

Relationship between Japanese and Transeurasian from genetics and linguistics

Hideaki Kanzawa-Kiriyama

Shinjiro Kazama

Transeurasian includes Japonic. However, genetic similarity between Japanese and other populations speaking Transeurasian languages have not been reported, and Japanese are genetically closest to Korean and Han Chinese. Here, we sequenced nuclear genome of 2,000-year-old Yayoi rice farmer from Northern Kyushu, who were immigrant post-Jomon population, to investigate the ancestry of the Yayoi immigrants. Comparison with modern Eurasians suggests that the Yayoi immigrant was genetically more or less the same with modern mainland Japanese, and Korean was second closest. Similarity with Transeurasian populations were not observed in this study. From the viewpoint of comparative linguistics, there are also no absolute proofs to establish genetic relations among Turkic, Mongolic, Tungusic, Korean and Japanese languages. The hypothesis of Transeurasian by M. Robbeets is very ambitious but there are many issues left unsolved. Some controversial problems of the correspondences referred by her are already pointed out by some scholars. Here, we reveal further important problems of the correspondences. Whereas, it is true that there is a great typological similarity among the languages mentioned above. However, most of the features are very common in the languages of the world. Therefore, it is necessary to demonstrate more unique typological features. In this presentation we demonstrate such features.