

A Preliminary Analysis of Goju-ryu Kata Structure

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Abstract

Miyagi Chojun (1888-1953) was the founder of Goju-ryu; a karate-do style that purportedly had ties to a Chinese boxing school established on Okinawa in 1828 and was based on the teachings of his primary instructor Higaonna Kanryo (1850-1915). Yet, the continuity of modern Goju-ryu with respect to its katas (forms) and these historical sources has never been established. Therefore, we employed a statistical technique to examine the relationship between the classical katas of modern Goju-ryu. It was reasoned that there would be continuity across all katas of modern Goju-ryu if they indeed came from a similar source. The results were insightful and suggest the possible origins of Goju-ryu katas.

Keywords

Martial arts; combat sports; karate; kata

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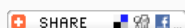
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46 Goju-ryu Kata ◊ P. Câmara & M. McKenna A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF GOJU-RYU KATA STRUCTURE FERNANDO PORTELA CÂMARA, PH.D. & MARIO MCKENNA, M.SC. ▲ ▼ ▲ Introduction Goju-ryu is the name of a karate-do style Miyagi Chojun (1888-1953) organized in the 1930's. Miyagi alleged that his system originated from a Chinese quanfa (gong- fu) school established in the city of Naha in 1828 (Miyagi, 1934) and credited Higaonna Kanryo (1853-1917) as the primary source of the system. Surrey Karate Academy offer adult Goju Ryu Karate-Jutsu classes with a focus on practical and effective techniques. With small classes we are able to tailor tuition to the individuals needs. Goju in fact, means hard-soft and it is known that Chojun Miyagi, founder of Goju-Ryu, chose this name from within a poem of the Bubishi. Again, the historical background is out of the scope of this post and nothing I can say will surpass the research Hanshi Patrick McCarthy captured in his master piece, Bible of Karate Bubishi (1995) and Bubishi: The Classic Manual of Combat (2016). My second preliminary conclusion is that most karate styles have been reduced to impact technology (kicking and striking) and this is especially true in sport karate. Yet, the continuity of modern Goju-ryu with respect to its katas (forms) and these historical sources has never been established. Therefore, we employed a statistical technique to examine the relationship between the classical katas of modern Goju-ryu. It was reasoned that there would be continuity across all katas of modern Goju-ryu if they indeed came from a similar source. The results were insightful and suggest the possible origins of Goju-ryu katas. Discover the world's research. 17+ million members.