

Interpretation of settlement changes in Eastern Pomerania during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age from the perspective of spatial analyses

The aim of this work will be an attempt to apply chosen methods of spatial analyses – conducted with the use of GIS software – to the settlement studies of Eastern Pomerania at the end of the Bronze Age and at the Early Iron Age. Having this in mind, the main concept of this thesis will be an endeavour to confront current state of research with the possibilities given by the utilisation of spatial analyses that were before unavailable because of technological means (lack of adequately developed GIS tools). This will give the opportunity to verify and criticise the present approach to settlement studies and draw a wider research perspective both from substantive and methodological point of view.

Basing on selected spatial analyses this work will have following goals:

- an attempt to answer the question: is it possible to correlate spatial data with the schema based on the current state of researches which is strongly influenced by the culture-history paradigm? On this occasion a present state of knowledge about the settlement changes will be described based on sources that can be found in existing literature.
- organization of vast data sources concerning the settlement that existed in mentioned period in Eastern Pomerania
- an attempt to adjudicate whether the development of analysed settlement was determined by ecological factors or not. If the answer will be positive, the next step will be an examination of ecological models that can be found in previous literature in order to confront them with the results of analyses that will be perform in this work
- discussion of the following question: to what extend current level of archaeological recognition of area of Eastern Pomerania is coincident with the real settlement structures that existed there during the mentioned periods

Presentation of all foregoing issues will be conducted with the use of GIS tools which enable to collect more precise data, especially in comparison with the previous analogue means. This will help in constraining conclusions that are based only on the researcher's intuition.

Key words: spatial analyses, settlement studies, GIS, Eastern Pomerania, Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age

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