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Institutionalization of the jujutsu martial art in Poland – the problem of teaching qualifications

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to describe and evaluate the process of institutionalization of jujutsu in Poland regarding the power to teach this martial art. Humanistic perspective gives the theoretical theory of martial arts, which is part of a sociological reflection. Research questions concern the current state – who has the formal authority to teach it and in what forms. The long-term participant observation of the first author (from the 70's of the last century) is the main basis for the reflection carried out and the analysis of the institutionalization of Japanese jujutsu in Poland, especially in the institutions and powers of the master's degree in education. The matter of student training grant degrees (kyu) and master (dan), and allowances for teaching in the martial art jujutsu, sport jujutsu and self-defense still remain unanswered. The authors analyze the situation and propose clear solutions. According to the authors, only in the case of jujutsu the issue is relatively simple. Institutionalization copies judo and other sports. However, in the case of the martial arts grades, class or licensed teacher of martial arts instructor levels, and the corresponding degrees in sports coaching should be established.

Concluding, the teams of experts should develop general standards for granting technical and honorary degrees, the requirements for a teaching license, etc. the general rules concerning the rights to educate.

Introduction

The long-term participant observation of the first author (from the 70's of the last century) is the main basis for the reflection carried out and the analysis of the institutionalization of Japanese jujutsu in Poland, especially in the institutions and granting the master's degree in education.

The process of institutionalization of martial arts has been undertaken by some scholars in general, the Japanese martial arts in Japan [Draeger 1973], the Asian martial arts in the West (Europe and USA) [Cynarski 2006; Cynarski *et al.* 2009], taekwondo and karate in the West [Hartl, Faber, Bögle 1989], karate and other martial arts in Poland [Cynarski 2007; Cynarski, Walczak, 2009], martial arts in Hungary [Borbely 2005], for aikijutsu in Europe [Cynarski, Obodyński 2005] and jujutsu in Poland in terms of learning and organizational development [Słopecki 2009].

In the case of combat sports, as this is the largest organization, rather widely imitated designs are adopted, for example an Olympic sport – judo

organizations IJF [Błach, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2004]. Here is the process of sportisation or sportification [Matsunaga *et al.* 2009, p. 32]) of Budo arts. In general, the institutional development of martial arts can be observed in two stages:

- 1) The consolidation of certain treatments (e.g. teaching) – the creation of appropriate institutions;
- 2) Modification of that procedure – the process of institutional change.

In Idokan Poland Association (IPA) kenjutsu has been taught at school *katori shinto-ryu* following Yoshio Sugino (10 dan, hanshi) and Goro Hatakeyama (9 dan, hanshi) philosophy and teaching since 1989-1993, and *zendo karate tai-te-tao* – according to teaching *sōke* Lothar Sieber (10 dan) since 1980-1995. In the first case it relates to the performance of specific techniques and forms, in the second - the type of exercises *ippon kumite* (“fighting for one step,” an exercise done with a partner), kicks and special techniques. Meanwhile, masters like Hatakeyama and Sieber have modified their curricula and form of the various techniques and systems.

Analogically, the case concerns the patterns in the field of licensing teaching. The case of student training granting degrees (kyu), mastering (dan) and rights to education in the field of martial arts jujutsu, sports and self-defense jujutsu are still not fully formalized. There is no widespread agreement for the issue of institutionalization. Thus, the authors analyze the situation and propose clear solutions. Grades kyu and dan in Japan, the institutionalization of teaching martial arts is probably the most advanced. DNBK - Dai-Nippon Butoku-Kai, Japanese Association (in favor of), Knightly Virtues has been functioning there for over 100 years. Teaching and research of martial arts are run at International Budo University in Katsuura, Kokushikan University, Tama, Tokai University in Hiratsuka, Nippon Sport Science University, Fukazawa, Chukyo University, Toyota, Tenri University, Tenri, and the University of Tsukuba. Specialized scientific societies as well as Japanese Academy of Budo and Japanese Budo Association have been conducting research there.

As indicated by Matsunaga Hikaru and his colleagues at the Nippon Budokan [2009, p. 202], the system degrees of dan in the martial arts has had a fairly long tradition. In 1883 J. Kano was awarded a degree 1 dan with the right to give black belt to his best students - T. and S. Tomicie Saigō. In 1917 DNBK introduced a system of master degrees on the scale of 1-10 dan. In 1902, ‘shogo’ licenses (*hanshi* and *kyoshi*) were formalized in DNBK. The license *renshi* [Matsunaga *et al.* 2009, p. 260] has been formalized since 1934. Renowned master-teacher is the *hanshi* or *soke*, the legal successor of the school. *Renshi* and *kyoshi* are licenses and titles of lower rank, but generally awarded after obtaining the highest degree of technical dan (for which you need to pass the exam.) The requirements for the first dan grade are often divided into students’ grades 5-10 kyu.

This rather complicated and lengthy process of becoming the master-teacher has been simplified in Europe, and in many countries outside Europe. For some semblance of legality pseudo-experts “get” the degree from the organizations in which they operate – even though the colleges of these organizations often have lower grades than those who award them. Thus, saving effort, time and money, a trip to Japan, paying for their studies with master’s exam commission and, above all, being fit at the mature age, they get the grades from their own union or federation.

In 2000–2005 W. J. Cynarski led the study of martial arts such as reception jujutsu in the Polish environment. For survey questions: “where, when, with whom did you train and obtain degrees?” only

part of the instructors replied. Is it possible that for the others the way to master degrees in traditional martial arts was something shameful? Among contemporary activists of the Polish Association of Ju-Jitsu questionnaires were filled out only by coaches John Slopecki and Leszek Siekański, currently the members of the IPA. Meijin Lothar Sieber (10 dan jujutsu), Honorary President of the IPA, established norm for jujutsu that 1) a black belt in jujutsu is a license to have real evidence of self-defense skills, 2) to be the holder of the degree black belt in jujutsu champion in the event of questions one should thoroughly explain when and where he/she learned the martial arts, when and with whom it was practiced [Sieber, Cynarski 2010]. Thus, for example, the IPA does not recognize degrees awarded against the rules and traditions of this martial art. In Poland there are only two known cases of teachers’ licenses jujutsu *menkyo kaiden*, received from a genuine master. They are Zenon Liszkiewicz (6 dan *okuyama-ryu*) and W.J. Cynarski (8 dan *idokan yoshin-ryu*). Master and the school founder *goshin-ryu* K. Kondratowicz received *menkyo kaiden* from his students and colleagues, which probably arose from the ignorance of the tradition. So why do we have so many holders of the highest degrees in jujutsu - eighth, ninth and tenth dan ranks in Poland? For more than a hundred years of jujutsu, ignorant Europeans set up, independent from Japanese organizations, institutions. In their schools, clubs, associations and federations establish rules for granting the degrees. Poor understanding of the original jujutsu causes creating their own styles. Other ways of rationalization are:

1) the use of the name jujutsu (in various forms of transcription) without a school or style, or exercising “jujutsu styleless”,

2) introducing the name “modern jujutsu”, for the fair, modified version from the original Japanese one,

3) using the name “self-defense” (Japanese *goshinjutsu*) to determine what in fact is being taught. Self-defense is a subsystem of martial arts jujutsu. Whoever does not engage in a complete education system, but only teaches self-defense techniques, should not call it jujutsu. Of course, self-defense can also be taught as different martial arts than jujutsu. However, jujutsu provides the greatest choice of useful techniques.

There is also sport jujutsu, which in a small extent is like the Japanese original. It is practiced by people willing do judo because of relatively high similarity. Here the sports regulations affect the image of the battle. For many prominent masters this form of jujutsu is not acceptable, including the Brazilian variety.

However, for those unfamiliar with classical Japanese jujutsu, for about a hundred years there has been an opportunity to practice various forms of goshinjutsu (with elements of jujutsu and judo), then – since the 70's of the twentieth century - the modern jujutsu (jujutsu mixed with karate, aikido) and sport jujutsu.

In Poland, one of the main teachers of self-defense jujutsu was Krzysztof Kondratowicz. He is the creator of schools and organizations *goshin-ryu* (self-defense school), in which he had the highest level of 12 dan. Polish Martial Arts Federation awarded him and a few others the title of 'Patriarch'. Dr Kondratowicz also admitted very high degrees (9, 10 dan) in jujutsu and related arts. The pioneer of sport jujutsu in Poland was Andrzej Trepte. He received his master's degrees (4 and 5 dan), in goshinjutsu - the art of self defense. Degrees were awarded by H. Czerwenka-Wenkstetten (then 7 dan), Technical Director of European Jujitsu Union (EJJU). Another thing is that shihan Czerwenka-Wenkstetten admitted master's degrees in a variety of styles, for which he was not entitled. Anyway, sensei Trepte introduced sport jujutsu in Poland. He was also the first president of the Polish Ju-Jitsu Association (PZJJ) in 1993. He had the honorary degree of master 6 dan. Short time after the function, Chairman Trepte retired from the activity.

Permissions and ranks in sport jujutsu

The authors purposely omit degrees in "jujutsu" granted under PZJJ activists and trainers such as "due to the players", or due to an "exam", when it is difficult to document authoritatively competence of the examination committee. In this way judo people gained high ranks in jujutsu. Degrees sport jujutsu were not entered. This does not mean that among the instructors and trainers of PZJJ there are not any specialists in sport jujutsu. But they are also outside the Union.

Tadeusz Ambroży and W. J. Cynarski were the first Poles, next to Andrzej Trepte, who had got licenses to judge international sport jujutsu and were connected with the sport jujutsu. Cynarski got in touch with Mr Trepte in 1985. Then he began to popularize the sport and teach jujutsu in Podkarpacie. He was a founder and PZJJ IPA (1993), and for 10 years was a member of the Board of the Association. T. Ambroży joined the group later. Both have currently got the highest IPA master's degrees in the field of sport jujutsu W. J. Cynarski - 8 dan, T. Ambroży - 7 dan.

In 2001, shihan Jan Słopecki registered Central District Association of Ju-Jitsu (COZJJ) in Warsaw.

In 2003 COZJJ awarded Polish first degrees in sport jujutsu J. Słopecki received 9 dan, Mirosław Soroka - 4 dan, Peter Chelstowski - 2 dan, Sylwester Kasprzak - 2 dan, Artur Tykwiński - 1 dan. In 2008 Słopecki was awarded 10 dan, and two years later, W.J. Cynarski got 8 dan [Słopecki 2010]. Degrees awarded by COZJJ and IPA are probably the only such degrees in Poland. In addition, International Federation of Modern Ju-Jitsu (MFMJJ) in Głogów awards degrees in modern jujutsu and jujutsu which is taught here is a modern version of the sport. The main MFMJJ masters are Shihan Roman Grzegorz 9 dan and Shihan Jan Słopecki 10 dan.

Permissions and grades in goshinjutsu

COZJJ awards degrees in the art of self-defense - goshinjutsu. The highest degrees granted are goshinjutsu awarded to J. Słopecki - 10 dan and W. J. Cynarski - 8 dan. Both completed and conducted classes on courses with specialization as a recreation and self defense instructor and the appropriate subjects in detective schools and security officers academies. Both have also got the accepted degrees in the IPA, which is partially conducted by a prominent expert in this field, Lothar Sieber (10 dan goshinjutsu).

As mentioned above, in many cases self-defense is taught as jujutsu. Indeed, among jujutsu trainers there are many experts of self defense. However, there are also fictions, such as teaching of self-defense during short commercial courses. Teacher takes a great responsibility for the health and lives of the students or their attackers.

It is absurd that the only degrees in the field of physical recreation for persons practicing martial arts could be obtained with a specialization in "self-defense." But it would be even more absurd, if martial arts were subordinated to the institutions of combat sports, such as sports associations. It's about training the trainers and granting the appropriate permissions.

Degrees in martial arts, self defense instructors, permission should be granted by organizations licensed by the experts. Such committees could be superior teams typed by scientific societies of martial arts (like IMACSSS - International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society, or Idokan Poland Association) or a board of experts (as the European Jujutsu and Kobudo Committee, EJKC).

Permissions and ranks in the martial art jujutsu

In martial arts ministerial authorities lack the ideas to clarify the promotion opportunities [cf. Cynarski

2009]. Since the goals and meaning of martial arts are significantly different in relation to other sports, the authors suggest the need to set up a committee of experts (the original martial arts) for the martial arts issues.

The same concerns martial arts jujutsu. Sports authorities should not make jujutsu sport because in martial arts sport competition is unnecessary, in most cases it would be a sport "without sport." Also comparing it with bowling, table tennis, billiards and other forms of recreation is wrong, because it calls for serious treatment. Registering your business should not allow the teaching of sometimes dangerous fighting techniques.

The authority of a master or a credible organization (school, association) should be decisive. If someone is a titular shihan, especially kaiden shihan (master professor) and a certificate was signed by the undisputed champion - jujutsu expert, the holder of such certificate is also a reliable teacher. There would be only a few specialists like that in Poland. They should train and educate young staff.

European Jujutsu and Kobudo Committee (EJKC) awarded the titles of Professor of Martial Arts to Lothar Sieber and W.J. Cynarski, along with medals "For outstanding achievements in the martial arts." Dr K. Kondratowicz, were named Martial Arts Professors by Head of the Department of Combat Sports Academy of Physical Education in Krakow, Professor S. Sterkowicz. Franz Rautek (1902-1989) received the title of Professor of jujutsu from the President of Austria. Shizuya Sato (10 dan nihon jujutsu, hanshi) - Professor at Tokyo University was a leader of International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF). Eminent masters, jujutsu experts should be respected. A full professor title in the martial arts should be granted, for exceptional skills, educational achievement, recognition of environmental experts, specialized publications. Professors should educate teachers, instructors, or rather the martial arts teachers, as well as jujutsu. Some organizations grant jujutsu instructor licenses and international coaching licenses. Organization Idokan granted the highest licenses to the international jujutsu coaches W. J. Cynarski and J. Słopecki. They can be compared with the master class coaching. However, according to the authors, a separate system of state licenses should be applied in martial arts (licensing, classes or certificates).

Summary – Application conclusions

Degrees in martial arts and self defense should be granted by organizations licensed by the commissions suggested by specialized scientific

societies (IMACSSS, IPA), or by the board of experts (EJKC) and approved by the relevant ministry. According to the authors, grades, classes or licenses for teachers should be established correspondingly to degrees in sports coaching. Teams of experts should develop general standards for grading technical and honorary degrees, the requirements for a teaching license, the general rules concerning the rights to education.

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Instytucjonalizacja sztuki walki w Polsce – kwestia uprawnień do nauczania

Słowa kluczowe: jujutsu, instytucja, licencja, ekspert

Streszczenie

Celem pracy jest opis i ocena procesu instytucjonalizacji jujutsu w Polsce w zakresie uprawnień do nauczania tej sztuki walki. Perspektywę teoretyczną daje humanistyczna teoria sztuk walki, której socjologiczna refleksja jest częścią. Pytania badawcze dotyczą stanu aktualnego – kto posiada formalne uprawnienia do nauczania i w jakich odmianach.

Długoletnia obserwacja uczestnicząca pierwszego z autorów (od lat 70 ub. wieku) stanowi główną podstawę dla przeprowadzonych tu refleksji i analiz w zakresie instytucjonalizacji japońskiego jujutsu w Polsce, zwłaszcza w zakresie instytucji stopni mistrzowskich i uprawnień do nauczania.

Otwartą kwestią pozostaje wciąż sprawa przyznawania stopni szkoleniowych uczniowskich (kyu) i mistrzowskich (dan) oraz uprawnień do nauczania w zakresie sztuki walki jujutsu, jujutsu sportowego i samoobrony. Autorzy analizują sytuację i proponują konkretne rozwiązania.

Najważniejsze wyniki są następujące. Zdaniem autorów, jedynie w przypadku jujutsu sportowego rzecz jest relatywnie prosta. Instytucjonalizacja naśladuje tu judo i inne dyscypliny sportu. Natomiast w przypadku sztuk walki powinny zostać ustalone stopnie, klasy lub licencje nauczycieli sztuk walki odpowiadające stopniom instruktorskim i trenerskim w sporcie. Konkludując, zespoły ekspertów powinny opracować ogólne normy przyznawania stopni technicznych i honorowych, wymogi dla kolejnych licencji nauczycielskich itp. ogólne zasady dotyczące uprawnień do nauczania.