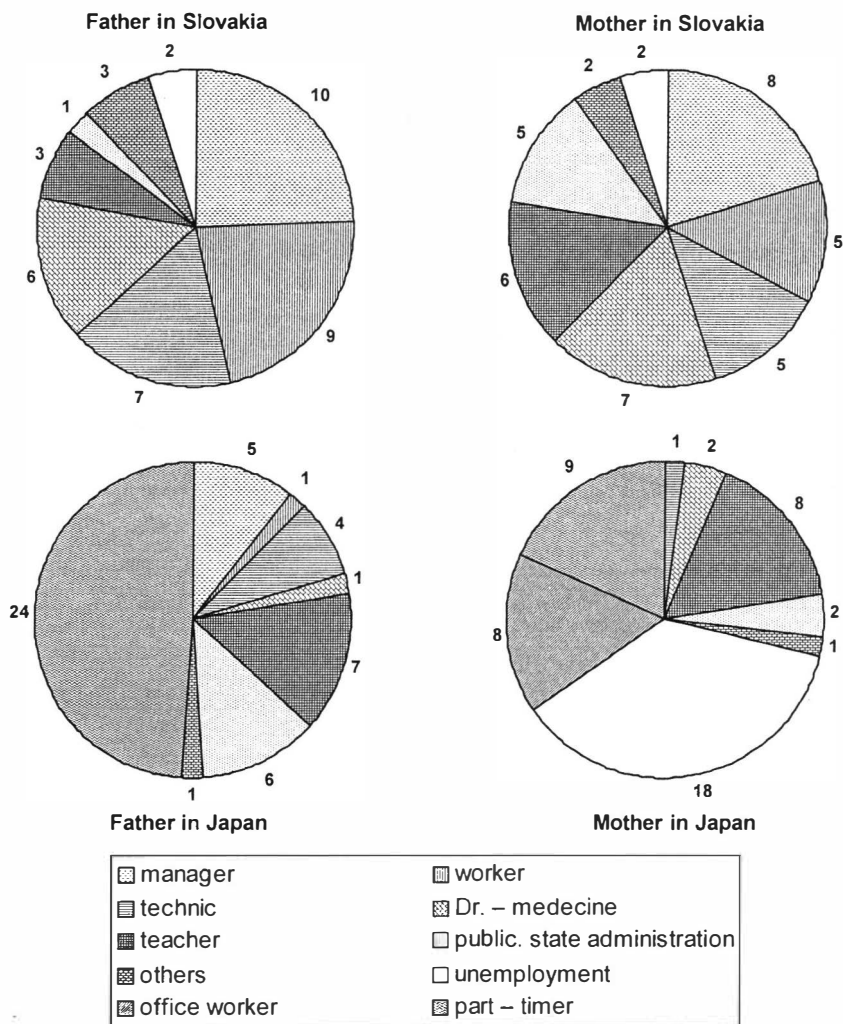


Figure 4 The number of respondents by occupation

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

48.6% of 103 migrations have the same hierarchy of origin and destination. 33.0% are hierarchically upward migrations from the regional centre to the national centre, from the district centre to the regional centre, or from other municipality to the district centre. These migrations prevail in number on the migration steps from 1 to 4 times. On the other hand, the rest of 18.4% are hierarchically downward migrations, in which the maximum number of migrations appears in the 3rd step of migration.

Table 2 shows changes in reasons for migration by migration steps in Slovakia. The workplace reason is selected most frequently, counting 30.9% of total 123 migrations. Though one respondent experiences migration 6 times, the 4th and 5th migrations are not for the workplace reason.

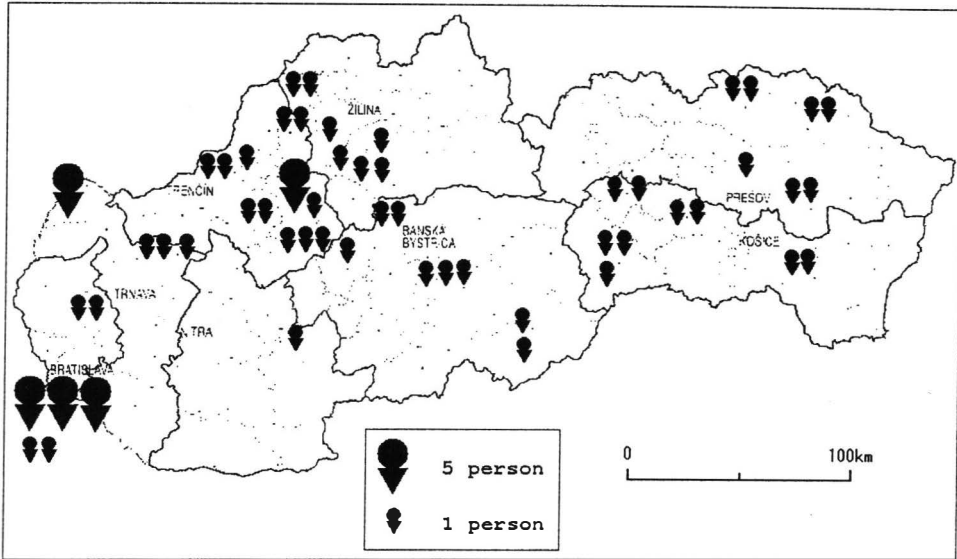


Figure 5 Distribution of the respondents in Slovakia

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

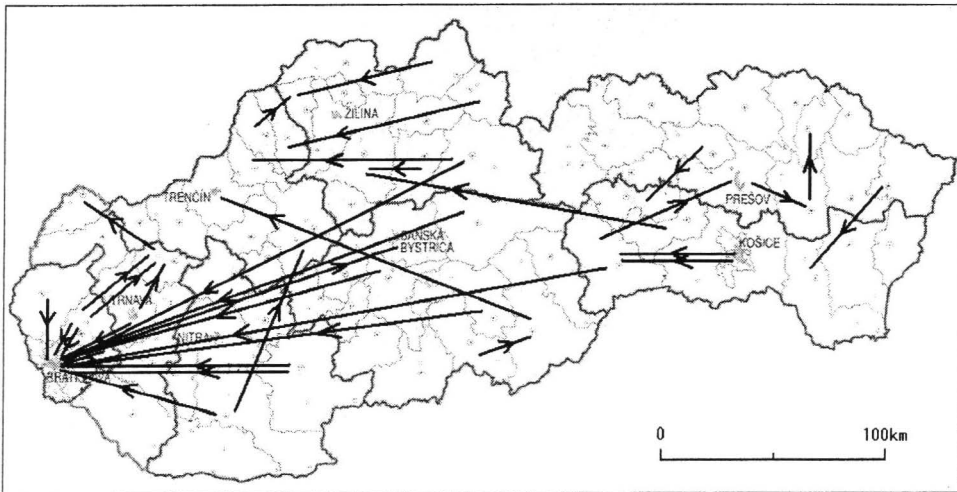


Figure 6 Migration flows from the birthplace to the present place of residence within Slovakia

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Table 1 Regional hierarchy of migration process in Slovakia

Pattern of hierarchical change	Migration step				Total
	1st time	2nd time	3rd time	4th time	
Migration in the same hierarchy	29	14	4	3	50
Hierarchically upward migration	18	9	4	3	34
Hierarchically downward migration	5	5	7	2	19
Total	52	28	15	8	103

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Table 2 Changes in reasons for migration by migration steps in Slovakia

Migration reason	Migration step						Total
	1st time	2nd time	3rd time	4th time	5th time	6th time	
Workplace	22	10	5	-	-	1	38
Study	11	7	1	-	-	-	19
Marriage	5	7	1	-	-	-	13
Dwelling	7	3	7	5	-	-	22
Family	5	3	3	2	-	-	13
Military service	4	4	1	-	-	-	9
Others	4	2	2	-	1	-	9
Total	58	36	20	7	1	1	123

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Table 3 Change in reasons for migration by hierarchical patterns in Slovakia

Pattern of hierarchical change	Migration reason						Total
	work place	study	marriage	dwelling	family	others	
Migration in the same hierarchy	12	5	4	9	7	4	41
Hierarchically upward migration	13	10	2	5	3	1	34
Hierarchically downward migration	6	-	1	7	-	2	16
Total	31	15	7	21	10	7	91

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

It may be said that according to our questionnaire only few people in Slovakia changed their workplace many times. Dwelling reason is selected frequently on the 3rd and 4th times of migrations. Military service and marriage reasons are different by sex. The former is selected by male respondents only and the latter is selected predominantly by female respondents.

Table 3 shows changes in reasons for migration by hierarchical patterns in Slovakia. The marriage, dwelling and family reasons are selected more on migrations of the same hierarchy. The study reason is selected much more on the hierarchically upward migration than on the other two hierarchical types of migrations. The workplace reason is almost the same in number, both on migrations of the same hierarchy and on the hierarchically upward migrations. The dwelling reason is also characterised by the hierarchically downward migration, exhibiting larger number than the case of the other reasons.

Based on the above results, we can define the hypothetical migration processes in Slovakia. Except for forced migration not on migrant's decision but on the parents' decision or on the military obligation, the more migrations occurs at the time of attending school, taking first job or marrying, and at the direction of rural to rural, rural to urban or urban to urban. After that, some people change their workplace, and it may be mentioned that not a small number of people purchase a new house in the suburban or rural area. Based on the individual perspective, these migrations are rearranged in person's life-cycle and it also makes a hypothetical life-path from birthplace to death place.

4. MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR OF RESPONDENTS IN JAPAN

Fig. 7 shows the distribution of respondents in Japan. In fig. 7, single small circle coloured grey represents prefecture centre, and circle doubled in size means metropolitan centre. 59.3% out of 91 respondents have their residence in Gifu Prefecture (see also Appendix). And the other 13.2% live in Aichi Prefecture, which is located immediately to the south from Gifu Prefecture, including the metropolis of Nagoya City. In general, we can see that the respondents tend to be concentrated in the central part of Japan. It may reflect that Gifu University is located in the centre of Japan, and the place belongs to the suburban area of the Nagoya metropolitan region.

Additionally, it may be also important that the questionnaire is distributed to the students of the faculty of education, which acts as the prefectural centre of education.

In the case of Japan, 84 (82.4 %) out of 102 respondents experience one or more times of migration. The value is slightly higher than the case of Slovakia. The notable difference is detected in the sex composition. In Japan, 90.2 % out of 51 mothers experience migration, as compared to the male value of 74.5% out of 51. Generally to say, the Japanese female shows higher mobility in terms of lifetime migration, the changes of residence from birth to death.

One reason is that at the time of marriage Japanese female is much easier to migrate than the male traditionally.

Fig. 8 shows the respondents' migration flows from the birthplace to the present place of residence within Japan. The origins and destinations are distributed from the southwestern fringe to the eastern part of Japan. There is no flow from or to the north or northeastern part of Japan. It means that Tokyo metropolis is the national centre of migration, which acts as a barrier for the migration from or to the north or northeastern part of Japan.

We can see that many flows are focusing in Gifu Prefecture. 58.1% (18 flows) out of the total 31 flows have their origin or destination in the prefecture. Together with the neighbouring prefectures of Aichi and Mie, 71.0% (22 flows) out of the 31 flows are concentrated in Nagoya metropolis and its surrounding area.

From the birthplace to the present place of residence 251 migrations are detected, where the number of respondents with experience of migration six times and over is 14 (13.7 %), comparing to only 1 (1.2 %) in Slovakia.

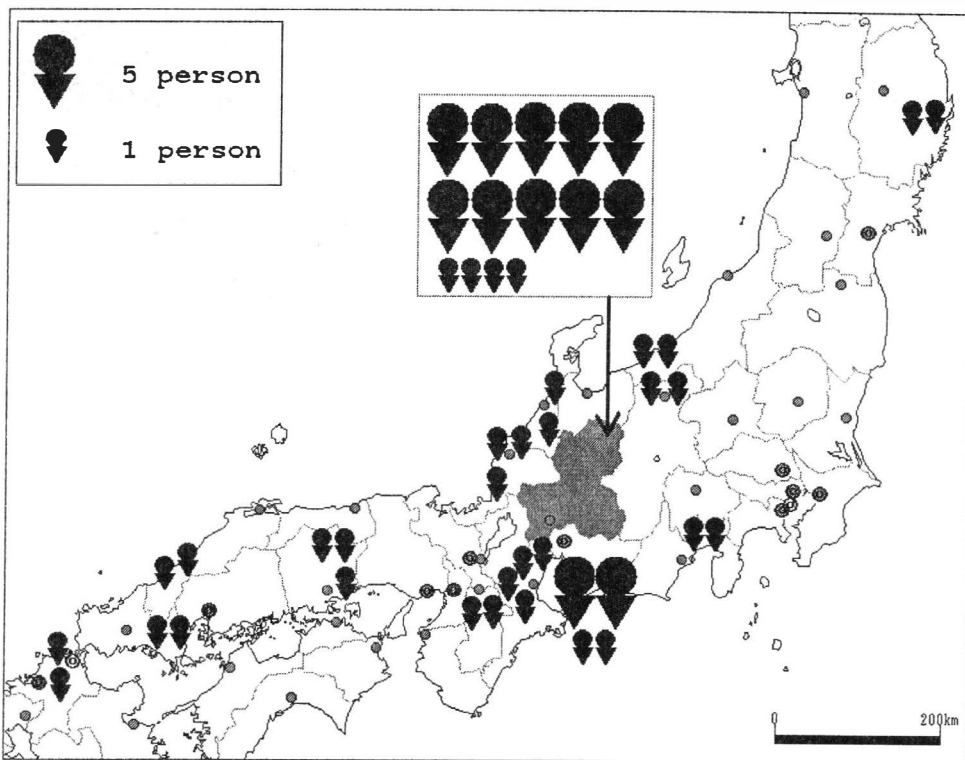


Figure 7 Distribution of respondents in Japan

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

As shown in table 4, the maximum number of migrations is 11 times in Japan. Table 4 depicts the regional hierarchy of migration processes in Japan. We can suppose three kinds of migration centres in Japan, which are the national centre of Tokyo, 13 metropolitan centres, and 35 prefectural centres. In Japan, 11 metropolitan centres are also prefectural centre at the same time with Tokyo both as the metropolitan and the prefectural centre.

54.2% of 251 migrations are classified as „migrations in the same hierarchy“. 21.1% and 24.7% belong to „hierarchically upward migration“ and „hierarchically downward migration“ respectively. Compared with Slovakia, more migrations tend to occur within the same hierarchy and in the downward direction hierarchically. The reason may be in different regional composition and stage of urbanisation between the two countries. The prefecture in Japan has the same size of area as the region in Slovakia, so it is much broader than the district area in Slovakia. In terms of urbanisation, the Japanese rate of the urban population (78.1% in 1995) is higher than the case in Slovakia (57.0% in 1995). In addition to this, it is affected by locational difference between the two universities: Comenius University in the national centre of Bratislava and Gifu University in the prefectural centre of Gifu.

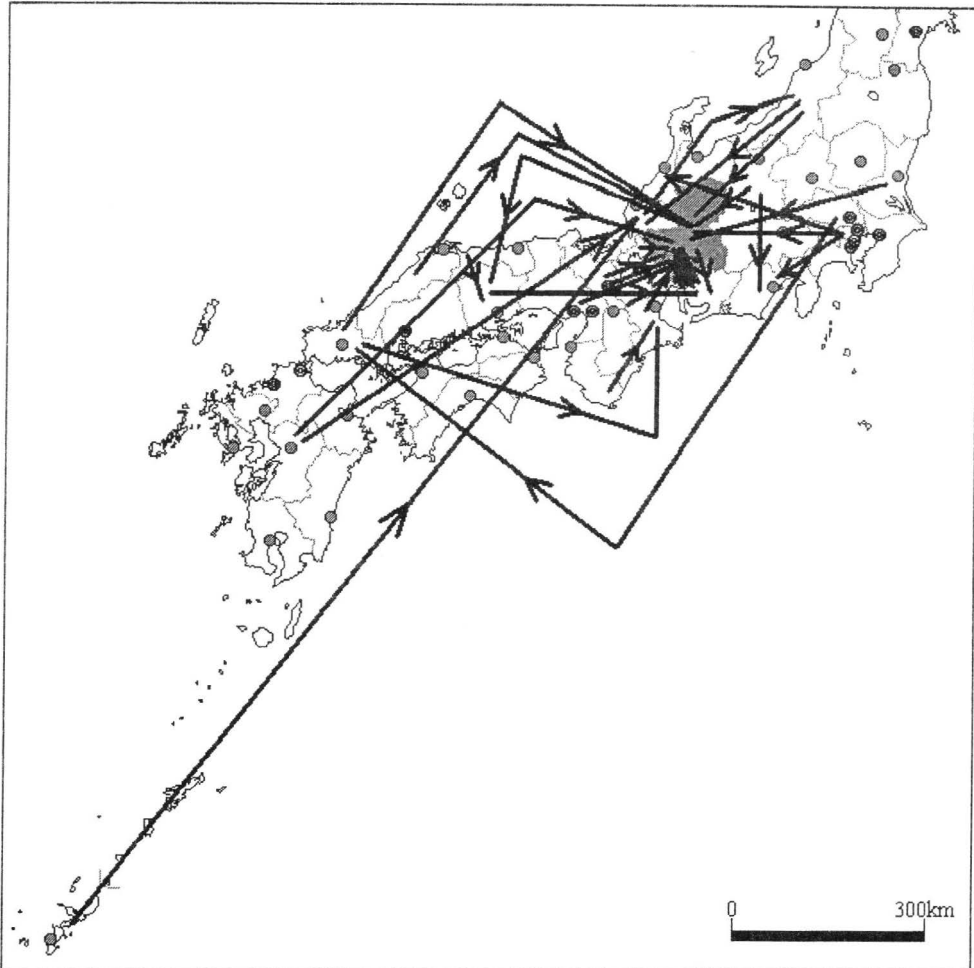


Figure 8 Migration flows from the birthplace to the present place of residence within Japan
 Source: Questionnaire in 2002

We can also see from this table that the maximum number of migrations appears not in the 1st but in the 2nd migration step in „hierarchically downward migration“. This is the same tendency as in Slovakia.

Table 5 shows changes in reasons for migration by migration step in Japan. The workplace reason is the most frequent, counting 33.6% of the total 247 migrations, which is almost the same rate as in Slovakia. But the maximum number of migrations appears in the 3rd time migration step in Japan. It suggests that a lot of people tend to change their workplace after employing of the first time as compared with the case of Slovakia. Dwelling reason is selected frequently in the 2nd migration step. Migrations for the study, marriage and family reasons are decreasing in number through migration steps.

Table 4 Regional hierarchy of migration processes in Japan

Pattern of hierarchical change	Migration step					
	1st time	2nd time	3rd time	4th time	5th time	6th time
Migration in same hierarchy	44	31	20	16	7	9
Hierarchically upward migration	24	8	9	2	7	2
Hierarchically downward migration	11	23	9	7	4	-
Total	79	62	38	25	18	11

Pattern of hierarchical change	Migration step					Total
	7st time	8nd time	9rd time	10th time	11th time	
Migration in same hierarchy	4	2	1	1	1	136
Hierarchically upward migration	1	1	1	-	-	53
Hierarchically downward migration	-	-	1	1	-	62
Total	5	3	3	2	1	251

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Table 5 Changes in reasons for migration by migration step in Japan

Migration reason	Migration step					
	1st time	2nd time	3rd time	4th time	5th time	6th time
Workplace	13	16	20	10	10	6
Study	16	5	1	-	-	-
Marriage	29	7	6	3	2	3
Dwelling	2	10	4	5	3	3
Family	21	19	7	3	3	-
Others	-	3	1	2	-	-
Total	81	60	39	23	18	12

Migration reason	Migration step					Total
	7th time	8th time	9th time	10th time	11th time	
Workplace	3	2	1	1	1	83
Study	-	-	-	-	-	22
Marriage	-	-	-	-	-	50
Dwelling	1	1	1	-	-	30
Family	1	1	-	1	-	56
Others	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	5	4	2	2	1	247

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Table 6 shows changes in reasons for migration by the hierarchical pattern in Japan. The workplace, marriage, dwelling and family reasons are selected more on the migration in same hierarchy. Especially for marriage and dwelling reasons the concentration is more expressive than the case in Slovakia, due to broadness of Japanese prefecture. Generally to say, these two migration reasons tend to be selected on the migrations in local areas. Study reason is selected much more on the hierarchically upward migration than on the other two hierarchical types of migrations in Japan, as well as in Slovakia. On the other hand, it is contrast between the two countries that the workplace reason is selected more on the hierarchically downward migrations than on the hierarchically upward migrations in Japan.

Table 6 Changes in reasons for migration by hierarchical pattern in Japan

Pattern of hierarchical change	Migration reason						Total
	work place	study	marriage	dwelling	family	others	
Migration in same hierarchy	32	5	39	24	25	5	130
Hierarchically upward migration	20	13	4	3	11	1	52
Hierarchically downward migration	24	3	7	2	18	-	54
Total	76	21	50	29	54	6	236

Source: Questionnaire in 2002

Comparing migrations in Japan and Slovakia, we can see differences in the migration process between the two countries. Moreover, there is no obligate military service in Japan. With growth of popularity of higher education, Japanese young people have undertook their first migration for the study reason. The direction of this flow is oriented to the place of more urbanised area, where universities and colleges are concentrated. After the graduation, some people return to their home-town whether immediately or with job experience. Traditional moral obligations are still valid in Japan, which means that sons and daughters should support their parents. In addition, some economic advantages exist for the young generation. For example, they don't need to buy house themselves. And they can also depend on their parents' pension, the money for old age.

It is also traditional but somewhat modern trend that Japanese females migrate more at the time of marriage. This kind of migration is characterized mainly by short-distance and local movement, which the bride's parents usually expect to be. On the other hand, Japanese male workers change their workplace frequently, sometimes with their families, or sometimes alone. At the time of economic growth, they migrated in the mandatory system of Japanese private company, like soldiers. Now, when the depression is under way, they migrate again, but being dismissed from the company. The Japanese migration contains both traditional and modern elements, twisted and combined to make a thread of Japanese life-path.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS – THE REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRATION BEHAVIOUR

The purpose of this study is to clarify migration behaviour in Japan and Slovakia based on their regional characteristics. The data are based on the questionnaire distributed between the students of Gifu University, Japan and Comenius University, Slovakia in summer to autumn 2002. The questionnaire contains two kinds of questions, attribute of the student's parent and the parent's experience of migration. The results may be summarised as follows.

1. The respondents of this study are highly educated, lower in the number of children for the Slovak parents, and engaged in housekeeping for many Japanese mothers.

2. The respondents tend to be concentrated in the northwestern part of Slovakia, almost correlating with the population density distribution.
3. Bratislava is the most important centre of migration flows in Slovakia.
4. To change the workplace for many times is not typical in Slovakia.
5. Migration for marriage reason is selected more by female respondents than by males in Japan and Slovakia.
6. The study reason is characterised by the hierarchically upward migration in Japan and Slovakia.
7. The origins and destinations of Japanese migrants are distributed from the southwestern fringe to the eastern part of Japan.
8. Compared with Slovakia, more migrations occur within the same hierarchy in the hierarchically downward direction in Japan.
9. In Japan more people change their workplace many times, even after taking their first job, comparing with Slovakia.

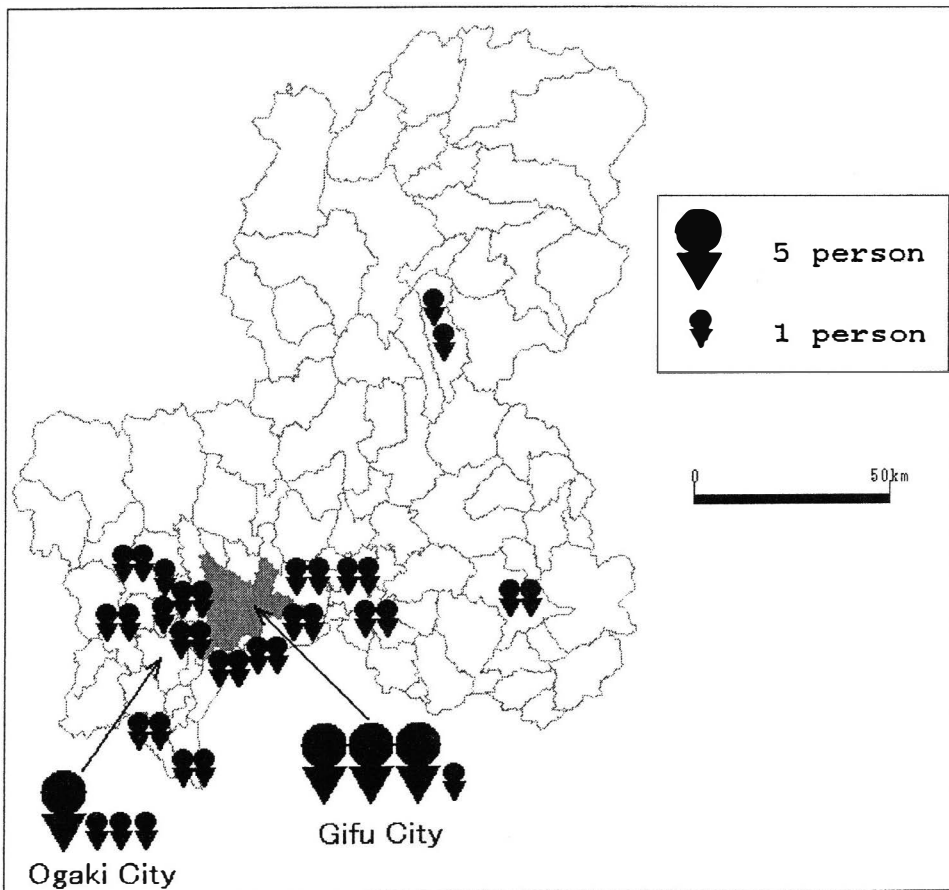


Figure 9 Distribution of respondents in Gifu Prefecture
 Source: Questionnaire in 2002

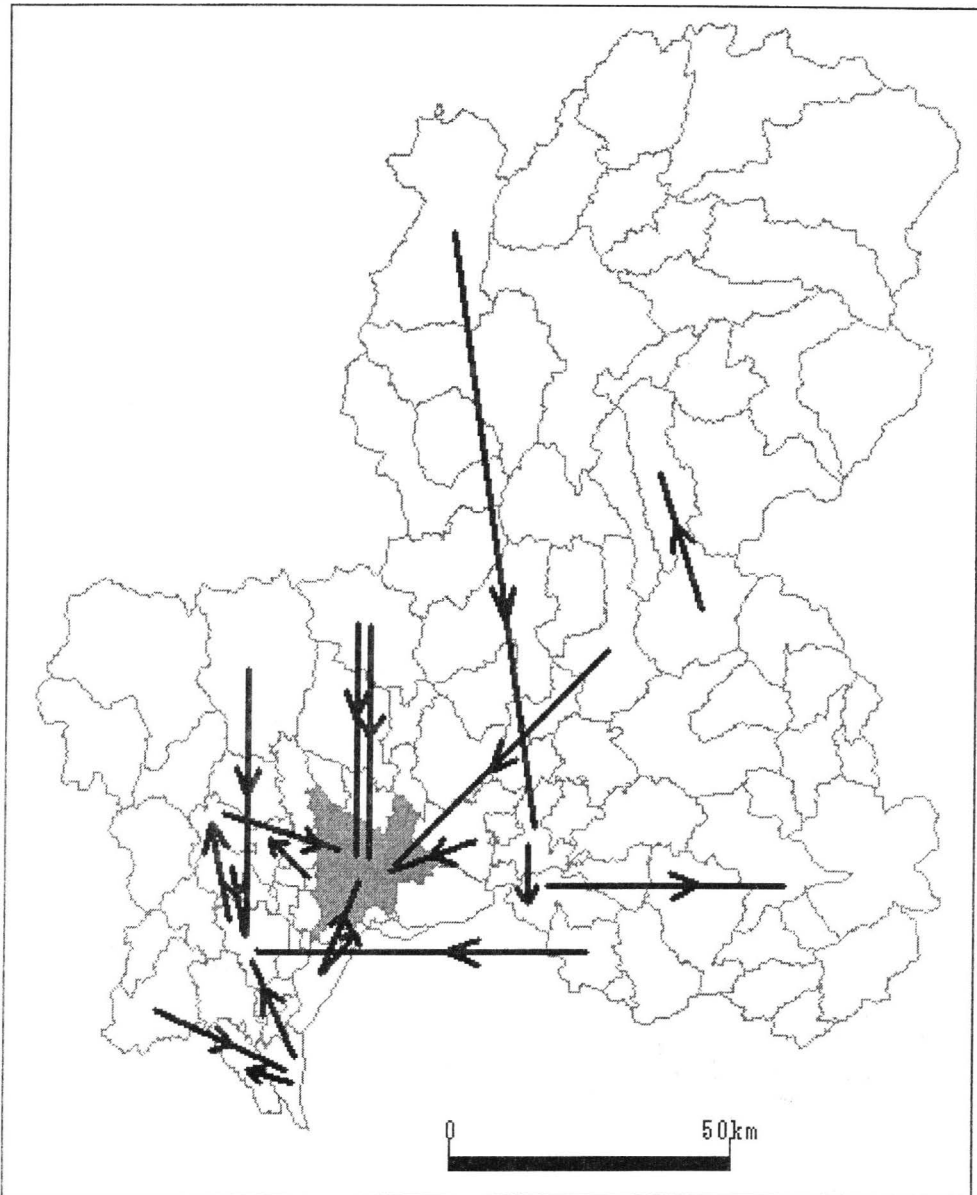


Figure 10 Migration flows from the birthplace to the present place of residence within Gifu Prefecture
 Source: Questionnaire in 2002

These results are considered as the regional characteristics of Japan and Slovakia. Japan is a long and narrow country, which has 7.7 times broader area and 23.5 times larger population than Slovakia. Concluding this article, we present one more example of the different scale of the area.

Fig. 9 shows distribution of the respondents in Gifu Prefecture. And fig. 10 shows the migration flows from birthplace to the present place of residence within Gifu Prefecture. The respondents are concentrated in Gifu City and its surrounding areas, which corresponds to densely populated areas. We can detect the two migration centres of the flow: the first one is Gifu City and the second is Ogaki City. Gifu Prefecture is of course smaller than Slovakia, but they have something in common. For instance, Gifu City is of the same size of population and located in the fringe of the area like Bratislava. As mentioned before, Gifu City is strongly connected with the metropolitan centre of Nagoya City (30 km to the south from Gifu City). Though, Bratislava is also near the metropolis of Vienna (60 km to the west from Bratislava), the national border exists between the two cities. In the near future, after the EU enlargement in May 2004, the migration behaviour in Slovakia may change considerably and the regional characteristics may change as well.

The paper was presented at the scientific symposium „Demographic Processes and Structures; Comparative Analysis of Japan and Slovakia“, Bratislava, December, 2, 2002. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff of Department of Human Geography and Demogeography of the Comenius University, especially to Prof. Jozef Mladek, Dr. Dagmar Kusendova and Mr. Kurcik Lubos.

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Resume

Porovnávacie štúdiá migračného správania sa japonskej a slovenskej populácie

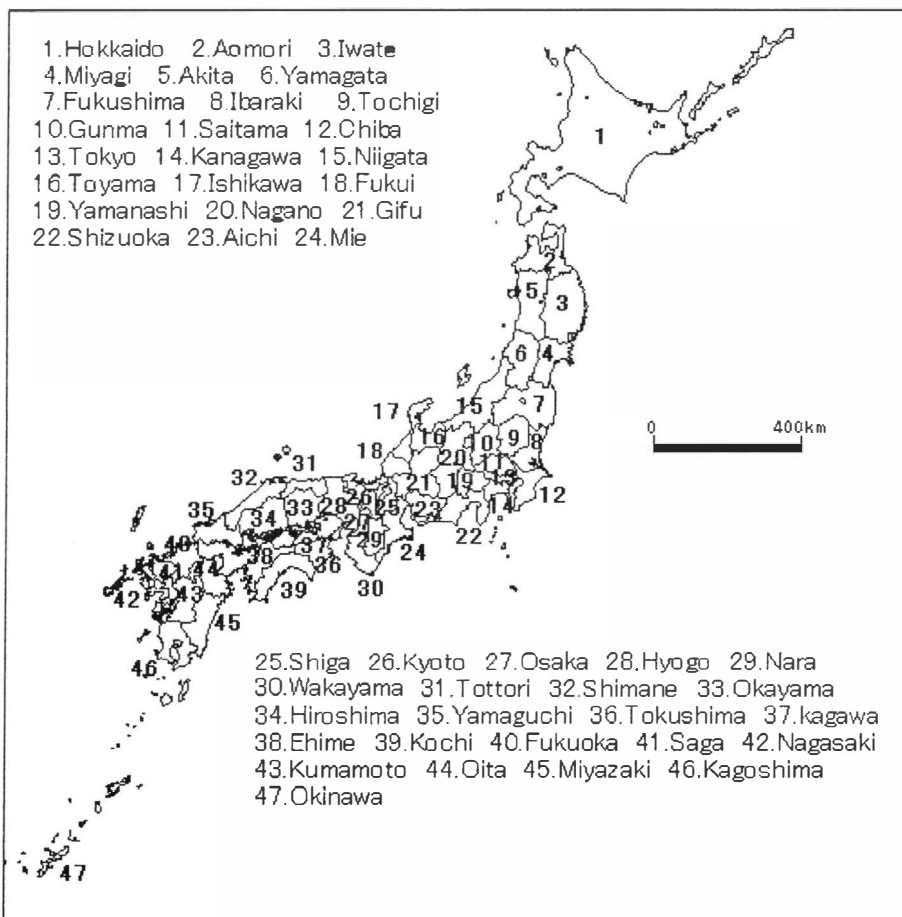
Cieľom tejto štúdie je objasniť migračné správanie sa obyvateľstva v Japonsku a na Slovensku, založené na regionálnych charakteristikách. Informácie boli získané na základe dotazníkov, vyplňaných rodičmi študentov Gifu University a Univerzity Komenského, v čase leto – jeseň 2002.

Respondenti tejto štúdie majú prevažne vyššie vzdelanie, malý počet detí v prípade slovenských rodičov a zamestnanie ako domáca v prípade mnohých japonských matiek. Res-

pondenti sú koncentrovaní predovšetkým v severovýchodnej časti SR, čo zhruba je v korelácii s intenzitou rozmiestnenia obyvateľstva. Bratislava je najvýznamnejším centrom migračných tokov na Slovensku. Východiskové body japonských migrantov sú rozložené v juhozápadnej, okrajovej časti krajiny, a naopak, cieľové oblasti patria východnému pobrežiu Japonska. Na Slovensku len malá časť obyvateľstva mení viackrát miesto svojho pracoviska. Na druhej strane, v prípade Japonska, mení viackrát miesto práce väčšia časť obyvateľstva. Svadba ako príčina migrácie je vysoko nadpriemerne uvádzaná tak v prípade japonských, ako aj slovenských žien. Rastúci trend v dôvodoch migrácie má štúdium, a to v oboch krajinách.

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Appendix



人口移動からみた日本とスロヴァキアの行動論的比較研究

大関 泰宏

本研究の目的は、日本とスロヴァキアにおける人口移動について地域特性をふまえ行動論的な視点から明らかにすることである。分析データは、2002年の夏から秋にかけて岐阜大学とコメニウス大学に在籍する学生にアンケートを配布し、学生の父母の属性と移動歴を尋ねることによって得られたものである。

分析の結果として、スロヴァキアでは高学歴であり子供の数が少ないという特性がみられ、日本では母親で家事に従事する割合が高い点に特徴がある。また、スロヴァキアの回答者は北西部に多く居住し、人口密度分布との相関性もみられた。移動流の観察からは、移動中心としてのブラチスラバの重要性が明らかとなった。日本では、移動流の及ぶ範囲は西南日本から東日本までに限定されている。転勤を繰り返す人はスロヴァキアでは少なく、日本ではより多くみられ、就職後もしばしば職場を移動している。結婚に際して男性よりも女性が移動しやすい点は両国に共通している。また、学業に関する移動で、大都市等のより上位階層の地域へ移動する傾向が顕著なものも共通した特性である。