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## **“Water” in the Worldview of Kofun Burial Mounds in Protohistoric Japan**

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In order to concretely reconstruct the meaning of the shape and elements of the burial mounds, this paper focused on the representation of "water" and carried out a cognitive archaeological examination. The water embedded as material representation in the burial mounds are divided into four categories: (1) real water, (2) virtual water, (3) forms related to water, and (4) spatial relationship with water. , largely by analogy from the archaeological context. The change in meaning was clarified as follows. First, in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (late Yayoi period), the predecessor of the burial mounds, surrounding ditch tombs, contained the representations and actions of "digging a moat" and "cultivating a rice field." In the first half of the 3rd century, when the surrounding ditch tombs developed into the Makimuku type keyhole-shaped mounds, the representation and actions of "ceremony of water" was added. The large keyhole-shaped mounds that became standard from the mid-3rd century to the mid-4th century came to represent "high mountains", and the representation of "water" was also transformed into high stairs. From the latter half of the 4th century to the 5th century, the representation and actions of "water" became widespread, and the route leading to the mound was expressed as a "mountain". Finally, in the 6th century, the meanings became the same as those of the mounds on the Korean Peninsula, and the process of changing meanings that had existed up to that point came to a halt.

Key words: Cognitive archaeology, keyhole-shaped mound, representation, schema, script