

Collective Constructions of a Life Course
*-A New Tool for Visualizing
Disaster Revitalization Processes-*



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1-1. Background

-What is a Revitalization from Disaster?-



- **More questions ‘What is a revitalization?’ emerge in Japan, especially from the Niigata Chuetsu earthquake, 2004.**

1-2. Background

-Niigata Chuetsu earthquake-



- Niigata Chuetsu earthquake occurred 23th, October, 2004, at 5:56 pm.
 - Niigata is one of prefecture in the middle of Japan.
- There are small villages in the mountain areas and they had serious damage.
- The problems in the areas have dual nature
 - The disaster itself
 - The depopulation

1-3. Background

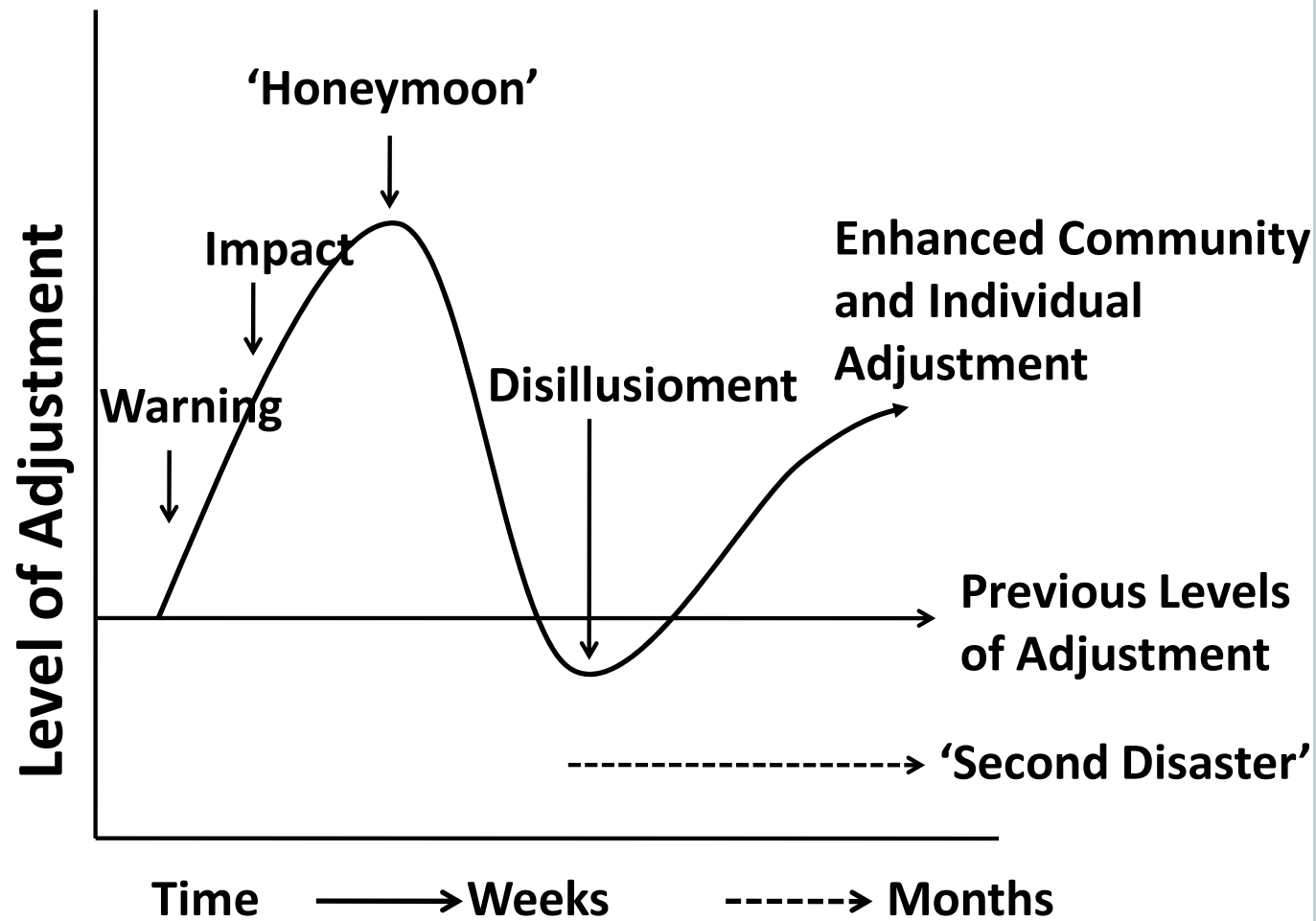
-few research on long-term revitalization process-



- There is few discussion about the concept of revitalization processes **from perspectives of survivors** (Miyamoto & Atsumi, 2009)
 - In many research, researchers defined the concept of ‘revitalization processes’ in advance
 - They believed to be able to abstract the universal idea from ‘data’ of survivors’ voice.
- Next slide is illustration of this by a famous research.

1-4. Background

- 'Adjustment over time to trauma' (Raphael, 1986) -



2. Purpose

-How do Survivors narrate their revitalization?-



- To describe and analyze the processes of disaster revitalization **from the perspectives of survivors** and get new viewpoint that we passed until now.
- We tried to devolve the right of defining ‘what revitalization processes are’ to **survivors themselves**.

However.....

⇔Survivors may have difficulties to image ‘revitalization processes’

- Since survivors experienced many events during their revitalization processes



We created a new interview-tool in order to get survivors’ narratives about their revitalization processes.

3-1. Methods



- We interviewed 26 survivors about their processes from the time of earthquake occurred to now.
 - Survivors from the stricken villages of Niigata Chuetsu earthquake.
- During the interviews, we showed them a sheet of papers.

3-2. Methods

-to visualize survivors revitalization processes-



2004年	10月23日

Figure1. The sheet given to the survivor

3-3. Methods



- We explained to survivors about those lines,
 - *‘Vertical line means ups and downs of community atmosphere you felt and horizontal line means the period from the earthquake to now’*
- and asked them
 - *‘Would you draw your community mood from disaster with its characteristic dips, peaks and plateaus in it?’*

3-4. Methods



- When survivor asked me a question ‘Where is a start point of my curve?’, I answered ‘Where is appropriate? Let’s consider together. There is no rule. We can define it.’
- When survivors asked me a question ‘What is community atmosphere? Is it economic factors or degree of achievement of rebuilding houses?’, I answered ‘What do you think about it? If you conceive of plural factors, you can draw each curves.’



their curves and narrative on it are collective construction by survivors and researchers.

4-1. Findings

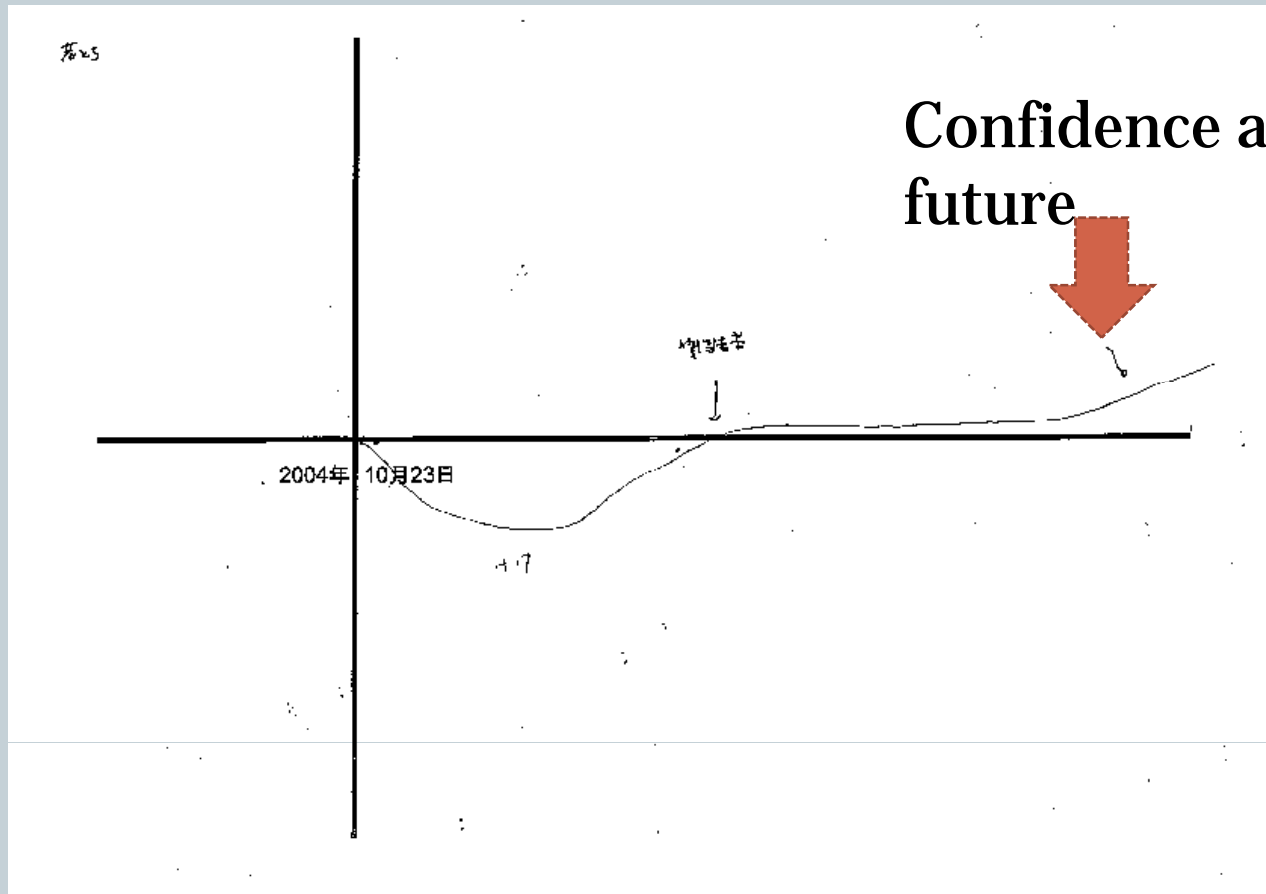
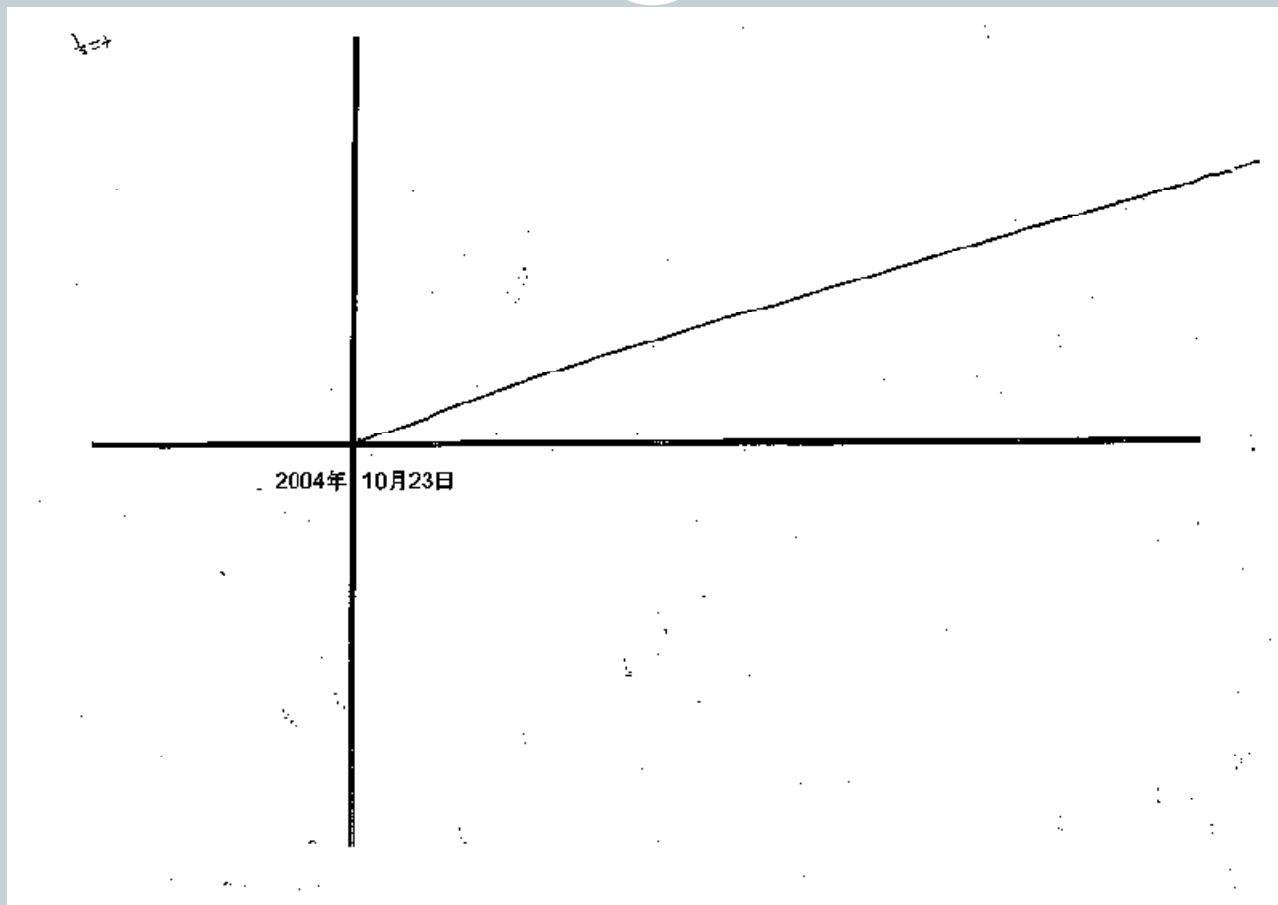


Figure2. Wakatochi, Odiya city; Male; age 56

4-4. Findings



Junidaira, Odiya city; Male; age 66

5-1. Discussion



- **What does this Horizontal axis mean?**
 - Not physical and homogenized linear time but the living time.
- **Plural criteria of revitalization for each person and each stage**
 - the vertical line(=criterion of revitalization) is not single standard

5-2. Discussion -as a interview tool-



- Survivors was able to narrate their stories about revitalization processes with drawing curves.
 - This sheet worked as a good interview tool.
- Especially, survivors that I knew very well throughout my fieldwork told a story that I had never heard.
 - This tool generated new interaction between survivors and us.

6. Next research and practice



- We are going to interview same survivors in Chuetsu with this method each year (for three years).
- We are interviewing survivors in Kobe with this sheet.
- We will utilize this interview for practice toward to community revitalization.

Thank you very much!

