



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The Regionalization in Ubaid Pottery Making Techniques: A Perspective from the Shahrizor Plain, Iraqi Kurdistan

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Abstract

Recent discussion of the “Ubaid Phenomenon” focuses on the regionalization of Ubaid and the interregional interaction in Greater Mesopotamia. However, regional characteristics can often be understood exclusively from the macro-level attributes of pottery, such as painting patterns and vessel shapes. To tackle this research question and analytical problem, we conducted a petrographic analysis of Ubaid pottery excavated from Shakar Tepe in the Shahrizor Plain, Iraqi Kurdistan. Through this analysis, we aim to classify and analyze the fabric composition at a micro-level. We compared it with data from related Ubaid sites along with macro-level attributes. As a result, at the macro-level the pottery from the Shahrizor Plain shows a similarity to the upper Tigris River basin and the Hamrin Basin in terms of painted decoration and pottery-making techniques. At the micro-level we observed its regional difference in the clay preparation technique of Ubaid Black-on-Buff Pottery. By understanding the regionalization of the Ubaid pottery making techniques at macro- and micro- levels, we can discuss the interregional interaction more rigorously.

Keywords

Ubaid Phenomenon, Pottery Making Technique, Thin-Section Petrography, Regionalization, Black-on-buff Pottery

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