

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: Restaurant Location Trends in the Period of Food Service Industry Restructuring in Keihanshin Metropolitan Area Since the 2000s

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This paper studies the causes of the change of location characteristics of restaurants, based on spatial structure of Keihanshin metropolitan area, during the period of food service industry restructuring since the 2000s.

Since the 2000s, the period of food service industry restructuring is considered that a sharp decline in small independent restaurants, and an increase in chain restaurants of larger scale employees (The number of the employees per restaurant).

The author assumes that the changes in location characteristics of restaurants during this period are affected by the following three factors: socio-economic changes in Japan's metropolitan areas as part of the process of re-centralization (population returning to city centers); changes and distribution characteristics of major commercial districts; and differences by type of restaurant.

As a research method, Osaka City, Suita City, and Wakayama City corresponding to the central city, inner suburbs, and outer suburbs of the Keihanshin Metropolitan Area were targeted. using 500m mesh statistical data of a small area and restaurant data posted on NTT "Town Page", respectively, systematize changes in the location characteristics of restaurants based on major commercial districts and differences by type of restaurant.

The conclusions of this study firstly confirm that socio-economic changes in metropolitan areas differ greatly between the city center and suburbs, and correspondingly there are significant regional differences in the reorganization of the food service industry (absolute and relative). Next, with the changes in major commercial districts in metropolitan areas since the 2000s, there have been significant differences in the change in location characteristics of chain restaurants. Finally, it is clear that certain types of chain restaurants tend to be located in places where target consumers are concentrated, regardless of the spatial structure of the metropolitan area or major commercial districts.