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SOCIOLOGY OF PHYSICAL CULTURE

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Barriers to the development of Far Eastern martial arts in selected areas of Central Europe¹

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Key words: martial arts, combat sports, barriers to development, Central Europe

Abstract:

Background and study aim. The theoretical perspective for the analysis presented here consists of the sociology of sport and the humanist theory of martial arts. The aim of the research was to indicate the main barriers declared by practitioners of the different types of martial arts and combat sports in selected Central European countries. In particular the variables of place of training and variety of martial arts/combat sports have been taken into consideration. 6 research questions would need to be set in order to arrive at an answer to the problem as posed.

Material and methods. The diagnostic survey method has been used. The research has been conducted on a group of 500 people, out of whom N = 489 were accepted for further study. Selection of the samples for testing – purposeful samples of the people who train combat sports and martial arts in Germany, Poland and Slovakia societies, and British rugby players. N = 489, the age limit of respondents was 17-45. Results. A great number of respondents (practicing judo, jujitsu and rugby) most often indicated the dangers of aggression and violence or of using the combat skill for illegal_purposes. Practicing martial arts to show-off was most frequently emphasized by karatekas and aikidokas. The economic dimension has had a secondary meaning here.

Conclusions. Associating martial arts and combat sports with aggression and violence or fears about using them in this way dominate here. Moreover, the representatives of (non-competitive) martial arts have listed 'sporting rivalry and competition' as a negative phenomenon.

Glossary:

martial arts – historical category of perfect systems of hand-to-hand combat and wielding weapon, connected with elements of metaphysics; 'ways

of martial arts' - are forms of physical culture which on the basis of the tradition of cultures of warriors lead, by training of combat techniques, to psychophysical development and self-realization; or every form of psychophysical activity connected with the specific tradition of hand-to-hand combat or wielding weapon, aiming at personal development, connecting methods of teaching with the development of a spiritual dimension (in the light of the **humanistic theory of martial arts**) combat sports - also known as a combative sport a competitive contact sport where two combatants fight each other using certain rules of engagement (whereas traditional martial arts have no rules of such rivalry), typically with the aim of simulating parts of real hand to hand combat; or a sport that involves person-to-person combat.

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barriers to development – as in common parlance Central Europe – in a geographical meaning

Introduction

The main aim was to solve the problem of indicating the main factors determining the development of different varieties of martial arts and combat sports which are identified by practitioners. Thus, the question is whether they depend on the place (where one practices) and the discipline practiced (what one practices). The research questions were posed in the following way,

1) 'Are the barriers of development of Far Eastern martial arts ("FEMA") in Poland diversified by the kind of discipline practiced?'; 2) 'Are the barriers of FEMA and combat sports development diversified by the disciplines practiced?'; 3) 'Is the practiced discipline (of a combat sport) diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Poland?'; 4) 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Poland and in Slovakia?'; 5) 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Central Europe based on the research conducted in Slovakia, Germany and Great Britain?'; 6) 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the factors of development of FEMA in Poland?'.

The theoretical perspective of the analysis presented here consists of the sociology of sport and the humanist theory of martial arts. In this perspective the social range of the phenomenon of the global popularity of Far Eastern martial arts and combat sports, the perception, understanding and adaptation of these artifacts of psychophysical culture of the Far East in western countries was studied [Skórska 2003; Cynarski, Sieber, Litwiniuk 2005] as well as the participation of FEMA in the process of global cultural exchanges [Obodyński, Cynarski 2003]. The problem of factors in the development of FEMA in Central Europe has not been explained more widely in the literature apart from introductory explications and analyses of developmental factors in this field occurring in Poland and Europe [Kruszewski 2000, 2003; Cynarski et al. 2002; Cynarski, Obodyński 2007; Cynarski et al. 2009; Rosa 2009; Sieber, Cieszkowski 2009].

Material and methods

Diagnostic survey with Cynarski's survey questionnaire has been used, which serves the evaluation of the perception of martial arts [Cynarski

2006; Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2008]. The answers to questions about the barriers to the development of FEMA in Central Europe according to the variables of the practiced variety (a martial art/combat sport) and of the place of training have been analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The independence Chi ^ 2 test has been used, V_Cramer's and C Pearson's.

In total the research included 500 people from the south-eastern part of Poland (Rzeszów and the Podkarpacie region), Slovakia (Prešov), Germany (Munich) and additionally from England (the London area), out of which N = 489 subjects were accepted for elaboration. This number includes 137 representatives of kyokushin karate from Poland (full-contact style), 143 Polish karatekas of noncontact shotokan (traditional karate of ITKF) and idokan (zedo karate tai-te-tao) varieties, 18 representatives of jujutsu and idokan karate from Germany (the meijin Sieber's school in Munich, which rejects sportive rivalry), 107 judokas from Poland, i.e., contestants of a typical combat sport of Asian origin, and 24 judokas from Slovakia with additionally 23 British rugby players. The age limit of respondents was 17-45.

The selection of group members (purposeful samples) was deliberate and complete so that representatives of various martial arts and combat sports would be taken into consideration and for the sake of comparison it also included the representatives of rugby – a team combat sport [Obodyński, Cynarski 2006].

Results

In order to find the answer to the question 1) 'Are the barriers of development of FEMA in Poland diversified by the kind of practiced discipline?', the answers of Polish *aikido* (a martial art) and *judo* (an Olympic combat sport) representatives to the questionnaire questions have been compared.

In order to obtain the answer to the (dependency) research problem expressed in the question 'Are the barriers to development of FEMA in Poland diversified by the kind of practiced discipline?', the independence Chi 2 test has been used. As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi 2 = 10,732; p = 0,0970. Most of the judoka (42%) responses point to the answer: "possibility of using combat techniques for illegal purposes", when only 21,6% of aikidoka agree with them.

On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the

Table 1. Judo - Karate Kyokushin		
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Barriers of FEMA development in Central Europe		
Value	Poland	Poland
Practiced discipline	judo	kyokushin karate
sportive rivalry and competition	15	19
monotonous, boring training methods	17	17
forms of violence, aggressive behaviours	11	27
obligatory training fees	21	47
possibility of using combat techniques for wicked purposes	45	58
acting, swank	22	60
others	15	5
N – number of respondents	107	137
Chi ^2	C Pearso	on's 0,2803
degree of reedom p= 0,0018	7	

practiced discipline (*aikido*, *judo*) is not diversified by the barriers of FEMA development in Poland.

In order to find the answer to the question 2) 'Are the barriers of FEMA and combat sports development diversified by practiced disciplines?', answers to questionnaire questions by German representatives of jujitsu and karate (martial arts which reject sporting rejecting sportive rivalry) and of British rugby players have been compared.

As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi 2 = 17,554. For: V_Cramer's = 0,4627, C Pearson's = 0,5143, degree of freedom = 6, p = 0,0075. 30% of German karateka indicate that 'sporting rivalry and competition' is the barrier.

On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the practiced discipline (Germany/jujitsu and karate, Great Britain/rugby) is diversified by the barriers of FEMA development in Europe.

In order to find the answer to question 3) 'Is the practiced discipline (of a combat sport) diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Poland?', answers to questionnaire questions by Polish *judo* and *kyokushin karate* contestants have been compared. The results are presented in Table 1.

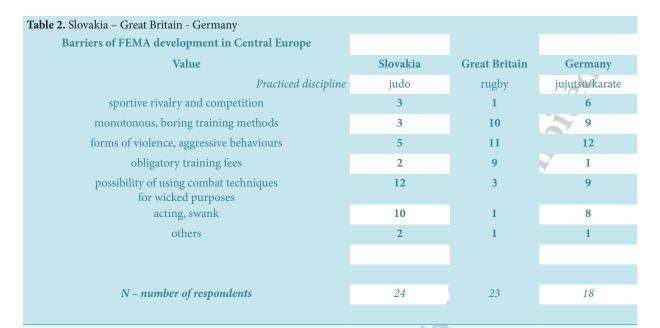
As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi 2 = 21,004. On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the practiced discipline (*judo – kyokushin karate*) is diversified by the barriers of FEMA development in Poland.

In order to find the answer to the question 4) 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Poland and in Slovakia?', answers to questionnaire questions by Polish and Slovak *judo* contestants have been compared.

As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi 2 = 6,7706, for p = 0,3426. On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the practiced discipline (Poland – judo, Slovakia - judo) is not diversified by the barriers to the development of FEMA in Europe.

In order to find the answer to the question 5) 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Central Europe based on the research conducted in Slovakia, Germany and Great Britain, answers to questionnaire questions by Slovak, German and British respondents have been compared. The results are presented in Table 2.

In order to obtain the answer to the (dependency) research problem expressed in the question 'Is the practiced discipline diversified by the barriers of development of FEMA in Central



Chi ^2 33,237	V_Cramer's 0,3737 Pearson's 0,5364
degree of freedom 12	p= 0,0009

Table 3. Kyokushin Karate - Traditional Karate - Idokan Karate **Barriers of FEMA development in Central Europe** Value **Poland Poland** Practiced discipline kyokushin karate traditional karate, idokan karate sportive rivalry and competition 19 10 17 4 monotonous, boring training methods forms of violence, aggressive behaviours 27 11 obligatory training fees 47 8 possibility of using combat techniques 58 13 for wicked purposes acting, swank **60** 22 others 5 12 N – number of respondents 137 143 Chi ^2 25,565 V_Cramer's 0,2858 C Pearson's 0,3366 degree of 0,0003 p= freedom

Europe based on the research conducted in Slovakia, Germany and Great Britain?', the independence Chi ^2 test has been used. As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi ^2 = 33,237. On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the practiced discipline (Slovakia/judo, Germany/jujitsu and karate, Great Britain/rugby) is diversified by the barriers of FEMA development in Europe.

In order to find the answer to the question 6) 'Is the practiced discipline (in age groups 17-45) diversified by the factors of development of FEMA in Poland?', answers to questionnaire questions by Polish karatekas practicing full-contact karate (*kyokushin-kai*) and non-contact varieties (traditional karate or *shotokan* in ITKF version and *idokan* karate or *zendo karate tai-te-tao*) have been compared. The results are presented in Table 3.

As a result of empirical analysis of the data the following value of the independence test has been obtained; Chi 2 = 25,565. On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it has been stated that the practiced discipline (*kyokushin karate*, *traditional karate*, *idokan karate* – in age groups 17-45) is diversified by the barriers of FEMA development in Poland.

Discussion

There are not many studies devoted to barriers to the development of martial arts. In the past in communist countries a barrier to martial arts constituted ideological aspects [Tokarski 1989]. Currently, these are mainly economic obstacles, as they concern different forms of physical culture to the development of 'sport-for-all' in Poland and are analyzed by B. Marciszewska [1998: 81]. She states the reasons for a very small increase in interest in sport as a form of spending free time and outlines several aspects of this problem: 1) Psychological (there may be a barrier against taking up a motion activity caused by fear of showing limited skills in this respect and also a tendency to place this kind of activity on a further position in the hierarchy of needs); 2) Social (lack of close role-models in the - family, social group, school - has been noted); 3) Political (not always consequent to the policy of the state in the sphere of widely understood promotion of sport which does not ensure its accessibility for all social groups); 4) Economic progressive diversification within Polish society, affecting the level of real income limits placing motion activity in the range of needs which can be financed from family budgets in the case of many social groups).

Among the social qualities influencing the level of active participation (the range of activity) in physical culture the following may be mentioned: 1) the level of cultural awareness and consumption; 2) education; 3) social background and local traditions; 4) kind of work done; 5) %) level of income and financial possibilities; 6) age; 7) gender 8) accessibility of the sports' infrastructure [cf. Krawczyk 1995: 185-237].

Kuśnierz [2011] pointed, that: "1.The essential motivation for taking up training is mastering the hand-to-hand fighting and self-defense rules. This provides a sense of safety. 2. Spiritual development and the development of inner predispositions are the main values for people practicing karate. 3. Training provides an increase in self-respect and respect to others and increase of self-discipline and the level of fitness and health." [cf. Fredersdorf 1986; Rosa 2009]. However, in popular opinion practising martial arts involves the risk of injury, while martial arts are often associated (according to martial arts films) with aggression and violence.

There are only very few publications on cultural barriers [Suzuki 1970; Maliszewski 1996; Kim, Bäck 2000; Baliński 2012]. In the case of Poland and Slovakia a barrier pointed out by the authors of the mentioned studies, concerns the different understanding of spirituality. In Christian culture societies some milieus perceive Asian martial arts as meditative or para-religious systems closely related to the religions of the East, particularly Buddhism.

Kruszewski [2000] fist classified factors instead clearly indicate barriers. Later he claims that over 33% of respondents in Poland (N=1237) point to the lack of access to proper training centres. 26% mention financial costs (economic factor). The biggest problem with access to institutions of martial arts takes place in rural areas. In general, only 17% of the respondents are not interested in this issue. Thus, interest in martial arts is relatively substantial [Kruszewski 2003].

Kudlacek [2008] conducted research into the preferences of Czech young people concerning martial arts and combat sports. He stated that the most preferred martial arts by boys are – kickboxing, boxing, karate, kung-fu and taekwon-do; by girls they are – karate, kickboxing, judo and boxing.

Polish judoka more often than aikidokas (the peaceful art of harmonious movement) indicated the possibility of using the combat techniques for illegal purposes. However, it has not been stated that the practiced discipline (aikido, judo) is diversified by barriers to the development of FEMA in Poland. According to the respondents' declarations it has been confirmed that the practiced discipline (of

martial arts or combat sports) is diversified by barriers to the development of FEMA in Europe. Martial arts practitioners (jujitsu and karate) in Germany more often indicated 'sporting rivalry and competition' and 'acting and swank' as the problems of this environment while British rugby players pointed to 'obligatory training fees'. In turn the karatekas of full-contact variety dislike acting and swank decisively more than judokas, which may result from their more utilitarian attitude to the practiced combat sport (emphasis on efficiency in a real fight). On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it can be stated that the practiced discipline (judo - kyokushin karate) is diversified by barriers to FEMA development in Poland. However, no significant differences have been noted between the statements of Polish and Slovak judokas.

On the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test it can be stated that the practiced discipline (judo, jujutsu and karate, rugby) is diversified by barriers to FEMA development in Europe. The answers of Slovak judokas and German representatives of jujutsu and karate schools were similar in most cases, however, they significantly differed from British rugby players' declarations. The only similarity occurred in pointing at 'monotonous, boring training methods' and 'forms of violence, aggressive behaviors' by the respondents from Germany and Great Britain. Moreover, on the basis of the indicated value of the function of the test significant differences in the evaluation of FEMA development barriers in Poland have been noted depending on the practiced karate style (fullcontact or non-contact) which confirms the results of previous research [Fredersdorf 1986; Cynarski, Sieber, Litwiniuk 2005; Obodyński, Cynarski 2007; Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2008].

Conclusions

Generally, the practiced discipline is diversified by barriers to FEMA development in Poland or in Europe. Particularly, both judoka, the representatives of *jujitsu* school and rugby players most often indicated the danger of aggression and violence in the practiced discipline or using the combat skills for wicked purposes, which is a synonymous answer. Practicing martial arts for swank and show-off as the reasons for training was most frequently emphasized only by the karatekas (regardless their style) and aikidokas. Thus, the economic dimension (obligatory training fees) has had a secondary meaning here. Associating martial arts and combat sports with aggression and

violence or fears for such usage dominates. As it has been easy to foresee, the representatives of (non-competitive) martial arts indicate 'sporting rivalry and competition' as a negative phenomenon, which the evaluation of sportspeople lacked.

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Bariery rozwoju dalekowschodnich sztuk walki na wybranych obszarach Europy Środkowej

Słowa kluczowe: sztuki walki, sporty walki, bariery rozwoju, Europa Środkowa

Streszczenie

Kontekst i cel badania. Teoretyczna perspektywa przedstawionej tutaj analizy składa się z socjologii sportu i humanistycznej teorii sztuk walki. Celem badań było wskazanie głównych barier deklarowanych przez praktyków różnych rodzajów sztuk walki i sportów walki w wybranych krajach Europy Środkowej.

W szczególności zostały wzięte pod uwagę zmienne miejsca szkolenia i różnorodności sztuki walki / sportów walki. W celu uzyskania odpowiedzi na postawiony problem ustalono 6 pytań badawczych.

Materiał i metody. Została użyta metoda sondażu diagnostycznego. Badania zostały przeprowadzone na grupie 500 osób, z czego N = 489 wypowiedzi zostało przyjęte do dalszych badań. Wybór prób do badań – były to próby celowe ludzi, którzy trenują sporty walki i sztuki walki w Niemczech, Polsce i na Słowacji, oraz brytyjscy zawodnicy rugby. Łącznie N = 489, wiek respondentów mieścił się w przedziale 17-45. Wyniki. Duża liczba respondentów (uprawiających judo, jujutsu i rugby) najczęściej wskazywało niebezpieczeństwa agresji i przemocy, lub używanie umiejętności walki dla nielegalnych celów. Praktykowanie sztuki walki dla popisu był najczęściej podkreślane przez karateków i aikidoków. Wymiar ekonomiczny miał tutaj drugorzędne znaczenie.

Wnioski. Powiązanie sztuk walki i sportów walki z agresją i przemocą lub obawy o użycie ich w ten sposób były tu dominujące. Ponadto przedstawiciele nierywalizacyjnych sztuk walki wymieniali "rywalizację sportową i konkurencję" jako zjawisko negatywne.