

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES OF RURAL POPULATION IN SLOVAKIA AND JAPAN

Peter Spišiak

Department of Human Geography and Demogeography, Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mlynská dolina, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovakia

Abstract: In this contribution, problems of rural space differentiation in Slovakia and Japan are addressed exploring development, changes and differentiation of the rural population. Rural population is usually associated with rural settlements (municipalities). At present, there is 2745 rural settlements, where lives 44 per cent of total population in Slovakia. Rural population lives in various settlements in Japan – Mura, Machi, Cho, Son, and this population composes 21,3% of total population in Japan.

Key words: rural population, rural settlement, Slovakia, Japan, village, mura, cho, machi, son

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent geographical researches, works concerning problems of development and changes in human-geographical structures are in forefront line. These development and changes are widely determined by population as the main element. There are relatively quality demographical analyses elaborated, going out from the statistical censuses. From these censuses, researchers often use extensively study population data according to place of residence.

These facts enable additional findings of reasons why people are living on given place. The population databases are generally referred to specific residential locality, most commonly urban or rural settlement, therefore it is often used term urban and rural population.

In this contribution, problems of rural space differentiation in Slovakia and Japan are addressed exploring development, changes and differentiation of the rural population. Rural population is usually associated with rural settlements (municipalities).

2. SOME METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Under the term rural population oftentimes understand population actively at rural landscape. Rural landscape mirror seat in the country – village.

Another sight rural landscape is based on sociable and economic structure of population.

There is a population, which they work in primary sphere (agriculture, forest, mining, fishery).

Further criterias for rural landscape they are:

- ♦ population density per km² under finite frontier
- ♦ on the proviso that is population density per km² under 50 inhabitant, then speak, that rural area is open
- ♦ „rural areas are the areas comprising (open) field areas”
- ♦ rural areas is all the land outside areas, with a low population density

European Union countries have defined the following features typical for rural area:

- ♦ dominant position of agricultural activities,
- ♦ predominant „green zones“ having an ecological function,
- ♦ low density of population, settlements scattered on large areas,
- ♦ limited settlements' size,
- ♦ dominance of jobs demanding physical work,
- ♦ presence of rare and unique natural phenomena.

Relatively single test spin-off rural population is residence in the village. Widely villages in west Europe they have a few criterias on characteristic of rural area:

- ♦ in France – areas of small villages, besides towns and cities; with less than 200 inhabitants,
- ♦ in Scotland – areas that have a population density less than one person per ha,
- ♦ in Sweden – areas outside localities with more than 200 inhabitants.

Rural population of Slovakia lead usually at vilages. The vilages are identification following several criterias, e.g. administration criteria, regional, regional-technical, statistical, etc. Everything these criterias have incorporate performance chart and frontier. From geographic aspect they have primer sound regional units.

Territorial division consists of regions, districts, municipalities (settlements), parts of municipalities (village part). In 1986, there were 3527 cadastral units (c.u.), but only 2711 municipalities in Slovakia. In 2001, there were 3540 c.u. and 2883 municipalities – 138 towns and 2745 rural settlements – vilages. Upper tiers consist of 8 regions and 79 districts. At the present, Slovakia has 44% of rural population.

When looking at the nature of local administrative units in Japan, it is important to distinguish between toponymic territorial units and administrative territorial units. The term „toponymic territorial units“ means the hierarchy of territorial areas and sub areas whose names occur on maps, in postal addresses, in census tables, and in everyday practice. On the contrary, the term „administrative territorial units“ means the territorial subdivisions used for governmental purposes. Confusion of these two systems in Japan is easy because they use similar terms but have not always been organised in exactly the same way. There are tree tiers of toponymic territorial units in Japan (Table 1): prefectures at the top, counties and cities in the middle, and vilages, towns, and wards (for some cities) at the bottom.

As toponymic territorial units, villages and towns are subdivisions of counties, and wards are subdivisions of certain large city.

In the toponymic system, every part of a prefecture belongs to either a county or a city, and every part of a county belongs to either a village or towns. That is, unlike many county systems in United States, there is on „unincorporated“ part of the county.

As a result, the boundaries of villages, towns, and cities may not always closely correspond with the built-up area, since all agricultural, forest, and mountain areas are contained within a village, town, or even a city. This means that one must always be careful in viewing a map of Japanese town or city areas, since town or city boundaries may include much non urbanised land.

Table 1 Japanese toponymic units versus administrative units

Tier	Toponymic territorial units				Administrative territorial units (after 1926)				
1	Prefectures				Prefectures				
2	Counties		Cities	Cities	Villages	Towns	Cities	Special Cities	Special Wards
3	Villages	Towns		Wards				Wards	(Tokyo)

Japanese terms:

Prefecture – *to* for Tokyo, *do* for Hokkaido, *fu* for Osaka and Kyoto, and *ken* for all others

County – *gun*, Village – *mura*, Town – *machi*, City – *shi*, Ward – *ku*

Special City – *seirei shitei toshi* (ordinance-designated city), e.g., Yokohama-shi, Kawasaki-shi

Special Wards – *tokubetsu-ku* as in 23 wards of Tokyo

In.: L.Siebert, 2000.

The case of cities with wards is even more complex. There are two types of cities with wards, and hence two types of wards – special wards (Tokyo only) and ordinary wards in special cities (such as in Yokohama and Kawasaki cities in Kanagawa prefecture). Tokyo city initially had 15 wards, in 1932 it expanded to 45 wards, and in 1947 it consolidated into 23 wards. After 1943, when Tokyo prefecture became *Tokyo-to* rather than *Tokyo-fu*, the city itself was no longer referred to as Tokyo city (*Tokyo-shi*); instead, the wards were collectively referred to as „the 23 wards“ and individually as the special wards (*tsukubetsu-ku*) within Tokyo Metropolitan Prefecture (*Tokyo-to*).

Each of Tokyo’s special wards has its own elected mayor. Because there is no such overall administrative unit as Tokyo „city“ now, these special wards are „city-like“ (urban) in nature, as reflected in the unofficial English names now being used by some wards, such as „Shinjuku City“ and „Bunkyo City“.

In contrast, ordinary wards exist in special cities that have been designated by ordinance (*sheirei shitei toshi*). Wards in these cities exist for provision of governmental services, but do not have elected mayors, in that sense, they are only administrative in nature, in contrast to Tokyo’s political/administrative wards. Yokohama city was the first divided into wards in 1927, and Kawasaki city in 1972. Each went through several stages of expansion and reconfiguration of wards areas.

These four types of local administrative units in Japan – villages, towns, cities, and wards – represent different stages or levels of urbanisation. Generally increasing level of urbanisation is indicated by the left-to-right sequence in Table 1: villages are the least urbanised, towns are slightly more urbanised, cities are quite urbanised, and wards are very urbanised. According to legislation, villages are areas with less than 30000 inhabitants, towns have population between 30000 and 50000, and cities with population over 50000 (Reischauer and Jansen 1995).

Rural population lives usually in four categories of municipalities: Cho, Son, Mura and Machi. Cho and Son are sometimes called Machi and Mura, respectively. One definition of urban and rural areas in Japan is based on the division between Shi and Cho/Son. In this two-way division, the former is called „Shi“ part, and the latter is called „Gun“ part in official statistics. Gun is an administrative unit, and Cho/Son is a sub category of Gun. Differences between Cho and Son are complicated, because each prefecture has its own by-law to define the conditions of Cho and Son. In more popular terms, Cho is bigger than Son, as far as population and political, social, financial institutions are concerned. Shi, Cho, Son are usually translated as city, town, village. In our paper, we will study geographical differences of rural population according to rural types of settlement – Cho, Son, Machi and Mura. In 2000, there were in Japan 3215 municipalities consisting of 13 big towns – shi, 658 „small shi“, 2558 rural settlements – villages: Mura – 487, Machi – 739, Cho – 1252, Son – 80.

3. DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT STATE OF RURAL POPULATION IN SLOVAKIA

In development process of rural population of Slovakia several periods could be observed. One of the very significant ones concerning changes of rural population share came after the world war II and mostly in the beginning of the 1950's, when the rural population represented as many as 64 per cent of the total population. This well reflected the structure of Slovak economy which was then oriented on primary sector, especially agriculture, mining and processing industry, partially. A new industrializing tendency heavily impacted Slovak rural territories and made the rural residents leave for urban settlements to work, for services and better living. This outflow of the rural people was less or more intensive in different regions. The most intensive outflow was observed in marginal territories, including border regions, as well as in some inland areas.

Significant changes of Slovak countryside came after 1950, when 63.7 per cent of Slovak residents were living in rural regions of the country (Fig. 1). No administrative district indicated less than 50 per cent. Particular regions showed between 51 – 92 per cent of rural population. The highest values of this index were found mostly in eastern Slovakia (except districts of Poprad, Prešov and Spišská Nová Ves), north-western Slovakia in Orava region, in central part of southern Slovakia (region of Veľký Krtíš) and southern part of Podunajská Lowland (Map 1).

Within the 10 years, the average index of rural population did not change much (to 61.2 per cent). Neither significant changes appeared in regional structure of Slovakia. Only eastern Slovakia – especially Humenné region – showed a considerable decrease of rural population. This fact might be a result of attractiveness of new industrial centres of Snina, Humenné, Strážske as well as Košice for rural population. Even in this decade some regions with a small increase of rural population could be identified – for example Orava and some regions of southern Podunajská Lowland (Map 2).

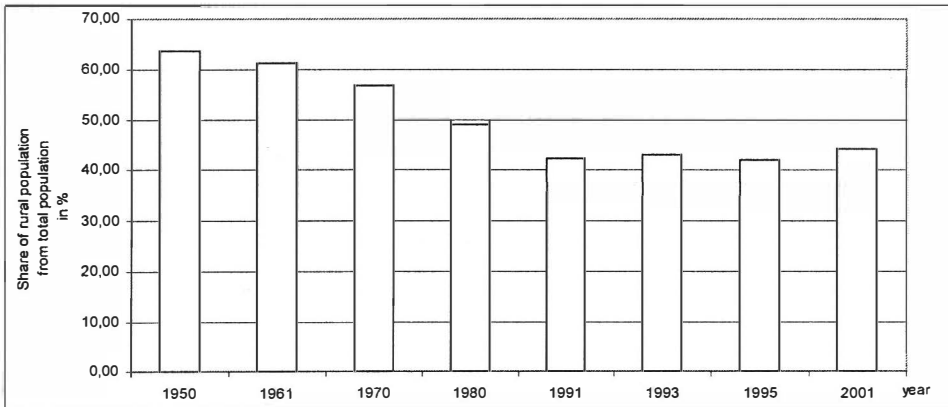
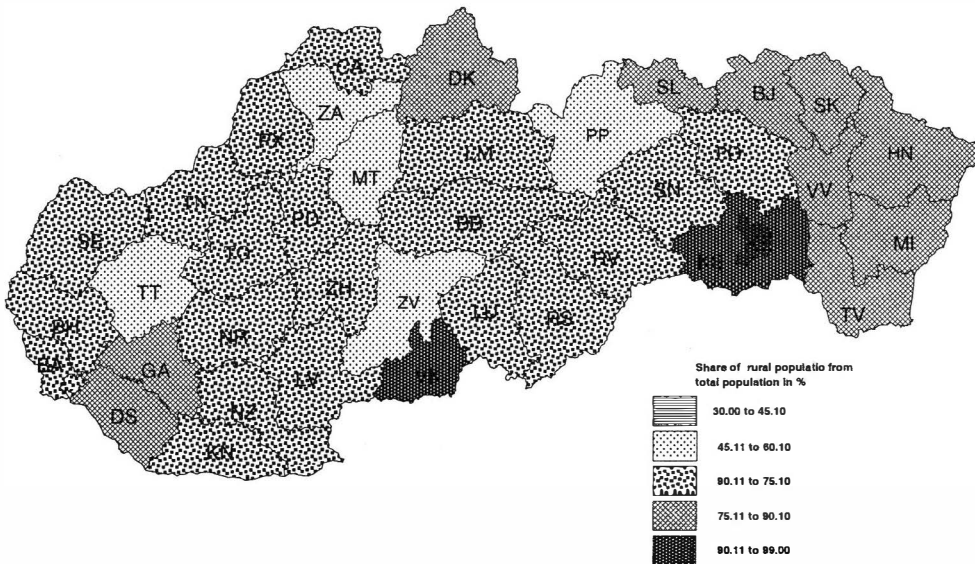


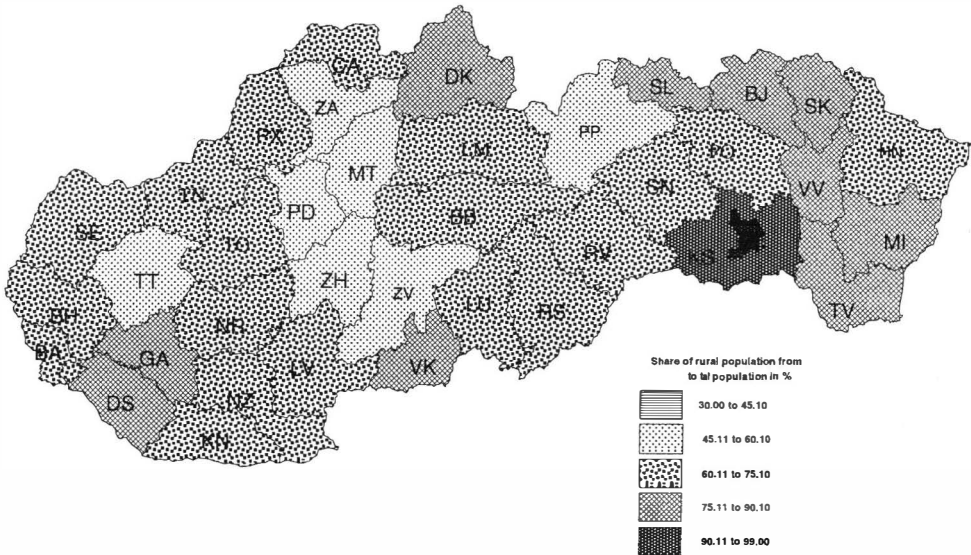
Figure 1 Rural population in Slovakia



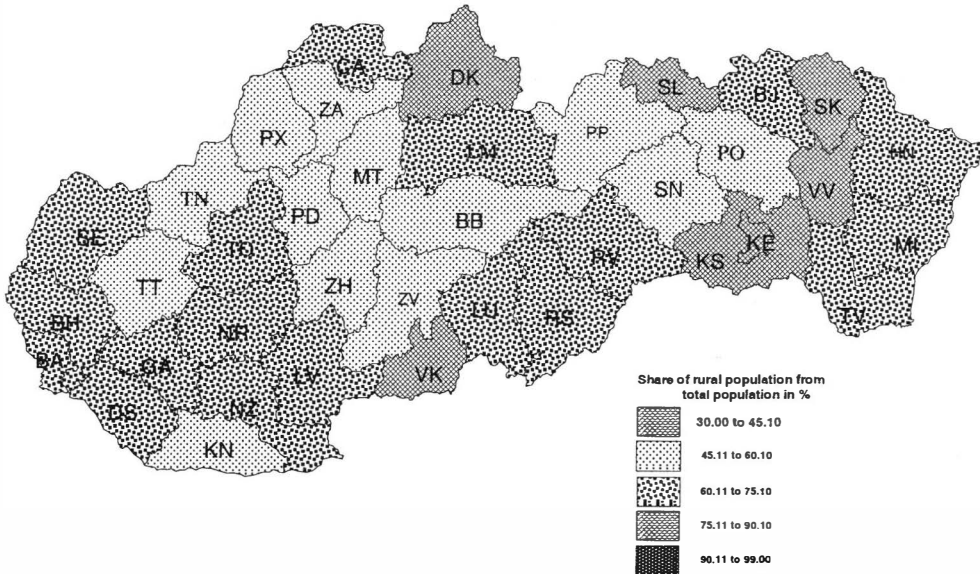
Map 1 Rural population in Slovakia (1950)

Between 1961 – 1970, a more considerable decrease of rural population was observed in Slovakia (by 5 per cent). The most significant decrease touched some sub-mountainous regions (Banská Bystrica, Humenné, Svidník, Zvolen) (Map 3).

The next period of rural population's decrease was between 1970 – 1980 with average decrease reaching to 7 per cent. Mostly border regions were concerned (Čadca, Svidník, Humenné, Stará Ľubovňa), where the rural population's decrease since 1970 reached 11 per cent in average. Low decrease was observed in territories surrounding highly urbanized regions.

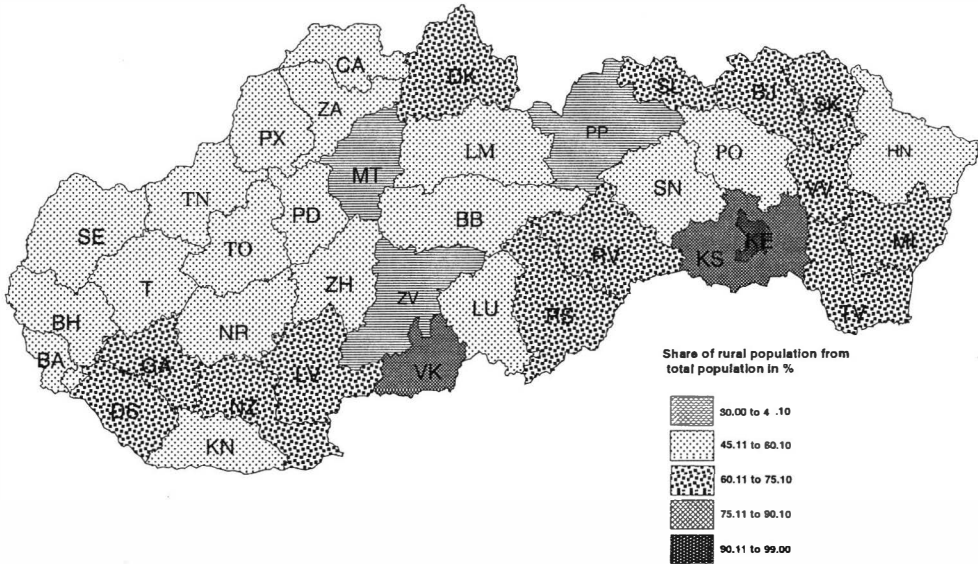


Map 2 Rural population in Slovakia (1961)



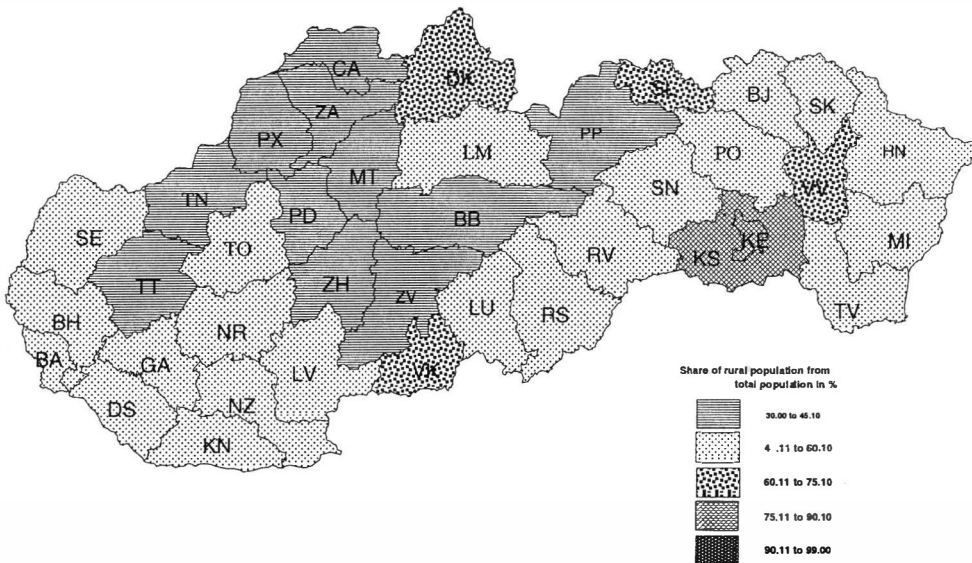
Map 3 Rural population in Slovakia (1970)

The 1980 – 1990 decade was the last within the period of 1950 – 1995 with rural population decreasing tendency. The value of decrease in this decade was as high as 6 per cent, concerning mostly border regions again: region of Čadca (by 18 per cent), Humenné (11), Svidník (11) (Map 4).



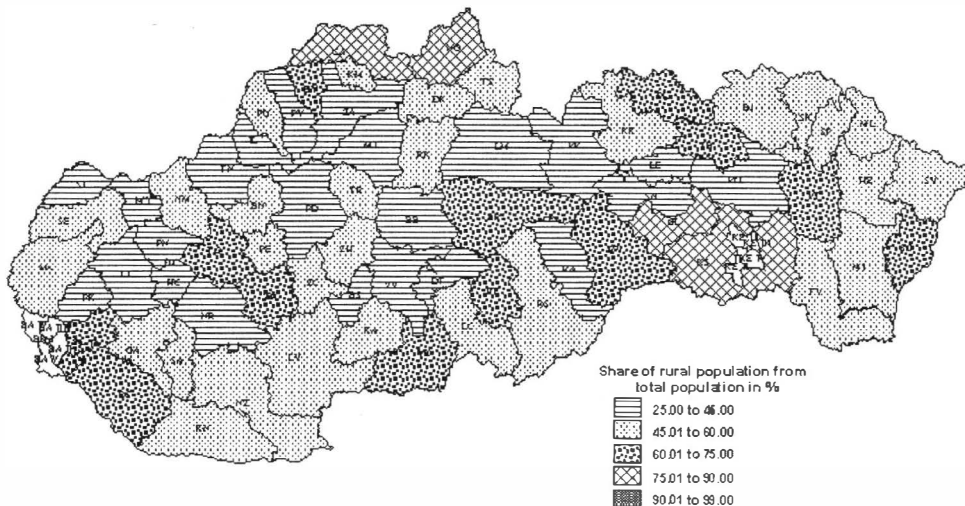
Map 4 Rural population in Slovakia (1981)

After 1991, a moderate increase of rural population in Slovakia appeared for the first time. There is no clear regional interrelationship. Growth of job opportunities in major rural settlements can be one of the reasons, as well as opportunities in non-production sphere in a near town (Map 5).



Map 5 Rural population in Slovakia (1991)

In the final appraisal of rural population's development in Slovakia in the period of 1950 – 1995 we can state that all regions (either typically rural or transitional ones) proved a decrease of rural population. The most considerable decrease appeared in border regions such as Čadca (by 44 per cent), Svidník (38), Humenné (35), Banská Bystrica (30), the lowest decrease was observed in Spiš regions: Poprad (by 9 per cent), Spišská Nová Ves (12), and regions near the largest cities of Slovakia – Bratislava and Košice: Košice-vidiek (by 5 per cent), Bratislava-vidiek (14). This low decrease resulted from the proximity of industrial agglomerations as well as from the stability of occupations available in small industrial and business centres (Map 6).



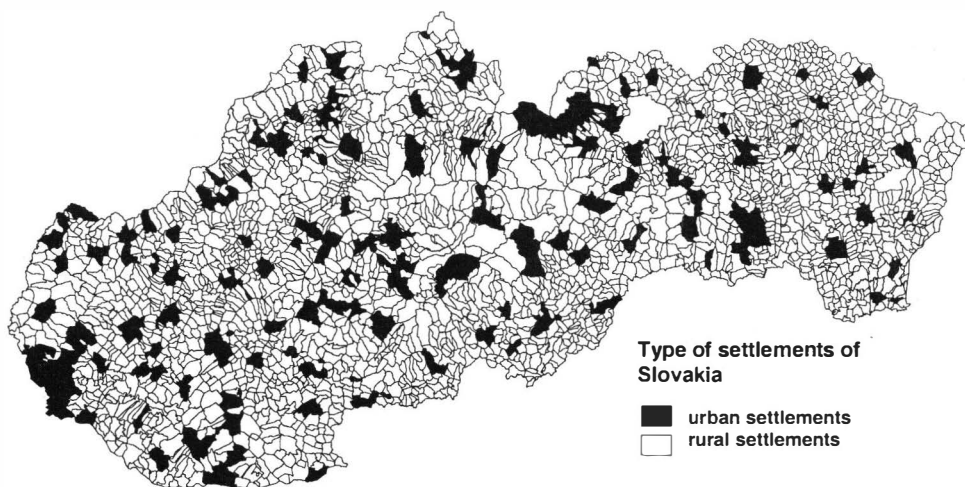
Map 6 Rural population in Slovakia (2001)

After 1989, together with general economic transformation, the first termination of rural population's decrease occurred in territories where a renewal of economic structure came rapidly thanks to foreign investments mainly. This only happened near major industrial centres or large industrial areas, e. g. surroundings of Bratislava and its hinterland. Today, the decrease of rural population is not as high as in the beginning of the transformation processes, even there appears a growth of rural residents in some territories. This process can be seen mostly around major cities.

Nowadays, the share of rural population from the total equals 44.3 per cent. However, this value requires a correction. First, in Slovakia there are several towns (urban settlements) with a specific feature of their settlement structure – scattered dwellings, which means that some residents of such a town live a rural life outside the built-up area. Another specific group of rural residents can be identified in rural communities that have been annexed to neighbouring towns and cities.

Spatial structure of rural population indicates certain regularities. All settlements without official status of a town/city are considered as rural settlements (Map 7). From the total of 2,883 settlements, there are 138 towns/cities and 2,745 rural settlements (villages)

in Slovakia, together with two unpopulated extra territorial units (*Javorina, Valaškovce*). Territorial distribution of rural settlements is quite uneven. From the morphological aspect, three Slovak lowlands (up to 199 m above sea level) cover as many as 28 per cent of Slovakia's area and accommodate 34.4 per cent of rural settlements, hilly lands (200 to 599 m) comprise 57,4 per cent and mountainous areas (600 m and more) 8.3 per cent of rural settlements. In principle, the larger area of a settlement, the more inhabitants. We can identify 4 groups of rural settlements according to their area size. There are 43 per cent of villages with no more than 9.9 square km (1), 35.4 per cent of those between 10 and 19.99 square km (2), 19 per cent with 20 to 49.9 square km (3) and 2.7 per cent above 50 square km (4). In the lowlands, villages of the first mentioned category are predominant (43.7 per cent), being almost counterbalanced by the second size group (10 to 19.99 square km), with these two groups covering nearly 82 per cent of all rural settlements. In the hilly lands, the situation appears to be practically the same: villages of the first group account for 43.9 per cent and together with the second size group (10 to 19.99 square km) reach to 78.2 per cent. In the mountain regions, the proportions are more equipollent. Villages of the first size group represent 33.3 per cent, while group (4) comprising the largest settlements reach over 10 per cent. This can be observed mainly in the villages that are located in basins surrounded by mountains, with their cadastral territory spread from the basin deep to the surrounding mountain ranges. However, the residents have been concentrated to the basins, except from the villages with the scattered form of dwelling. This is what we can find in central, northern and north-western parts of Slovakia, above all.



Map 7 Urban and rural settlements in Slovakia

A certain weighty statistical correlation occurs between locations and areas. Generally, the higher altitude, the higher share of rural settlements and the higher number of rural population, simultaneously.

A certain regularity can be seen in the population-size structure of the rural settlements and their area. That is to say, minor number of villages comes under groups representing the

lowest population-size category as well as the highest one, respectively. Settlements with 199 and less residents cover only 7.8 per cent and those with 5,000 to 9,999 inhabitants only 1.2 per cent of the total area. Nearly three fourths of rural territory of Slovakia are covered by settlements with 200 to 1,999 residents.

In population-size structure of rural settlements (Table 2), nearly one third of the population live in villages with the size of 1,000 to 1,999. The second category (2,000 to 4,999) accommodates 28.1 per cent of population and the category of 500 to 999 inhabitants houses 23.6 per cent. Using the same population-size structure, most of the Slovak rural settlements are concentrated in category 200 to 499 residents (29.4 per cent) and 500 to 999 residents (28.7). The third group is represented by settlements with 1,000 to 1,999 residents (19.9 per cent). A certain concern is related with the increasing share of villages with a very small number of inhabitants and a tendency of disappearance of very small villages. Today, in Slovakia there are two villages with less than 10 residents: Prikra (7 dwellers in 2001, 15 in 1991) and Šarbov (9 inhabitants in 2001, 20 in 1991), both of them located in Svidník region in north-eastern Slovakia.

Referring to administrative territorial units, there is a large variance in the share of rural dwellers from the total population (62 per cent). Thus, the highest share of rural residents appears in the region of Košice-vidiek (87.7 per cent), the lowest one in that of Banská Bystrica, inversely. The lowest share (between 25 to 38 per cent) of rural population occurs usually in regions located in large basins or low mountain ranges (11 regions in total, representing 14 per cent of all regional units). These either have 1 to 2 big towns/cities, with the rest of settlements sheltering only a small population (e. g. Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Myjava, Považská Bystrica, Martin, Zvolen, Detva) or show only a small number of settlements at all, with many of them being towns (e. g. Skalica, Ilava).

The next group is represented by regions with 38 to 51 per cent of rural population (27 regions, 34 per cent of all regions). These regions have only 1 town/city and are dispersed all over Slovakia, being located in the hilly lands mostly.

The third group includes regions with 51 to 63 per cent of rural residents (20 regions, 25 per cent of all regions), situated into border areas of the state. This group comprises large regions in the lowlands (for example Dunajská Streda, Levice, Nové Zámky, Rimavská Sobota, Trebišov, Nitra, which have not only several towns/cities but also a lot of rural settlements) and medium-sized regions in the basins and sub-mountainous territories, usually with several small towns (Stará Ľubovňa, Tvrdošín, Bardejov, Turčianske Teplice).

The last two groups of regions show very high shares of rural population. The fourth group includes regions with 63 to 75 per cent (8 regions, 10 per cent), being dispersed all over the country. In general, this group is represented by small regions located in all types of landscape and equipped with 1 or 2 towns (Senec, Veľký Krtíš, Zlaté Moravce, Poltár, Brezno, Sabinov, Vranov nad Topľou, Sobrance)

The fifth group of settlements having 75 to 88 per cent of rural population (4 regions, 5 per cent) can be identified in two different territories of Slovakia. The first one consists of south-eastern regions of Gelnica and Košice-okolie with plentiful villages and small towns, the second one includes regions of Čadca and Námestovo with large scattered settlements (especially Čadca region) in the northmost part of Slovakia. In this territory, several villages representing the most populated rural settlements (sometimes over 5,000) in Slovakia can be found, such as Oščadnica (5,554 residents), Skalité (5,063), Raková (4,939), Zákamenné

(4,812), Rabča (4,189). A very high value of natural increase of rural population appears to be specific for this territory.

Table 2 Structure of rural settlements in Slovakia (2001) after number of population

Number of population	Slovakia	Slovakia	Slovakia	Slovakia
	settle	populat	settle	populat
	abs	abs	%	%
in 199	365	45 792	13,31	1,94
200-499	805	276 280	29,35	11,72
500-999	786	556 289	28,65	23,6
1000-1999	545	764 627	19,87	32,44
2000-4999	233	664 406	8,49	28,18
5000-9999	9	49 939	0,33	2,12
10000-19999				
20000-49999				
50000-99999				
100000 and more				
all	2 743	2 357 333	100	100

Source: Cenzus SR 2001.

4. DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT STATE OF RURAL POPULATION IN JAPAN

In comparison to Slovakia, much earlier tendency towards urbanization could be observed in development of rural population of Japan. In 1920, Japan had 55.963 million inhabitants, of which 82 per cent were rural dwellers, residing over 99.6 per cent of the area of Japan (source: Population of Japan).

Later, an intensive urbanization resulted in some 67.3 per cent of rural population in 1935, inhabiting over 98.7 per cent of the total area (Fig 2).

A great change came in the early 1950's. In 1950, yet there were some 62.7 per cent of the total population residing in rural territories covering 94.7 per cent of the country. However, in 1955, there were only 43.9 per cent of rural residents inhabiting on 82 per cent of the land. This was the first period of a very rapid decrease of rural population. Till that moment, the population of Japan had reached to 90.076 million people.

In 1960, the values came to 36.7 per cent of rural population residing over 77,6 per cent of the area. The year 1970 brought a break, with the population of Japan exceeding 100 million inhabitants (104.685 million), of which 27.9 were rural inhabitants, referring to 74,7 per cent of the country's area. Later, the decrease of the rural population went on, but with a little lower intensity. Today, the share of rural population in Japan is as high as 21.3 per cent (Fig 3).

As mentioned in the methodological part of the paper above, identification of rural inhabitants is a bit more difficult than in Slovakia, for example. Basically all types of rural settlements in Japan have been cumulated into units named GUN including 4 types of rural and semi-rural settlements: MURA, SON, MACHI, CHO. For example, Gifu Prefecture comprises Magi-gun, governing over 5 rural settlements, of which 2 represent CHO type –

Mugegawa-cho (6,683 dwellers), Mugi-cho (4,220) and 3 are of MURA type – Horado-mura (2,316), Itadori-mura (1,921) and Kaminoho-mura (2,483) (Fig 4).

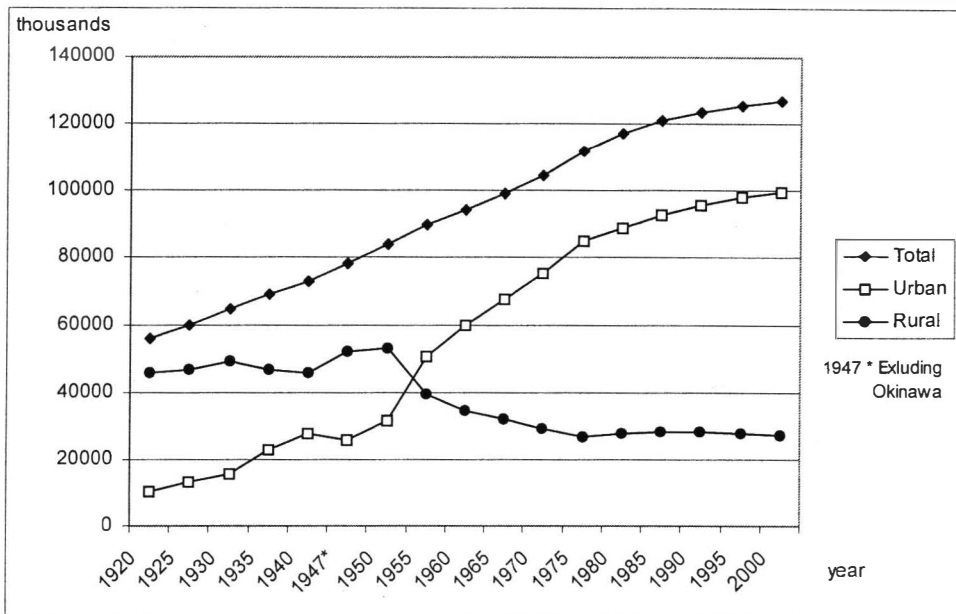


Figure 2 Urban and rural population in Japan

Table 3 Structure of rural settlements in Japan (2000) after number of population

Number of population	Japan	Japan	Japan	Japan
	settlm	populat	settlm	populat
	abs	abs	%	%
in 199				
200-499	7	2 082	0,27	0,01
500-999	42	32 085	1,64	0,12
1000-1999	114	175 846	4,46	0,65
2000-4999	560	2 004 063	21,91	7,41
5000-9999	832	6 019 705	32,55	22,25
10000-19999	685	9 597 763	26,8	35,48
20000-49999	309	8 859 600	12,09	32,75
50000-99999	7	357 937	0,27	1,32
100000 and more				
all	2 556	27 049 081	100	100

Source: Census of Population in Japan 2000

From the aspect of contemporary structure of Japanese municipalities, including the settlements of MURA, SON, MACHI and CHO types, there appear significant structural differences as well as regional disparities. Using the same size scale as in the case of Slovak rural settlements, we can observe a certain shift in comparison to Slovakia.

In Japan, the most plentiful group embraces rural settlements with 5,000 to 9,000 inhabitants and represents 32.6 per cent of all rural settlements and 22.2 per cent of the rural

population. The second group consists of units with 10,000 to 19,999 residents, accounting for 26.8 per cent of the rural settlements and sheltering 35.5 per cent of the rural population. This group encompasses mainly CHO settlements, showing some urban features. The third most plentiful group is represented by units with 2,000 to 4,999 dwellers (21.9 per cent of all rural settlements, but only 7.4 per cent of the rural population). The group of the settlements of population between 20,000 to 49,999 deserves a great attention. These account for only some 12 per cent of the rural settlements, but accommodate 32.6 per cent of the rural population and include semi-rural/semi-urban CHO and MACHI settlements mainly.

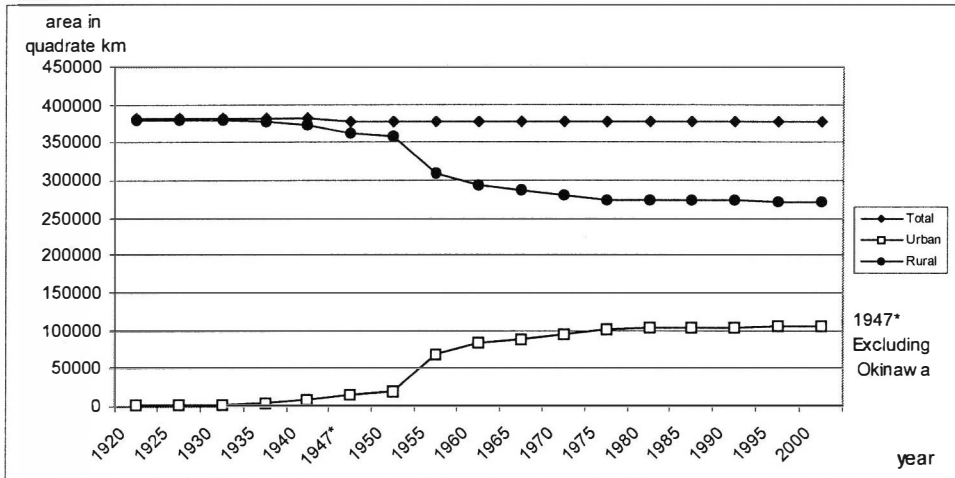


Figure 3 Urban and rural area in Japan

Spatial distribution of the rural population in Japan has been surveyed by 47 prefectures. We can identify 3 prefectures with 0.7 to 11 per cent of rural population, such as Tokyo Metropolitan Prefecture, Kanagawa and Osaka. There are 5 prefectures with 11 to 22 per cent of rural population concentrated mostly to the western part of Honshu Island (for example Hiroshima, Hyogo, Yamaguchi Prefectures). Interval between 22 and 31 per cent appears to be the second numerous group (13 prefectures). Regions coming under these values are dispersed over all four major Japanese islands. We can identify them in Hokkaido, in prefectures lying along western shore of Honshu – Toyama, Ishikawa Pref., in north-eastern part of Kyushu Island – Fukuoka, Oita, Miyazaki Prefectures. The most plentiful group is the one showing 31 to 41 per cent of the rural population. Prefectures representing this group (17 in total) are concentrated in northern and north-eastern part of Honshu Island – spreading from Aiomori, Iwate and Miyagi to Gifu Prefecture. The last group embraces 6 prefectures with 47 to 54 per cent, being dispersed in various part of Japan. The largest rural prefecture (Aikita) is situated in the northern lowlands of Japan, with the percentage of the rural residents reaching to 44. As for the area, the rest of the prefectures belong to very small ones in Japan (Yamanashi, Shiga, Kagawa, Tokushima, Saga). As for the internal structure of the MURA, MACHI, CHO and SON settlements, we can state that CHO type is the most numerous (1,252), with 13.8 million residents

representing 51 per cent of the total rural population of Japan. MACHI type is the second most numerous group (739) with 10.8 million inhabitants (40 per cent of the rural population). MURA type is considered as the most typical rural settlement of Japan. There are 487 MURA settlements in Japan, housing 2.1 million inhabitants, accounting for 7.8 per cent. The smallest group is represented by SON settlements (80) with 0.34 million people and 1.2 per cent of the total rural population.

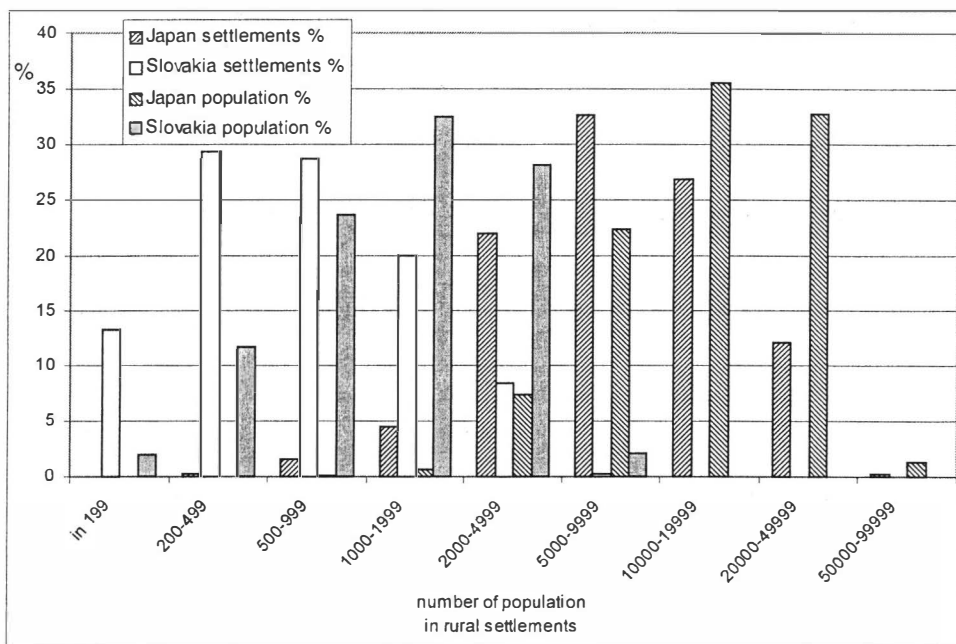
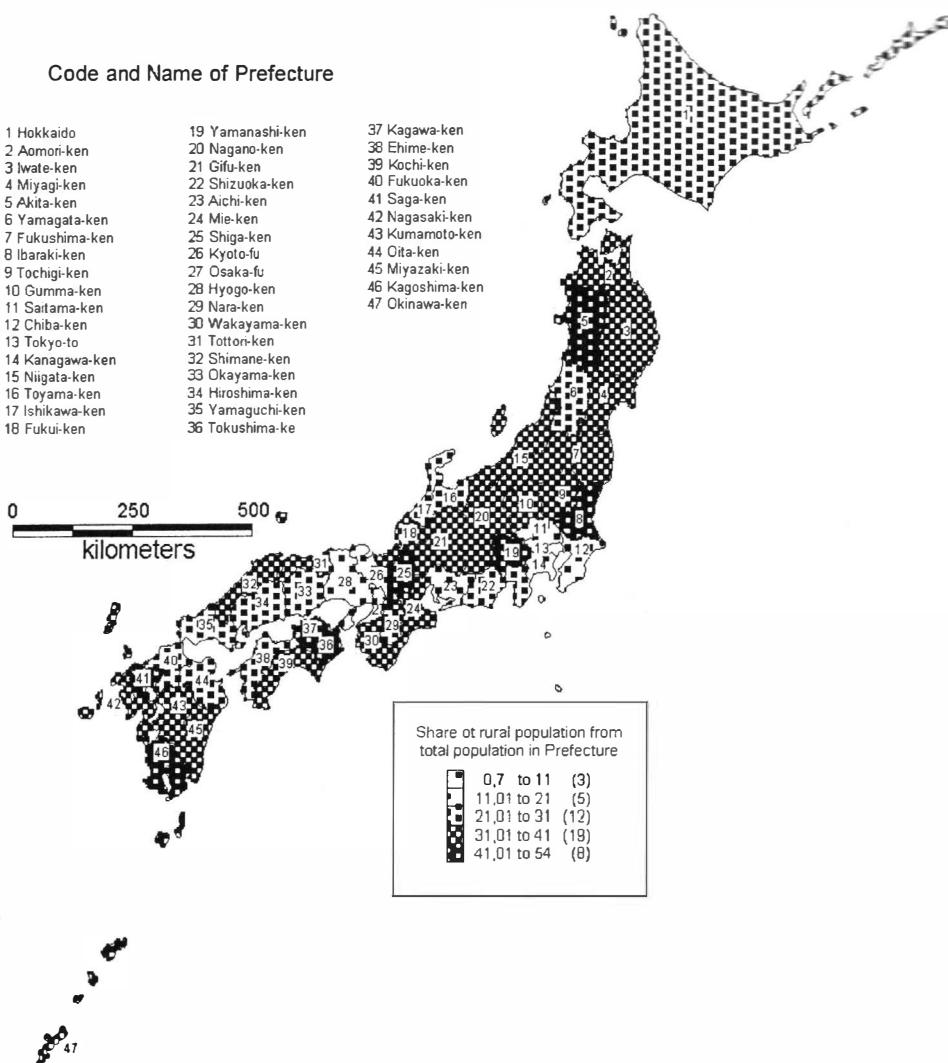


Figure 4 Structure of population in rural settlements of Slovakia and Japan

There are significant spatial disparities in localization of the particular types of rural settlements in Japan. MURA type has been identified in all prefectures, except 8 ones being concentrated primarily in southern regions – Hyogo, Tottori, Okayama, Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Oita and island prefecture of Okonawa. The average size of MURA settlements is as high as 4.3 thousand residents. This type is located mainly in central part of Honshu island, especially in Nagano and Niigata prefectures. MURA type includes the smallest settlements of Japan – Aogashima-mura (203 inhabitants in 2000, 237 in 1995) in Tokyo-to prefecture and Tomiyama-mura (209 residents in 2000, 198 in 1995) in Aichi prefecture.

CHO settlements have been identified as the second most numerous type. This type is not present in those 13 prefectures, where MURA type is predominant. The average size of MURA units equals 11 thousand people. The average number of MURA settlements per prefecture varies between 20 to 40. The highest frequency of MURA can be seen in southern prefectures – Kagoshima (73), Nagasaki (66), Hiroshima (66), Hyogo (66).



Map 8 Rural settlements – Mura in Japan

MACHI type is quite numerous and localized mainly in the north of the country, with exception of Hokkaido island with only 1 MACHI settlement. The southern prefectures of Japan show a lack of this rural type. The average size is 14.6 thousand people. Most of MACHI settlements are concentrated in the north – Akita (50 settlements), Fukushima (53), Niigata (57) and in the south – Fukuoka (63) and Kumamoto (63). There is a shortage of MACHI settlements in central part of the country.

The least numerous type of rural settlements is represented by SON type, displaying a specific regional structure. SON settlements are located exclusively in the southern part of

Japan. The average size of these units reaches to 4.2 thousand, which is a result of presence of 10 settlement units with over 10 thousand residents. If we exclude these 10 settlements, the average size would be as low as 2.6 thousand. SON settlements can be found mainly in Okinawa prefecture (27), which is a specific island territory.

We can conclude that each prefecture has its own specific structure of particular settlement types, especially rural ones which have a strong impact on the rural population's features. Their structure has been derived from long-lasting processes, urbanization above all, though this process has been weakened within the last period of time.

5. CONCLUSION

Development and present structure of rural population has some not only similarities but also differences in Slovakia and Japan. One of the common signs and trends is a decrease of rural and increase of urban population. These processes were quicker in Japan as in Slovakia, because higher share of rural population in Slovakia. The structure of rural settlement is more various in Japan than in Slovakia. It is a result of long-term development. A decrease of population in rural areas has stopped during the last years. Even, it has been registered increase of a number of inhabitants in Slovak rural areas, especially in Bratislava and Košice surroundings. It is because cheaper dwelling, natural environment quality etc. It's necessary to specify the transitional rural areas with rural population for the next research. These areas have various directions of development, a continuing urbanisation or new combination forms, as suburbanisation and suburbanisation.

References

- BIČÍK, I., JANČÁK, V. (2002): Development of Agriculture and Czech Rural Landscape. In: Changing Regional Structure and Way of Life in Central Europe: The Case of Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Hungary. Project No. 11691070, April 1999-March 2002, Grant -in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (2). Research Results. Gifu University, Faculty of Education, Japan, pp.153-182. (in English).
- BUDAY, S., et al. (2002): Agricultural Land value in Slovakia, Crocus, Nové Zámky, pp. 204, ISBN 80-88992-39-7. (in English)
- DRGOŇA, V. (2001): Transformačný proces a jeho odraz v regionálnej štruktúre Slovenskej republiky. FPV UKF, Nitra, s.138, ISBN 80-8050 453-9, (in Slovak).
- KOBAYASHI, K., OHZEKY, Y. (2000): Some Considerations on the Treatment of the Former East European Countries in High School Textbook „Geography B“. Annual Report of Faculty of Education, Gifu University, Humanities and Social Science, Vo. 48, No. 2, Japan, pp. 1-10. ISBN 0286-5556 (in Japan).
- KOBAYASHI, T. (2002): Out-migration of the Households with the aged Family Member(s) from Kawai-mura. In: Demographic Process and Structure in Japan. Intermediate Research Results of JSPS's Cooperation Research Project with Slovakia. Faculty of Education, Gifu University, Japan, pp. 13-21, (in English).

- OKAHASHI, H. (1996): New development Strategy in Japan's Mountain villages – Sustainable or Unsustainable, In: Sasaki, H., et al., Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Systems. Kaisei Publish. Tokyo, Japan, pp. 285-292. ISBN 4-87603-129-0 C3025 (in English).
- REISCHAUER, E.O., JANSEN.M.B. (1995): The Japanese today: Change and continuity. Enlarger edition. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press., (in English).
- SIEBERT, L. (2000): Urbanization Transition Types and Zones in Tokyo an Kanagawa Prefectures. Geographical Review of Japan. Vol. 73 (Ser.B) m No. 2, Tokyo, pp. 207-224.
- SHIMIZU, M. (2002): Distibution of Foreigners in Japan in the 1990s. In: Demographic Process and Structure in Japan. Intermediate Research Results of JSPS's Cooperation Research Project with Slovakia. Faculty of Education, Gifu University, Japan, pp. 48-60 (in English).
- SPIŠIAK, P., ŠVOŇAVEC, M., MARTÁK, Z. (1998): Vybrané charakteristiky poľnohospodárskeho obyvateľstva a poľnohospodárstva. In: Mládek a kol. Demografia Slovenska – Vývoj obyvateľstva, jeho dynamika, vidiecke obyvateľstvo. Univerzita Komenského, Bratislava. s. 149-191. ISBN 80-223-1205-3 (in Slovak).
- SPIŠIAK, P. (2000): Changing Agriculture in Slovakia. Annual Report of Faculty of Education, Gifu University, Humanities and Social Science, Vo.48, No 2, Japan, pp. 1-10. ISBN 0286-5556.(in Japan).
- SPIŠIAK, P. (2002): Changing Agricultural Structures in Slovakia. In. Changing Regional Structure and Way of Life in Central Europe: The Case of Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Hungary. Project No. 11691070, April 1999-March 2002, Grant -in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (2). Research Results. Gifu University, Faculty of Education. Japan, pp. 223-232. (in Japan).
- SPIŠIAK, P. (2002): National Plan of Regional Development of Slovakia with Focusing on Agricultural and Rural Space. In. Changing Regional Structure and Way of Life in Central Europe: The Case of Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Hungary. Project No. 11691070, April 1999-March 2002, Grant -in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) (2). Research Results. Gifu University, Faculty of Education. Japan, pp. 233-242. (in English).
- VĚŽNÍK, A. (1993): Agriculture in former Czechoslovakia before and after 1990. In: Scripta Facult.Natur. University of Masaruk, Brun, Vol 23, Geography, pp. 97-106, ISBN 80-210-0964-0. (in English).

Resume

Geografické rozdiely vidieckeho obyvateľstva Slovenska a Japonska

Posledné humánno-geografické výskumy sa zaoberajú problémami zmien ľudských aktivít a ich priestorového rozloženia. Jeden z hlavných faktorov, ktorý ovplyvňuje tieto zmeny je obyvateľstvo. Zmeny sú zachytené v pomerne dobrých demografických analýzach, ktoré čerpajú databázy z pravidelných demografických cenzov. Tieto cenzy sú často vzťahované k trvalému bydlisku obyvateľstva. Demografické databázy tak môžu priamo predurčovať lokalizáciu obyvateľstva do mestských – urbánnych a vidieckych – rurálnych sídelných štruktúr. V tomto príspevku sa zaoberáme problémami rozlišovania vidieckeho a mestského priestoru na Slovensku a Japonsku a zmeny vo vidieckom obyvateľstve. Vidiecke sídla na Slovensku sú často určované viacerými kritériami, napr. administratívnym, územno-technickým, štatistickým. Všetky tieto kritéria majú spoločné charakteristiky a hranice v geografickom priestore a sú veľmi významné ako základné územné jednotky.

Územno-správne sa Slovensko delí na kraje, okresy a obce, časti obcí. V rámci nich existujú katastrálne územia (k.ú.). V roku 1986 bolo na Slovensku 3527 k.ú., ale len 2711 obcí.

V roku 2001 bolo 3540 k.ú. a 2883 obcí, z toho 138 miest a 2745 vidieckych obcí – dediny, 8 krajov, 79 okresov. V súčasnosti žije vo vidieckych obciach 44% populácie Slovenska.

V Japonsku je sídelná štruktúra o niečo pestrejšia ako na Slovensku. To čiastočne komplikuje charakterizovať mestské a vidiecke obyvateľstvo. V Japonsku existuje tzv. toponymické a administratívne jednotky.

Vidiecke obyvateľstvo obyčajne žije v štyroch kategóriách obcí typu – „mura“, „son“, „machi“, „cho“. „Cho“ a „sun“ sú niekedy podľa špecifickosti územia nahradzované „machi“ a „mura“. Jedna z definícií urabánnych a rurálnych oblastí v Japonsku je členenie na „shi“ a „cho/son“. V tomto členení boli v minulosti rozlišované urbánne oblasti s prevahou sídiel typu „shi“ a rurálne oblasti pod názvom „gun“. „Gun“ je administratívna jednotka a „cho/son“ je subkategória „gun“. Rozdiel medzi „cho“ a „son“ je komplikovaný, pretože každá prefektúra má vlastný legislatívny rámec na definovanie podmienok pre charakteristiku sídelných útvarov typu „cho“ a „sun“.

V poslednom sčítaní obyvateľstva „cho“ je väčšie ako „son“, hlavne z hľadiska počtu obyvateľov, vplyvu politického, administratívneho, finančného, počtu inštitúcií. „Shi“, „cho“, „son“ sú obyčajne prekladané ako city, mestá, dediny. V našom príspevku budeme študovať geografické rozdiely vidieckeho obyvateľstva vo vidieckych typoch sídiel.

V r.2000 bolo v Japonsku 3215 samosprávnych jednotiek – municipalít s 13 veľkými mestami typu „shi“, 658 malých miest typu „shi“, 2558 vidieckych sídiel – dediny: „mura“ 487, „machi“ 739, „cho“ 1252, „son“ 80. Ak by sme zohľadňovali fakt, že vidiecke obyvateľstvo žije v uvedených 4 typoch sídiel (machi, cho, mura, sun), tak tento podiel tvorí 21,3% z celkového počtu obyvateľov Japonska.

Aj keď porovnanie vidieckeho obyvateľstva Slovenska a Japonska má dosť špecifické dymenzie, má množstvo podobných čŕt, jedna z nich je zmiernenie úbytku tohto typu obyvateľstva.

doc. RNDr. Peter Spišiak, CSc.

*Katedra humánnej geografie a demogeografie, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave,
Prírodovedecká fakulta, Mlynská dolina 1, 842 15 Bratislava 4*

e-mail: *spisiak@fns.uniba.sk*

スロヴァキアと日本における農村人口の地理学的差異

ペテル・スピシアク

近年の地理学研究は、人文地理学の構造の発展と変容に関わる諸問題をその研究の最前線に位置づけている。その発展と変容は、主たる構成要素としての人口によって強く条件付けられている。人口学的な分析の質は、そこで採用されるセンサスに依存している。センサスを利用する場合、その人口は住む場所が明記された人口である。したがって、人口学的な分析を通じて、人々がなぜその場所に住むのかという要因に関する知見を併せて得ることができる。この人口に関するデータベースから、一般には居住に関する局地性（都市居住なのか農村居住なのか）を知ることができ、それゆえ「都市人口」および「農村人口」という言い方がしばしばなされる。「農村人口」は、通常は農村集落（自治体）と結びつけて使われる用語である。スロヴァキアにおいて集落は多くの方法で定義される。最も重要な方法は、行政、領域、領域・技術、統計および都市計画上の区分に基づくものである。これらすべての区分には共通した特徴があり、基本的には地理的な観点に基づく地域区分がきわめて重要となる。領域の区分は、郡、地区、自治体（集落）および自治体の一部（集落）から成っている。スロヴァキアでは、1986年の地籍単位（c.u.）数は3,527であったが、同年の自治体数は2,711にすぎなかった。2001年には、3,540c.u.と2,883自治体となり、他に138個の町、農村集落・村としては2,745個、8個の郡、および79個の地区がある。現在のスロヴァキアは、農村人口が44%を占めている。

日本では集落構成はより多様である。このことが都市人口と農村人口の区別を複雑なものにしている。日本には地名に関する単位と行政上の単位の二つが存在する。

本稿では、農村型の集落である町（Cho）、村（Son）、町（Machi）および村（Mura）について農村人口の地理学的差異に関する研究を行う。日本には2000年の時点で、3,215個の自治体があり、そこでは大都市が13個、市が658個、農村集落が2,558個、村（Mura）が487個、町（Machi）が739個、町（Cho）が1,252個、村（Son）が80個となっている。このうち、農村人口の多くが、町（Cho）、村（Son）、村（Mura）、町（Machi）タイプの自治体に居住しており、結果として現在の日本の農村人口率は21.3%になる。各々の自治体は人口数および日本国内での地理的立地が異なっており、スロヴァキアの農村集落・村落に比べて日本の農村人口は失われつつある。