

## MIGRATION OF MOGMOG ISLANDERS IN ULITHI ATOLL, YAP STATE, FSM

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### Abstract

This study aims to make clear the tendencies of migration among Mogmog islanders, Ulithi atoll, Yap states, FSM. There are 35 households including 256 persons on Mogmog island in our investigation time. One hundred and sixty-five of them lived on the Mogmog island and 91 persons lived outside this island. Thirty percent of the people living outside lived in Yap Proper, 20 percent on Falalop, and 10 percent each in Guam, Hawaii and USA. Many emigrants to Guam aimed to work and many emigrants to Pohnpei, Chuuk and Palau aimed to study, although emigrants moved to the other places had both aims. Many women had moved to another place because of marriage.

Keywords: emigration, household, marriage, Mogmog, Yap

### 1 Purpose and Method

It is known that the people in the Pacific migrate very frequently compared to other areas of the world. One of the authors has reported earlier about the migrant's residential types in Yap Proper from outer islands in Yap state (TAJIMA 2001a, 2001b). This time we report about the migration tendencies of Mogmog islanders Ulithi Atoll in Yap states.

One problem is the vagueness of the word “family” for the study of migration in the Pacific area. Sometimes this word means the nuclear family and sometimes extended family. Therefore, this time we ceased to use the word “family” and used “household” instead. To use the word “household” does not always mean no problem; however, it is true that we could conduct our investigation more easily.

We made clear who were the members of each household first, by interviews to the householders living in Mogmog island at that time, using the questionnaire we made. Some of them lived inside the Mogmog island, others lived outside. We asked the householders the migration history of each person of their households, next. It was difficult to make clear the migration history of the migrants living outside the island, and it was not easy to make clear the migration history of a household's members also, except householder himself, because of the shortness of our time on this island. Therefore, we can mainly make clear the migration processes of the householders. We interviewed the householders of 35 households about the migration processes of the members of these households.

Followings are the main items of our investigation.

- 1) Some characteristics of the members of these households living in this island; for example, age, sex, family relationship and so on.

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- 2) Some characteristics and some facts about emigration of the members of households living outside this island; for example, their emigration years, their destinations, their purposes of emigration, their remittance to the household in Mogmog and so on.
- 3) The migration history of the members of the households living in this island, especially that of householders.
- 4) The migration history of the members living outside the island.

Several questions in the second item became the main questions as a whole. We could not get enough answers to the 3rd and 4th items as already mentioned above. One of the authors, Tajima, conducted investigation of 27 householders and Sesariyo shared 8 ones. Sesariyo conducted the investigation of householders who were not present on this island in the daytime because of their work.

## 2 Results

There were 35 households in Mogmog island in our investigation time. There lived 165 persons of these households' members in Mogmog island and 91 persons outside island.

### 1) Migration tendencies from the personal point of view

#### (1) Emigrant's destination

We determined the destinations of these 91 emigrants. 30% of them went to Yap Proper, 20% to Falalop and each 10% to Guam, Hawaii and USA mainland (Table 1) We found that about half of them lived in relatively near islands.

Table 1. The Destinations of Emigrants from Mogmog

Place	Number	Rate (%)
Falalop	18	19.8
Yap	27	29.7
Chuuk	3	
Pohnpei	5	
Palau	3	12.1
Guam	11	
Saipan	3	15.4
Hawaii	10	
U.S.A.	11	23.1
Total	91	100.0

#### (2) Some characteristics of emigrants by destinations

We examined the emigration tendencies by each destination, next.

Emigrants to Falalop were 18 persons. Those who were teen-aged aimed to study and those over twenty years old aimed to work (Table 2).

Emigrants to Yap Proper were 27 persons. This is the favorite among destinations. 12 persons over twenty years old aimed to work and 9 persons mostly teen-aged aimed to study (Table 3). It is noticeable that 3 of them aimed to work in the hospital. This is one of the characteristics of the emigrants living in Yap Proper.

Emigrants to FSM except Yap were 5 persons in Pohnpei and 3 persons in Chuuk, in total 8 persons. As the emigrants to Palau seemed to have almost the same tendencies, we decided to consider these 8 persons together with the 3 persons emigrated to Palau. Many emigrants in this

Table 2. Emigrants to Falalop by age, sex and aim

age	work	wife	study	other	total (m, f)
over 50		1 (0 1)			1 (0 1)
40~49	2 (2 0)	2 (0 2)			4 (2 2)
30~39	1 (0 1)				1 (0 1)
20~29	4 (3 1)				4 (3 1)
10~19			7 (5 2)		7 (5 2)
0~9				1 (1 0)	1 (1 0)
total	7 (5 2)	3 (0 3)	7 (5 2)	1 (1 0)	18 (11 7)

Table 3. Emigrants to Yap

age	work	wife	study	hospital	others	total (m, f)
over 70	1 (1 0)	1 (0 1)				2 (1 1)
60~69						
50~59		1 (0 1)				1 (0 1)
40~49	3 (2 1)					3 (2 1)
30~39	5 (1 4)					5 (1 4)
20~29	3 (1 2)		1 (0 1)	2 (1 1)		6 (2 4)
10~19			6 (6 0)	1 (0 1)		7 (6 1)
0~9			2 (1 1)		1 (1 0)	3 (2 1)
total	12 (5 7)	2 (0 2)	9 (7 2)	3 (1 2)	1 (1 0)	27 (14 13)

group were in their 20's and aimed to study (Table 4). Most of them studied at CCM (Community College of Micronesia) in Pohnpei and MOC (Micronesia Occupation College) or PCC (Palau Community College) in Palau. It seemed to me that the emigrants to Chuuk aim to study in high school.

Table 4. Migrants to FSM and Palau

age	work	wife	study	total (m, f)
over 50	1 (1 0)			1 (1 0)
40~49		1 (0 1)		1 (0 1)
30~39	1 (0 1)			1 (0 1)
20~29	1 (1 0)		5 (2 3)	6 (3 3)
10~19			2 (1 1)	2 (1 1)
0~9				
total	3 (2 1)	1 (0 1)	7 (3 4)	11 (5 6)

We considered Saipan together with Guam, because the number of emigrants to Saipan is few and we thought that they had almost the same tendencies as those to Guam. 9 persons of 14 emigrants in this group aimed to work (Table 5). This is the main characteristic of this group. The age of these persons was between 20 and 40, mainly women. I guess their work will be catering in hotels or restaurants in this area. It is also noticeable that there are two emigrants who aimed to work at the hospital such as at Yap.

At last we decided to consider 10 emigrants to Hawaii and 11 emigrants to USA main land together, because we thought these two groups had almost the same characteristics. 9 persons mainly over 30 years old of 21 emigrants aimed to work and 5 persons under 20 aimed to study.

Table 5. Emigrants to Guam and Saipan

age	work	study	hospital	total (m, f)
40~49	3 (0 3)		2 (1 1)	5 (1 4)
30~39	3 (2 1)			3 (2 1)
20~29	3 (1 2)	3 (0 3)		6 (1 5)
10~19				
0~ 9				
total	9 (3 6)	3 (0 3)	2 (1 1)	14 (4 10)

However, there are emigrants who aim at the army and work plus study (Table 6). These are the characteristics of emigrants to Hawaii and USA mainland. Work plus study means that one person studies and at the same time works or one person first works for the money to study. Army work has almost the same character because if they finish the army, they can study at the university easily. As a whole all emigrants are relatively young persons under 30, compared to Yap Proper, etc.

Table 6. Emigrants to Hawaii and U.S.A.

age	work	army	w+s	study	others	total (m, f)
30~39	7 (5 2)					7 ( 5 2)
20~29	2 (1 1)	2 (2 0)	4 (1 3)	2 (2 0)		10 ( 6 4)
10~19				1 (1 0)		1 ( 1 0)
0~ 9				2 (0 2)	1 (1 0)	3 ( 1 2)
total	9 (6 3)	2 (2 0)	4 (1 3)	5 (3 2)	1 (1 0)	21 (13 6)

We can summarize the above results as the followings:

Destinations and Purposes of Emigrants

- (1) Work type : Guam and Saipan
- (2) Study type : FSM and Palau
- (3) Both type : Falalop, Yap, Hawaii and USA main land

These are the fundamental types. If we add age and sex to these fundamental types, we can describe these types in more detail.

- (1) Emigrants to Guam and Saipan aiming work (Work type) are mainly women over 20. We can guess their work will be catering in the hotels or restaurant.
- (2) Many emigrants to FSM and Palau aiming study (Study type) are the persons in their 20's and teens. They will be students in College or high school.
- (3) (a) In Falalop 7 emigrants of over 20 aim to work, 7 emigrants in their teens aim to study. The latter will be students of Falalop high school.  
 (b) In Yap 12 emigrants over 20 aim to work, 9 emigrants of mainly teen-agers aim to study. The latter will be students of COM or high school.  
 (c) In Hawaii and USA mainland 9 emigrants in their 20's and 30's, especially 30's, aim to work, 5 emigrants under 20 aim to study. 6 emigrants in their 20's aim for army and work plus study.

## 2) Migration tendencies from the household point of view

We will consider the migration in the relation to the household from which migrants start

out.

(1) The number of emigrants in each household

Some household sent out no emigrants and some sent out many. So, we tried to determine the number of emigrants by each household (Table 7).

Table 7. Number of Emigrants in a Household

Emig./H.	No. of H.	H's. No.	F	Y	P	G	H	U
8	1	35	3				5	
7	3	8	5			2		
		20		2				5
		29		7				
6	0							
5	3	10	1	3				1
		27		3	1			1
		32	1	2	1	1		
4	2	19				2	2	
		23		4				
3	6	omit						
2	6	omit						
1	9	omit						
0	5	omit						
Total	35		10	21	2	5	7	7

Note: H means Household

F: Falalop, Y: Yap, P: Palau & FSM, G: Guam, H: Hawaii, U: US main land

There is one household from which 8 emigrants went out. This is the largest number of emigrants from one household on this island. There are three households from which 7 emigrants went out. There is no household from which 6 emigrants went out, there are three households from which 5 emigrants went out and two households from which 4 emigrants went out.

In the case of 8 emigrants, 5 of them live in Hawaii and 3 of them in Falalop. In the case of 7 emigrants, 5 to Falalop 2 to Guam; 5 to US main land, 2 to Yap and all 7 to Yap. These facts show us that the members of each household concentrate in particular destination. This will also mean they migrate by using the tight connection of family members, relatives or friends.

(2) Family relationship and migration

Next, we noticed family relationships and determined who in the household emigrated (Table 8). We thought the results of this table reflected the strength or weakness of emigration. The household from which no one leaves (1) has the strongest tendency of permanent residence. Next strong is the case (2) in which only brothers or sisters of the householders leave. The third strong is the case in which children leave. The weakest is the case in which householder himself leaves. If this tendency advances more, it means all members of the household leave and only their vacant house is left.

On Mogmog island there are only 5 households from which no one left. There are 7 households from which brothers or sisters of the householder left, 16 households from which children left and 7 households from which parents of householder or householder himself left.

These results show the tendency of permanent residence on Mogmog island is not always strong.

Table 8. Household Type from the Point of Emigrants

Household type	No. of Household
(1) No one leaves	5
(2) Only B or S leave	7
(3) Children leave	
(3-1) B, S or C	1
(3-2) Only C Study only	7
(3-3) Only C Work	8
(4) Parents leave	1
(5) Householder leaves	
(5-1) either H or W	4
(5-2) both	2
(6) All members leave	
Total	35

Note: B: Brother, S: Sister, C: Children,  
H: Hasband, W: Wife

### 3) Migration history

It is mainly about householders themselves that we could gather the information about their migration histories. Some householders rarely move, in this case they have no migration history.

Now, we show the results of our investigation about the migration history of 18 persons on whom we could gather their information (Table 9). The persons from no.1 to no.14 live on

Table 9. Migration History of Mogmog Islanders

Age	Sex	H's no.	Y of B	A. P. P.	A. P. P.	A. P. P.	A. P. P.	A. P. P.	A. P. P.	
1	59	m	15	1942	25 US S	27 FA W	57 MO			
2	59	m	35	1942	24 US O	26 PO S	28 HA S	29 MO W		
3	45	m	26	1956	13 FA S	17 MO				
4	42	m	12	1959	18 PO S	20 SA S	21 MO			
5	42	m	28	1959	16 PA S	19 MO				
6	39	m	16	1962	18 PA S	19 MO				
7	38	m	2	1963	18 PA S	20 GU S	22 GU W	28 MO		
8	37	m	18	1964	13 FA S	17 MO	37 YA O	37 MO		
9	31	m	17	1970	9 PA S	13 FA S	17 PA S	20 FA W	29 GU W	30 MO
10	28	m	31	1973	13 CH S	17 GU W	19 MO			
11	27	m	30	1974	17 PO S	22 MO				
12	51	f	14	1950	21 PA S	23 YA O	24 MO	26 CH M	29 MO	
13	49	f	11	1952	20 GU S	22 YA M	35 MO			
14	19	f	11	1982	0 YA	5 MO	16 YA S	18 PO S	19 MO	
15	41	f	3	1960	21 PA S	24 MO	25 PA M			
16	36	f	35	1965	24 PO S	25 HA W				
17	31	f	3	1970	21 PO S	22 GU W	22 GU M			
18	24	f	12	1977	17 HA S	22 US M				

note: MO: Mogmog, FA: Falalop, YA: Yap, PO: Pohnpei, CH: Chuuk, PA: Palau, GU: Guam,  
SA: Saipan, HA: Hawaii, US: United States main land,  
S: Study, W: Work, M: Mariage, O: Others,  
H's no.: Household's number, Y of B: Year of Birth, A. P. P.: Age, Place, Purpose

Mogmog island and the other 4 persons live outside. The persons from no.1 to no.11 are male and the other 7 persons are female.

- (1) One thing we point out is that there is not much difference between residents on Mogmog from no.1 to no.14 and emigrants outside.
- (2) 5 in 11 males left the island to study and returned here after finishing their studies. This is the main type of male case. This is divided into two patterns, further. Two emigrants returned after finishing high school. This is one pattern. Three emigrants returned after finishing college. This is another pattern.
- (3) Five persons in 7 female emigrants moved because of marriage. This shows us that marriage is the main factor of migration in the case of females.
- (4) It is general that when the islanders in Mogmog fall sick, they move to the hospital in Yap. It is said that the frequency of this moving is two times a year in maximum and one time in 2 or 3 years in minimum.
- (5) Many high school students studied on Falalop, but some studied on Yap and a few studied on Chuuk. Many college students studied in CCM of Pohnpei in our investigation of migrant history. Students in the College of Palau are next numerous. Some college students studied in Guam, Hawaii and USA main land.

The above-mentioned is the reality and tendencies about migration in 35 households on Mogmog island which we made clear by our investigation. It should be noticed that we don't include the Mogmog households which had already left the island, in our investigation time.

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