BACHELOR THESIS

Regional Integration of Japanese Foreign Trade
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Abstract

This work summarizes the development of geographical linkages of Japanese foreign trade on the turn of the 20th century. Its main goal is to investigate, whether there is a clear departure from the dependency on the western economies (US, EU) towards the region of East Asia. Theoretically the work builds on the concept of economic decoupling. At the same time it also mentions the problem of applicability of this concept in the region given the vertical integration of the East Asian trade. Methodologically is the work based on an analytical approach to statistical data and existing literature. Apart from the macroeconomic indicators such as trade volumes, main commodities and foreign trade policy, the influence of the microeconomic factors (mainly the behavior of the Japanese MNC) on the international linkages of the Japanese foreign trade is examined. The results show that the importance of the regional trade is increasing relatively to the extra regional trade. However this process has just begun and it is therefore too early to speak about economic decoupling.