A Study on the Rank Changing of Urban System in Taiwan Area

Abstract

The urban system defines the relationship among various cities. One of the urban systems, rank size rule, describes the rank of the city by its size. This paper applies rank size rule to Taiwan Area and obtains the following results:

(1) The determination of coefficients for the regression of urban size on its rank are all very high, from 0.90 to 0.95, in different periods. This means that the rank size rule can be used to define the relationship among various cities in this island.

(2) From 1970 to 1986 , the city of rank 10 to 20 grew faster than the other one. In urban size ,the people of city between 100 to 250 thousand grew faster .The growing faster cities are most in north area, next in middle area . From 1986 to 1996 ,the north area still grow faster.

(3) For different period, the rank of each city may be changed. However, a large portion of this changing can be explained by the theory of the shift and share analysis. In other words, the ranks among cities have been changed by the increase or decrease relative importance of major industries of each city.

Keywords: urban system, rank-size rule, location Quotient, shift-share analysis