

The ways of internationalization of Wushu – By analyzing the development of Taekwondo and Sumo

Chang LIU^{*1}, Kyongwon JUNG², & Fumiaki SHISHIDA³

¹ Graduate School of Sport Sciences, Waseda University (Japan)

² Recruitment Researcher, Waseda university (Japan)

³ Faculty of Sport Sciences, Waseda University (Japan)

5th IMACSSS World Scientific Congress Abstracts, Rio Maior (Portugal), October 6-8

Section: Historical, sociological and philosophical issues of MA&CS

Type: Oral communication

1. Introduction

This study aims to draw a blueprint of the internationalization of Wushu (the Chinese martial arts) by analyzing the development of Taekwondo and Sumo.

Wushu is considered as national sport in China. In February 2014, The 7th National Wushu Conference was held in Shandong, China. The conference sets goal of developing Wushu in the next five years. Based on this goal, China is aiming at the global popularization of Wushu, by spreading Duanwei system (similar to the Dan system in Japanese budo) among the country and realizing the popularization of Wushu in schools as well as society (Liu, 2016).

In Japan, the Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation (JWTF established in 1987), one of the earliest member in the International Wushu Federation (IWUF, established in 1990), also focus on the popularization and aiming to improve the peoples' health through Wushu (<http://www.jwtf.or.jp/about/index.html>).

Spreading across the country, Wushu gradually is getting far from its original concept, the practical combat. For example, the original meaning of Chinese character “Wu (武)” is “holding Ge (戈), a kind of ancient weapon, in hand and walk forward with leg (趾=止)” so it means “fighting” or “go on an expedition”. But things are changed when Wushu aiming to become the Olympic event. In order to improve the objectivity of the judgment, the rule of Wushu Taolu (the set routine or form practice) competition add the part of “difficulty” in 2003, which weaken the aspect of practical combat of Wushu. Actually, the development of Wushu Taolu itself has drew some criticizes, such as “Hua Quan Xiu Tui (showy but not practical skill)” (Qiu, 2007). Therefore, it can be concluded that Wushu is transfiguring to the competitive sport from a traditional sport.

In one word, the transfiguration of Wushu along with its popularization. Wushu spreads all over the world, but the popularized Wushu has lost its essentials.

How do other martial arts deal with such problem? This study focus on two other national sports, Taekwondo and Sumo, to see what they do and what should Wushu do in the future

2. Methodology

This is a historical research mainly based on the related materials and documents. Specifically, on the perspective of developing Wushu in future. First of all, this study referred the books and research papers about development of Wushu, Taekwondo and Sumo. Also, the painting (e.g. Ukiyo-e) and pictures which can reflect the detail of the former time were used. Then the study concludes

* Email: chch89_liu@hotmail.com

the characteristics of the development of Taekwondo and Sumo. And finally, analyze the way of development of Wushu in a prospective view.

3. Results

- 1) The way of popularization of Taekwondo can be called as “External Internationalization”.
- 2) The way of popularization of Sumo can be called as “Internal Internationalization”
- 3) The advantage and disadvantage of the two ways

	Advantage	Disadvantage
Taekwondo External Internationalization	Rapid and widespread popularization	More transfiguration
Sumo Internal Internationalization	Less transfiguration	Limited popularization range

4. Discussion and conclusion

Recently, the word “glocalization” is used when discussing the internationalization of culture (Sougawa, 2014). “Glocalization” is a combined word by “globalization” and “localization”. These are two processes of cultural propagation. Wushu as a kind of culture, its transfiguration usually happens in the process of “localization”. Therefore, the biggest difference between External Internationalization way and Internal Internationalization way is whether the popularization range is limited. Both ways have advantages and disadvantages and Wushu is now standing at a crossroads.

References

- Chang, L. (2016). The glocalization of Chinese martial arts- the acceptance and transfiguration of Chinese martial arts in Japan. Master thesis, Graduate School of Sport Sciences Waseda University. (in Japanese)
 Homepage of Japan Wushu Taijiquan Federation: <http://www.jwtf.or.jp/about/index.html>.
 Pixiang, Q. (2007). Culture resolution of Chinese WushuTaolu. *China Sport Science*, 27(12), 10-12. (in Chinese)
 Tsuneo, S. (2014). *Nihonbudo and Toyoshiso*. Tokyo: Heibonsya. (in Japanese).

Key words: Wushu; Taekwondo; Sumo; glocalization; internationalization.

This study was supported in part by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (Fundamental Research (B), Task No. 15H03067, Study representative: Fumiaki Shishida).

