

HISTORY

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A - Study Design, B - Data Collection, C - Statistical Analysis, D - Data Interpretation,

E - Manuscript Preparation, F - Literature Search

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Early Korean Martial Arts Manuals: Recorded Evidence of the Origins of Taekwondo in Karate

Submission: 20.04.2021; acceptance: 9.05.2021

Key words: World Taekwondo (WT), Korea Taekwondo Association (KTA), Kukkiwon, taekwondo textbooks, taekwondo history

Background. The various taekwondo organizations, such as the World Taekwondo (WT; formerly, the World Taekwondo Federation, WTF), the Kukkiwon, the Korea Taekwondo Association (KTA), and other taekwondo alliances, schools, and individuals, generally maintain that taekwondo is a product of about 2000 years of Korean martial arts evolution or some kind of blend of martial arts from Japan, China, and Korea. On the other hand, during the past two decades, a variety of publications have disputed this widespread, popular narrative and asserted that the origins of taekwondo lie primarily in Japanese karate.

Problem and aim. Since the taekwondo establishment still refuses to modify its historical narrative, there is a need to provide further evidence of taekwondo's genuine origins. This article aims to provide recorded evidence that the origins of taekwondo lie firmly in Japanese karate.

Method. The methodology of this article is an extensive literature review of early Japanese and Korean textbooks. The primary focus and method of this study is a visual comparison of images. Some important publications were selected as samples for a comparison of photographs displaying stances and kicking techniques between Japanese and Korean instructors.

Results and conclusions. In all of the combined Korean martial arts publications between 1949 and 1972, no significant contrasts in terms of images and text to contemporary or earlier Japanese karate publications are noticeable.

Note on Romanization: The Romanization of words was conducted according to the McCune-Reischauer system for Korean, the Hepburn system for Japanese, and the Pinyin system for Chinese. However, the personal names of well-known individuals, as for example, Choi Hong Hi, were usually left according to their popular usage. East Asian names are rendered according to tradition with family names first.

Acknowledgments: This article was part of my sabbatical from March 1st to August 31st granted by Youngsan University.

Introduction

The various taekwondo (*taegwondo*) institutions, such as the World Taekwondo (WT; formerly, the World Taekwondo Federation, WTF), the Kukkiwon (*Kukkiwon*;

the so-called ‘World Taekwondo Headquarters’), the Korea Taekwondo Association (KTA), and other taekwondo alliances, schools, and individuals have generally maintained the historical narrative that taekwondo has been a product of 2000 years of Korean martial arts evolution [see, for example, Korea Taekwondo Association n.d.; Kukkiwon n.d.]¹. Some organizations, as for instance the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF),² claim that taekwondo is a blend of ancient Korean martial arts and Japanese karate with influences from Chinese martial arts as well [see, for example, Choi 1965: 22]. These popular narratives persist despite a variety of high-qual-

¹ The WT used to have similar accounts on its homepage but removed all historical accounts from its official homepage a few years ago.

² The ITF began to splinter into several different organizations prior to Choi Hong Hi's death in 2002.

ity publications that clearly demonstrate that taekwondo is, in fact, largely a product of Japanese karate [Capener 1995; Kang, Lee 1999; Madis 2003; Moenig 2015; Moenig, Kim 2016].

This article aims to provide further evidence of taekwondo's origins in Japanese karate. In fact, this study represents a follow-up study of the article, “Some Evidence of Taekwondo's Roots in Karate: An Analysis of the Technical Content of Early ‘Taekwondo’ Literature” [Moenig, Cho, Kwak 2014], which was published in the *Korea Journal* in 2014. This present study will provide the actual physical evidence touched upon in the former study.

However, this study does not concern ancient Korean martial arts manuals, such as *Muye Tobo Tongji* [Cynarski 2013], since there is no connection to modern Korean martial arts [Moenig, Kim 2016]. A variety of early South Korean martial arts manuals were published between the post-colonial period (Korea was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945) of Korea and 1971, when taekwondo was declared the so-called ‘national sport’ of South Korea.³ During this period, taekwondo developed a unified, gradually organizational structure. Likewise, a mature historical and philosophical narrative emerged for taekwondo, claiming a 2000-year-old Korean tradition, which has been maintained largely into present times by the taekwondo establishment [Moenig, Kim 2016]. During this period, a variety of taekwondo textbooks were published. Most of these textbooks are quite rare and mostly only available in a few South Korean libraries, but they have all been collected for this study. All represent practical, instructional manuals with some historical and philosophical talking points in the introduction. This article aims to compare the practical martial arts content of these manuals to earlier or contemporary Japanese karate textbooks. Since these manuals are practical, instructional works, the physical evidence consists mostly of a great variety of photographs with added names for the various techniques. Detailed written instructions are not common in these manuals. Therefore, the primary focus and method of this study is a visual comparison of images.

Initially, this study will provide an overview of early Japanese karate publications related to this study. In addition, this article will list all Korean martial arts textbooks from the post-colonial period (Korea's Japanese colonial period, 1910-1945). Subsequently, it will demonstrate taekwondo's origins in Japanese karate by comparing photographs from some selected publications. In conclusion, this study will discuss the various reasons for similarities and differences in these manuals.

Material and methods

An overview of early Japanese karate and Korean martial arts manuals

Early Japanese karate and Korean martial arts manuals are exclusively practical, instructional textbooks. However, most of them provide some brief historical, ethical, and philosophical guidelines in an introductory section. Most of these early Korean publications did not use the term ‘taekwondo’ yet, since it was not recognized by the majority of the Korean martial arts community of that time. Instead, the different Korean martial arts organizations and schools used a variety of karate-based terms or names invoking Chinese martial arts associations. The term ‘taekwondo’ was only coined by Choi Hong Hi (Ch'oe Hong-hUi, 1918-2002) in 1955, and has been recognized by the majority of the Korean martial arts community only gradually with the consolidation process of a majority of the different *kwan* (館 literally, ‘hall’ or ‘house,’ but refers to a martial arts ‘school,’ ‘style’ or ‘organization’). In fact, some influential leaders, such as Hwang Kee (Hwank Ki, 1914-2002), the founder of *Mudok Kwan* (Moo Do Kwan), never recognized or adopted the term ‘taekwondo’ at all [Madis 2003; Moenig 2015: 34-65]. However, Hwang compiled the first Korean martial arts manual of the modern Korean era in 1949.

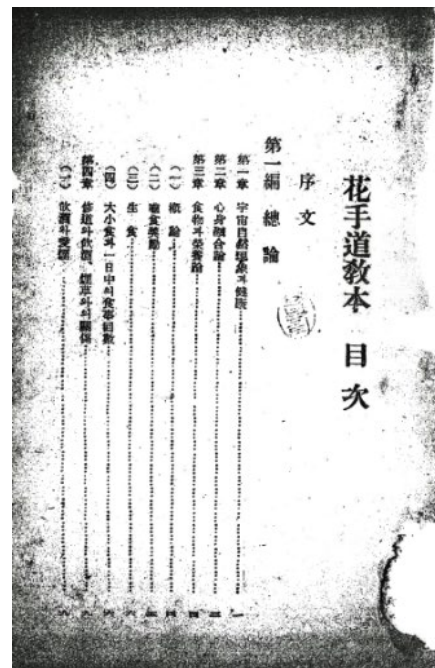


Figure 1. The first page of the contents section of Hwang's *Hwasudo Kyobon* (1949)⁴

The book is written in the traditional Chinese writing style: top to bottom, right to left.

Source: author

³ The South Korean National Assembly has declared taekwondo the official ‘National Sport’ of South Korea only recently in 2018.

⁴ The name *Hwasudo* (花手道) was invented by Hwang and refers to the fictional martial arts of the *Hwarang* (花郎) or flower boys. Hwang changed to *tangsudo* in his following publication of 1958.

Subsequently, a variety of manuals have been published by a number of individuals of the various *kwan* over the years. The first textbook using the name ‘taekwondo’ was published in 1959 by Choi Hong Hi. A broader use of the term ‘taekwondo’ in Korean textbooks happened only after 1965 when the name taekwondo became widely accepted and the ‘Korea Taesudo Association’ was renamed the ‘Korea Taekwondo Association.’⁵

Among the Japanese karate instructors, Funakoshi Gichin (1868-1957), who is considered by many the ‘father’ of Japanese *karate-do*, was the first to compile an instructional karate manual in 1922, followed by another publication using photographs for the first time in 1925.

目錄
唐
手
術

目次

第一篇 唐手とは何ぞや

第一章 唐手とは何ぞや

第二章 歴史

第三章 流派

第四章 種類

第五章 階級

第六章 唐手の價值

第七章 體育上の價值

第八章 護身術としての價值

— (1) —

Figure 2. The first page of contents section of Funakoshi’s *Rentan Goshin Todi-jutsu* (1925)⁶ The book is written in the traditional Chinese writing style: top to bottom, right to left. Source: author

Funakoshi’s style has been known as *Shotokan* karate after the name of his karate institute.⁷ *Shotokan* karate became the most popular and widespread karate style in Japan and later probably around the world. Since several publications concluded that early taekwondo had been largely a product of *Shotokan* karate [Madis 2003; Moenig 2012, 2015], this study will focus on the *Shotokan* style and the publications authored by their members.

From the 1930s onward a great variety of karate manuals were published, which could not all be included into this study for reasons of content and space. Most of them

⁵ The first Korea Taekwondo Association lasted from 1959 to 1961 when it was renamed the ‘Korea Taesudo Association.’

⁶ *Karate* was pronounced *todi* in Okinawa. Funakoshi did not use the *do* (道 ‘way’) character yet, but still used the *jutsu* (術) character in this publication. He changed the use only in the mid-1930s.

⁷ *Shoto* (松濤 ‘house of pine-waves’) was Funakoshi’s pen-name.

are also not relevant to this study [see an expanded list in Moenig 2015: 202-203].⁸ The following are some of the most important *Shotokan* karate publications and two of the earliest karate textbooks compiled by Motobu Choki.

Table 1. List of early Japanese karate textbooks significant for this study

1922	Funakoshi, Gichin. 琉球拳法唐手 <i>Ryūkū Kempo Todi</i> . (Considered the first comprehensive karate textbook; in Japanese). ⁹
1925/ 1996	Funakoshi, Gichin. 鍊膽護身唐手術 <i>Rentan Goshin Todi-jutsu</i> (Todi Arts: Polish Your Courage for Self Defense). (First karate textbook using photographs; in Japanese).
1926/ 2000	Motobu, Choki. <i>Okinawa Kenpo Todi Jutsu Kumite-Hen</i> , (Okinawa Kenpo: Karate-Jutsu on Kumite). (In Japanese). ¹⁰
1932/ 2000	Motobu, Choki. 私 <small>の</small> 唐手術 <i>Watashi no Karate Jutsu</i> (My Karate Art). (In Japanese).
1935/ 1957/ 1973	Funakoshi, Gichin. 空手道教範 <i>Karate-do Kyohan</i> <i>The Master Text</i> . (Revised in 1957; translated into English in 1973).
1943/ 1988	Funakoshi, Gichin. 空手道入門 <i>Karate-do Nyūmon</i> [Introduction to <i>Karate-do</i>]. (Translated into English, 1988).
1960	Nishiyama, Hidetaka and Richard C. Brown. <i>Karate the art of “empty hand” fighting</i> . (Most sold karate book ever; in English).

The following is a complete list of Korean martial arts publications in Korean and English up until 1972, which the author is aware [see a smaller list in Moenig 2015: 202-203].¹¹

Since this study cannot discuss, for reasons of spatial restrictions, the content of all the Korean and Japanese publications listed here, it will focus on some representative samples. The samples were chosen for the quality of photographs, amount of technical variety, the skillful presentation of technique, and the importance of the authors in the martial arts community of that time. The selected manuals are as follows:

- Nishiyama Hidetaka’s *Karate the Art of “Empty Hand” Fighting* (1960)
- Choi Hong Hi’s *Taekwondo The Art of Self-Defence* (1965)
- Cho Sihak Henry’s *Korean Karate* (1968)

⁸ Most of early karate publications are collected and used to be viewable at the Hawaii Karate Museum. However, the online service seems to be no longer available.

⁹ *Kempo* is the Japanese pronunciation for Chinese *quanfa* (拳法 ‘fist method’). The term was also widely used by the karate community at that time and later also by the Koreans.

¹⁰ After Funakoshi, Motobu was the second to publish karate textbooks. Actually, Motobu was probably the first to introduce karate from Okinawa to Japan, which Funakoshi is usually credited for doing in 1922.

¹¹ There is a possibility that some minor publications never made it to any Korean library. In addition, on one textbook titled, 태권도교본 *Taegwondo Kyobon* (Seoul: Pui Ch’ulpansa, 1968), the author’s name was faded and not identifiable.

Table 2. List of early Korean martial arts textbooks from 1949 to 1972

1949 Hwang, Ki [Hwang, Kee]. 花手道教本 <i>Hwasudo Kyobon</i> [Hwasudo Textbook]. (First Korean martial arts textbook in the modern era; in Korean).
1955 Ch'oe, Sok-nam. 拳法教本 <i>Kwonbop Kyobon</i> [Kwonbop Textbook]. ¹² (In Korean).
1958 Hwang, Ki [Hwang, Kee]. 唐手道教本 <i>Tangsudo Kyobon</i> [Tangsudo Textbook]. ¹³ (In Korean).
1958 Pak, Chol-hUi. 파사권법 - 공수도교본 <i>Pasa Kwonbop - Kongsu-Do Kyobon</i> [Kwonbop Association - Kongsudo Textbook]. (In Korean).
1959 Ch'oe, Hong-hUi [Choi, Hong Hi]. 跆拳道教本 <i>T'aegwondo Kyobon</i> [Taekwondo Textbook]. (First textbook using the term 'taekwondo'; in Korean). ¹⁴
1965 Choi, Hong Hi [Ch'oe, Hong-hUi]. <i>Taekwondo The Art of Self-Defence</i> . (First English taekwondo textbook). ¹⁵
1965 Stanton, E. Read and Ikjin Chai. <i>Taekwondo: A Way of Life in Korea</i> . (In English). ¹⁶
1965 Yi, Kyo-yun. 百萬인의跆拳道教本 <i>Baekmanin-Ui Taesudo Kyobon</i> [Taesudo Textbook for Everybody]. (In Korean). ¹⁷
1968 Yi, Won'-guk [Lee Won Kuk]. 跆拳道 교범 <i>T'aegwondo Kyobom</i> [Taekwondo Manual]. (In Korean).
1968 Son, Duk Sung [Son, Dok-song] and Robert J. Clark. <i>Korean Karate The Art of Tae Kwon Do</i> . (In English).
1968 Cho, Sihak Henry. <i>Korean Karate</i> . (In English).
1969 Kung, Song-kyong. 사진위주跆拳道教本 <i>Sajinwiju T'aegwondo Kyobon</i> [Photograph-oriented Taekwondo Textbook]. (In Korean).
1970 Hwang, Ki [Hwang, Kee]. 수박도대감 (唐手) <i>Subak-Do Taegam (Tangsu)</i> (Subak-Do Encyclopedia Tangsu). (In Korean). ¹⁸

¹² *Kwonbop* is the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese term *quanfa* (see footnote 6). Some Koreans preferred the term because it gave the impression that their karate-based martial art originated from China.

¹³ *Tangsudo* (唐手道 'way of the Tang hand,' referring to the Chinese Tang Dynasty) is the Korean pronunciation for *karate-do*. Funakoshi changed the characters during the mid-1930s to 空手道 ('way of the empty hand'), which is also pronounced in Japanese *karate-do* but in Korean *kongsudo*.

¹⁴ Most sources state that this book was published first in 1959. However, there may be some implications with the lunar calendar. The author's copy carries the date December 31, 4291 (*Tangi*, lunar calendar), which could be 1958. Moreover, the book is based on an earlier version, which was compiled in Choi's *Odo Kwan* in the military. This version used only drawings and had no photographs. The author had no access to this manual, however.

¹⁵ The Korean version was published around the same time under the title: 태권도지침 *Taekwondo Chich'im* (*Taekwondo Guide*, 1966).

¹⁶ This is the only publication which is not an instructional manual but more of an introductory booklet. However, the book uses photographs displaying a variety of techniques.

¹⁷ The term *taesudo* (跆拳道) was only used in Korea from 1961 to 1965 and presented a kind of compromise of the terms *taekwondo*, *tangsudo*, and *kongsudo*.

¹⁸ An English translation entitled *Tang soo do* (*soo bahk do*) was published in 1977. The term *subak* (手搏 Chinese: *shoubo*;

1971 Yi, Kyo-yun. 알기쉬운 跆拳道教本 <i>Algishwiun T'aegwondo Kyobon</i> [Easy to Understand Taekwondo Textbook]. (In Korean).
1972 Yi, Un'-gak. 綜合武術教本 <i>Chonghap Musul Kyobon</i> [Comprehensive Martial Arts Textbook]. (In Korean). ¹⁹
1972 Ch'oe, Hong-hUi [Choi, Hong Hi]. 태권도교서 <i>T'aegwondo Kyoso</i> [Taekwondo Message]. (In Korean). ²⁰
1972 Yi, Chong-u [Lee, Chong Woo]. 태권도교본 <i>T'aegwondo Kyobon</i> [Taekwondo Textbook]. (The first modern taekwondo textbook of the KTA/WTF-style; in Korean).

Nishiyama Hidetaka's 1960 manual was selected over Funakoshi's earlier works because he provides a more detailed account, better descriptions, and better quality photographs. Moreover, Nishiyama was a member of Funakoshi's *Shotokan* karate style and was considered one of the best karate instructors during that period. In addition, his manual has been one of the most-sold karate textbooks and is considered one of the best karate publications ever. The photographs of Nishiyama's work are compared with Choi Hong Hi's publication of 1965, which is the most comprehensive and detailed manual among the early Korean textbooks. Moreover, Choi, the principal inventor of the term 'taekwondo,' was one of the most influential taekwondo leaders in South Korea during the period of the mid-1950s to the late 1960s. Lastly, the content of these manuals was contrasted with Henry Cho's manual of 1968. Cho was very influential in the American martial arts community during the 1960s. He taught "Korean karate," which is also reflected in the title of his book. Overall, these three selected manuals represent the finest publications in terms of quality of photographs until the 1970s. They also present the greatest variety of martial arts techniques, and their content is described better than in the other martial arts publications listed above.

Choi Hong Hi [see, for example, 1965: 22] claimed that he combined the foot technique of *taekkyōn* with the hand techniques of karate.²¹ Some other leaders, such as Lee Won Kuk (Yi Won'-guk, 1907-2002)²² and Hwang Kee, also claimed in the retrospective that they studied *taekkyōn* in their youth [Moenig 2015: 42-43, 76]. Actually, it is a very common claim that taekwondo kicking techniques originated mostly from *taekkyōn*. For this reason and for spatial restrictions, this study

'hand fighting,') is a Chinese term for ancient Chinese boxing. Hwang confused the term to be of Korean origins and used it to represent (falsely) a genuine Korean martial art.

¹⁹ This book introduces next to "taekwon" judo, boxing, and, strangely, dancing.

²⁰ An English translation exists as well.

²¹ This was the first time that Choi tentatively stated this theory.

²² Yi, the founder of *Ch'ongdo Kwan* (Chung Do Kwan), was the most influential martial arts leader in Korea from 1944 until 1951.

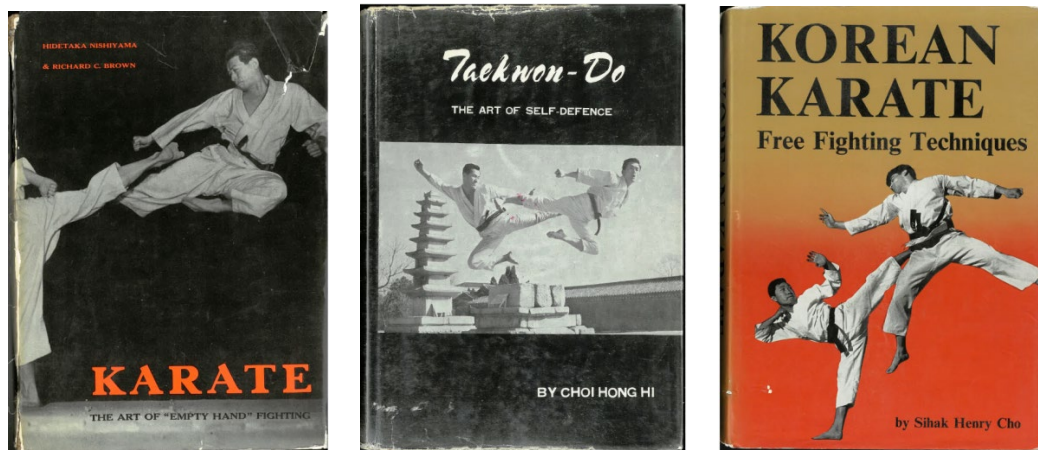


Figure 3. Selected textbooks for this study
Source: author

will focus on stances and kicking techniques. Moreover, kicking techniques are representative of the general image of taekwondo, since, much more than in any other martial art, kicking has been the primary focus of training activities and competitions. Similarities and possible differences of hand techniques displayed in these manuals will be also briefly discussed in the concluding section. If the established narrative that taekwondo was a product of ancient Korean martial arts (such as *taekkyōn* or *subak*, or some kind of blend between them and Chinese and/or Japanese martial arts) was true, at least some of the photographs in the early karate and taekwondo manuals should show some difference in the stances and kicking techniques in terms of posture (visual appearance) and variety of techniques.

All stances used in karate and taekwondo are identical until the early 1970s, and so are the bulk of the kicking techniques with some minor exceptions. The roundhouse-kick was executed only with the ball of the foot during this period. The instep roundhouse-kick did not exist yet in karate or early taekwondo. The spinning-back-kick (also often called ‘spinning-hook-kick’) appeared for the first time in taekwondo literature in 1965, displayed by Choi Hong Hi [1965: 88] and Yi Kyo-yun [1965: 43] in their respective publications. Therefore, the kick was possibly developed during the early 1960s. Likewise, the hook-kick appears in literature for the first time in 1968 [234-235] by Henry Cho. Neither kicking technique existed in early karate and they are possibly a Korean development, although a Japanese karate instructor claimed to have invented a kind of spinning-back-kick much earlier and it was “inspired by his Chinese boxing instructor” [Moenig 2015: 133]. Karate had comparatively the same range of kicking techniques as early taekwondo, which contradicts the often-made claims that Koreans had a wider range of kicking techniques or that karate did not have any high or jump kicks at that time [see, for example, Gillis 2008: 62-64]. Karate publications of the 1930s, such as the first edition of Funakoshi’s *Karate Do Kyohan*, indeed do not show any high or jump kicks,

and the range of kicking techniques is also very limited [Funakoshi 1935/2005]. However, in Funakoshi’s *Karate-do Nyūmon* of 1943 [Funakoshi 1943/1988], a high kick and jump kick are displayed. By 1957, in the revised edition of *Karate-Do Kyohan – The Master Text*, almost all of the kicking techniques are displayed or mentioned by name, similar to Nishiyama’s textbook. In addition, karate publications generally display more low kicks than Korean publications. In fact, except for Choi and Henry Cho, most of the other Korean publications of this period, such as Son Duk Song’s *Korean Karate The Art of Tae Kwon Do*, show only a very few kicking techniques; instead, they concentrate on hand techniques, forms training, and some self-defense techniques. Moreover, several of the Korean authors, such as Son [Son, Clark 1968], display images of rather poorly executed kicking techniques, especially, when compared with Nishiyama who was an adept kicker. What is more, with the exception of Choi Hong Hi, who started to develop his own set of forms, forms displayed in these publications are overwhelmingly Japanese karate *kata* with only a very few self-styled forms (see a complete list of all forms in [Moenig 2015: 208-2010; cf. Moenig *et al.* 2014; Moenig, Kim 2019]). Similar comparisons of stances and kicking techniques could be also made in all of these textbooks for hand techniques with the same result. There is no difference in posture or range of technique, and the various names (for the hand techniques) are also largely similar, regardless of language.

Only Hwang Kee, the founder of *Mudok Kwan*, shows some small differences in his publications because he lacked any formal karate instruction but learned *Shotokean* karate by himself out of Funakoshi’s books [Moenig 2015: 42-43, 72-73]. This was possibly also what inspired him to compile the first Korean martial arts textbook of the modern era. Initially, Hwang called his martial art, *hwasudo* (花手道 ‘way of the flower hand’), which is reflected in his textbook, *Hwasudo Kyobon*, of 1949. *Hwasudo* is a self-styled name, referring to the fictional

A Comparison of Stances and Kicking Techniques in Early Karate and Taekwondo Literature

The page numbers of the respective books and the various names (only in English, not the Japanese and Korean terms) used for the techniques by the respective authors are indicated below the photographs.

Formal Stances

Nishiyama's

Karate

(1960)



Informal attention stance (p. 55)

Choi's

Taekwondo

(1965)



Close stance (p. 37)

Cho's

Korean Karate

(1968)



Natural stances (p. 33)



Open leg stance (p. 55)











Open stance (p. 37)

(Presents several minor variations)

Figure 4. Formal stances

Basic Stances

Nishiyama's Karate (1960)	Choi's Taekwondo (1965)	Cho's Korean Karate (1968)
		
Forward stance (p. 57)	Forward stance (p. 38)	Forward stance (p. 35)
		
Back stance (p. 57)	Back stance (p. 39)	Back stance (p. 37)
		
Cat stance (p. 58)	Rear foot stance (p. 42)	Cat stance (p. 39)

(The partner originally shown in Cho's pictures is cut out.)

Figure 5. Basic stances 1

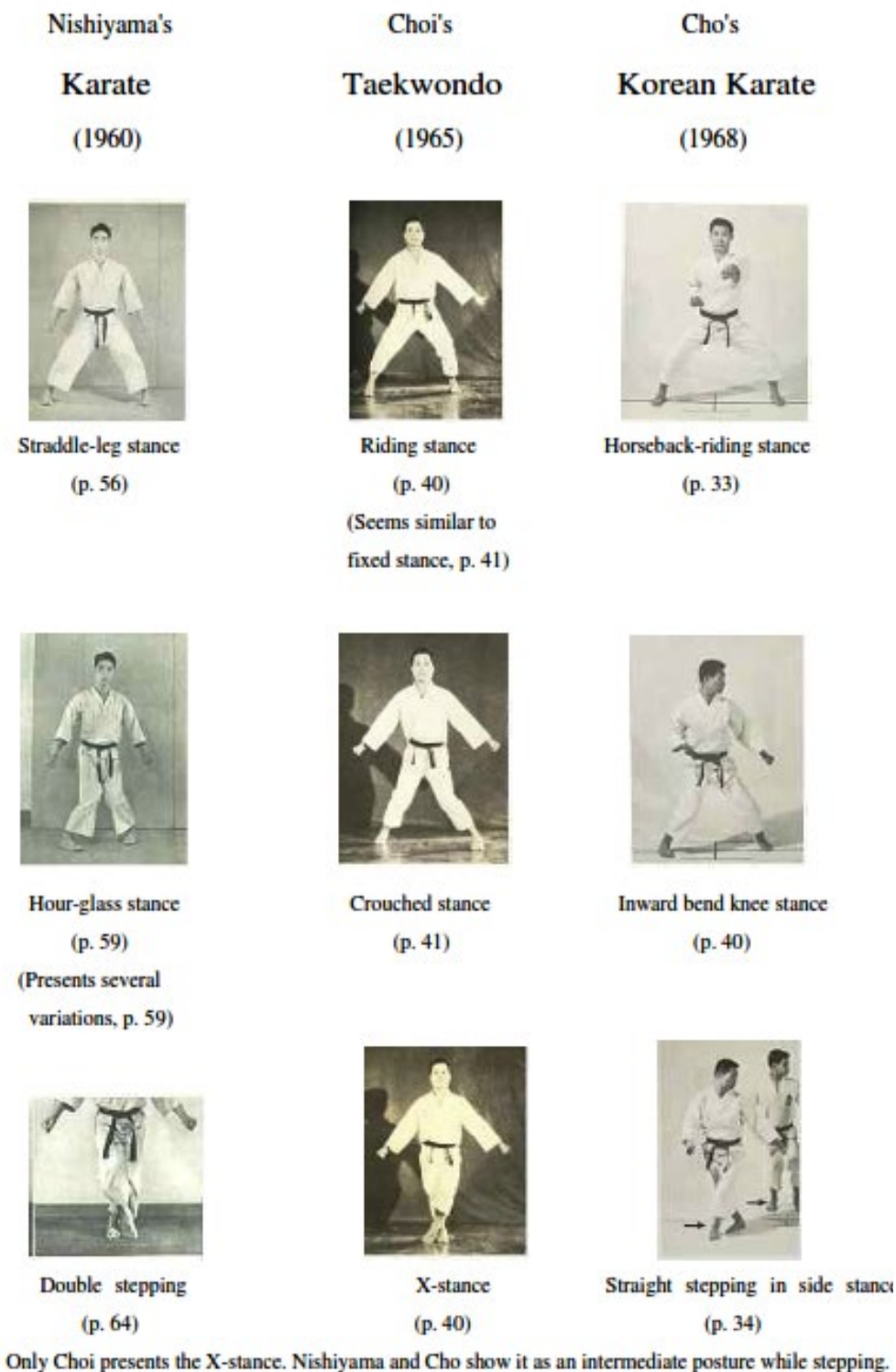


Figure 6. Basic stances 2



(p. 155)



Low stance
(p. 42)



Low stance
(p. 40)



Ready position in
semi-free one-blow
sparring (p. 182)

Absent



Free-fighting stance
(p. 45)

In addition, some of the authors offer some minor variations of the stances displayed above.

Nishiyama: Diagonal straddle-leg stance, p. 58, and wide hour-glass stance, p. 59.

Choi: Outer open and inner open stance, p. 37, one-leg stance (which can be found in Nihiyama's book too, forms, p. 156), fixed stance which seems to be similar to riding stance, p. 41, and back-low stance (similar to back stance), p. 42.

Cho: Short forward stance, p. 41.

Figure 7. Basic stances 3

Kicking Techniques

Nishiyama's
Karate
(1960)

Choi's
Taekwondo
(1965)

Cho's
Korean Karate
(1968)

Front-kick



Front kick
(p. 121)



Front snap kick
(p. 81)
(Shown also as groin kick
with instep, p. 81)



Front snap kick
(p. 122)
(presents thrust-kick
as variation)

Push-kick (simple)



Front thrust kick
(p. 121)



Checking kick
(p. 97)



Front-pushing kick
(p. 124)

Figure 8. Kicking techniques 1

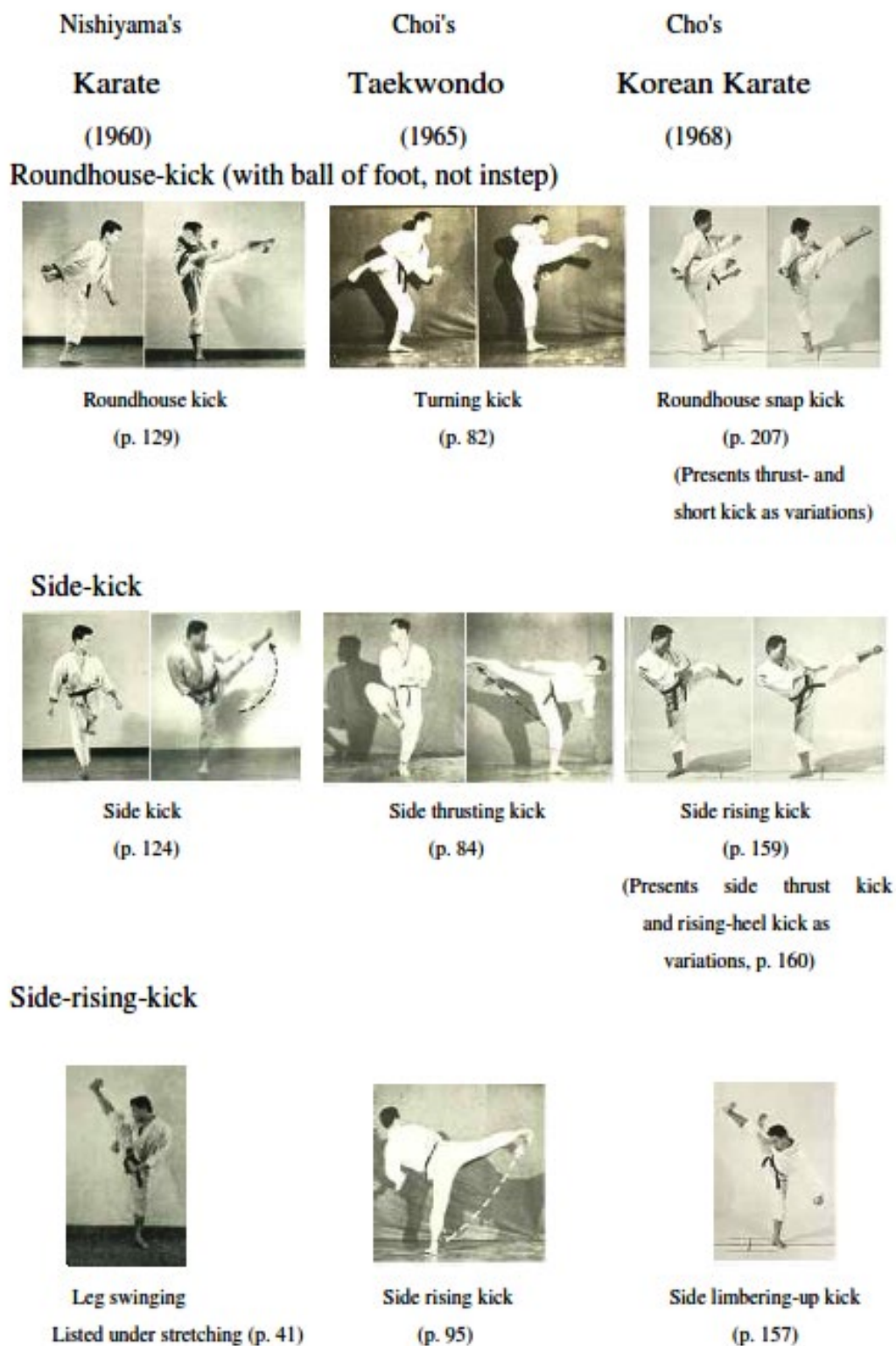


Figure 9. Kicking techniques 2

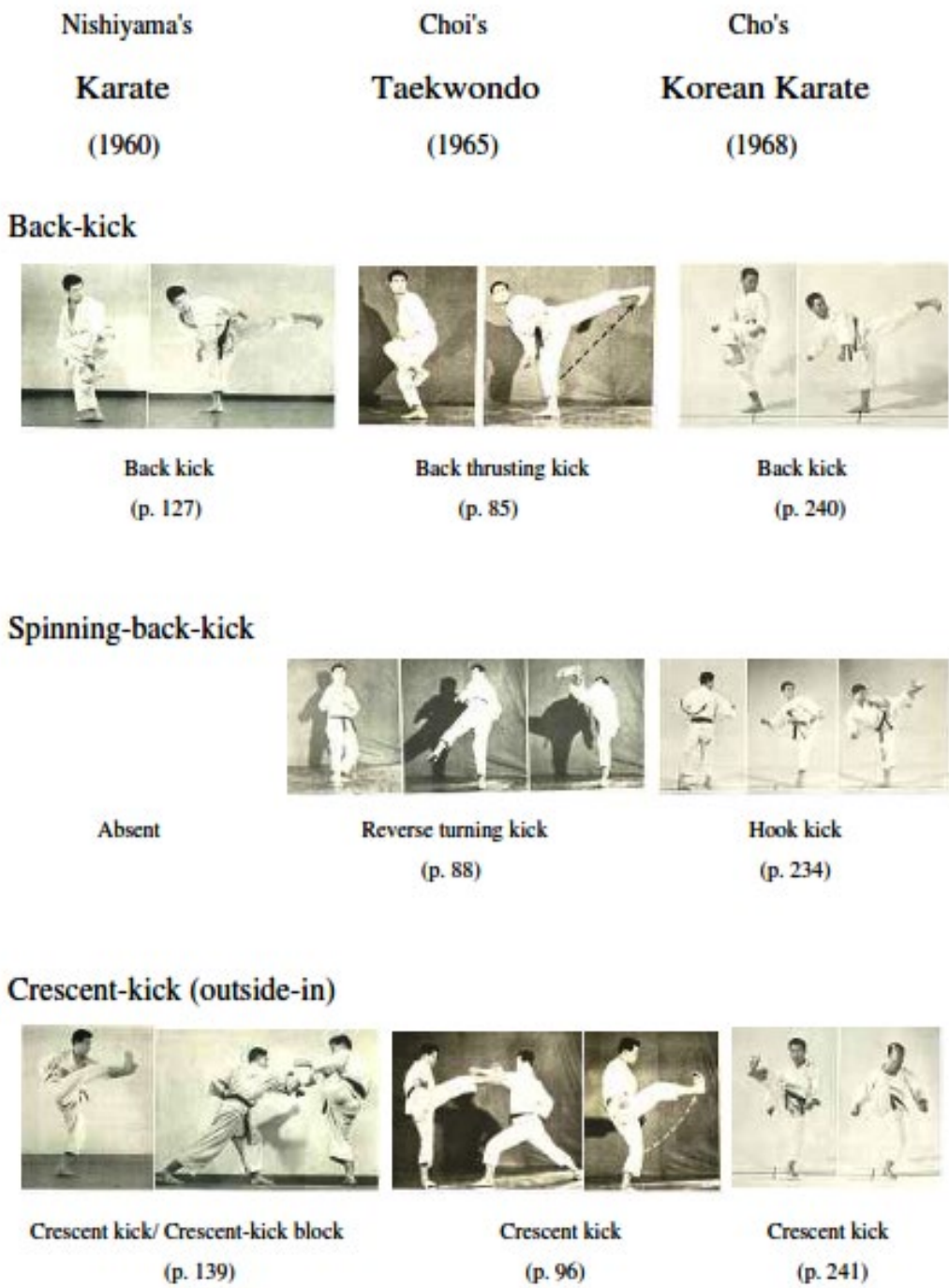


Figure 10. Kicking techniques 3

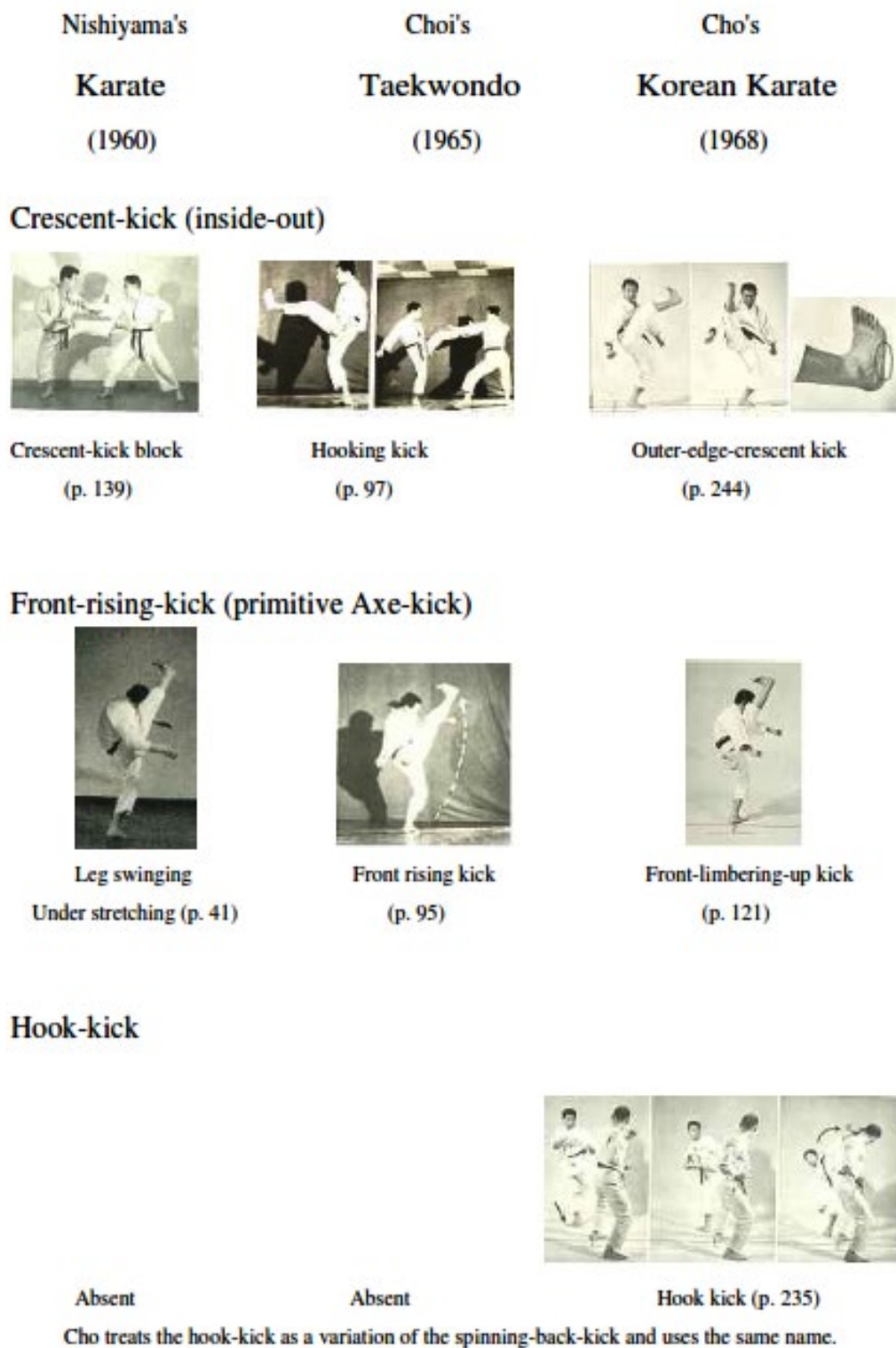


Figure 11. Kicking techniques 4

Jump-kicks

Nishiyama's

Choi's

Cho's

Karate

Taekwondo

Korean Karate

(1960)

(1965)

(1968)

Jump-front-kick



Flying front kick
(p. 134)

Flying front kick
(p. 89)

Flying front kick
(p. 127)

(Presents minor variations)

Jump-side-kick



Flying side kick
(p. 135)

Flying side kick
(p. 91)

Flying side kick
(p. 162)

(Presents minor variations)

Jump-roundhouse-kick

Absent



Flying turning kick
(p. 90)



Flying roundhouse kick
(p. 210)

Choi also shows a "Flying high kick," (92) which is a high front-kick, and a "Twin foot kick," (90), which is also mentioned by Funakoshi (1957, 23).

Figure 12. Jump-kicks

Low-kicks

Nishiyama's

Karate

(1960)



Twisting kick
(p. 133)



Rear stamping kick
(p. 133)



Outside stamping kick
(p. 133)

Choi's

Taekwondo

(1965)



Pressing kick
(p. 86)

(Shows a similar kick with the name: Twisting kick, p. 83)



Stamping kick (rear)
(p. 83)



Stamping kick (front)
(p. 83)

In addition, Choi displays a back snap kick to the groin, p. 83.

Cho's

Korean Karate

(1968)

Absent

Absent



Stamping kick
(p. 231)

Figure 13. Low-kicks

martial arts narrative of the Hwarang (花郎 flower boys) of the unified Shilla period (668-935 CE), combined with the karate term *tangsudoor* ‘way of the Tang hand’ (唐手道 Japanese: *karate-do*), [Moenig, Kim 2016]. In his 1949 publication, he introduces a single Chinese form, the *Sorim Changkwon* (少林長拳 Chinese: ‘*Shaolin Changquan*’ or ‘*Shaolin Long Fist*’) [Hwang 1949: 144-154] next to exclusively Funakoshi’s karate *kata*. Subsequently in 1958, however, Hwang illustrates only karate *kata* [Hwang 1958]. Moreover, he changed the name of his martial art to *tangsudo* (or *karate-do*). Apart from Hwang, in all of the combined other Korean martial arts publications of that period, no significant differences to contemporary or earlier Japanese karate publications are visible. A fundamental difference between taekwondo and karate publications only appears with Lee Chong Woo’s (Yi Chong-u, 1929-2015), *T’aegwondo Kyobon* (1972) when he for the first time introduced the new black belt, *P’algwae*, and *T’aegUk* forms, developed by the Korea Taekwondo Association during that period [Lee 1972].

Results

Overall, there exists no noticeable difference between karate and taekwondo in the combined early taekwondo literature in regard to stances, hand techniques, kicking techniques, and training activities, such as forms or self-defense training when comparing early taekwondo texts with contemporary or earlier karate publications. Naturally, there might be some differences in the actual execution of these techniques, which is, however, impossible to recreate and not part of this study. Moreover, many of the postures in the photographs analyzed for this study would also resemble certain Chinese martial arts when comparing such photographs side by side, since Okinawan karate, which was transferred to Japan during the early 1920, most likely originated in one form or another from Chinese martial arts. In addition, it is likely that some Japanese karate instructor(s) also traveled to China to get new inspirations from Chinese styles [McCarthy 2008: 78-85; Bittmann 1999: 151-155].²³ On the other hand, there is also a range of differences when comparing photographs of karate (especially the dominant *Shotokan* style) or early taekwondo to Chinese martial arts in terms of posture and variety of techniques. Any direct influence of Chinese martial arts on taekwondo is insignificant. Moreover, none of the content of Choi Hong Hi’s books or any of the other early Korean publications resembles any *taekkyon* technique in posture, language, or description [compare to Song and Pak 1983].²⁴ The often made

claim that taekwondo originated in some way or form from *taekkyon* can be laid to rest. There is no historical, philosophical, or practical relationship between taekwondo and *taekkyon* [Moenig *et al.* 2014; Moenig 2015: 13-33].

The taekwondo establishment desperately holds on to the fictional narrative that taekwondo is a product of ancient Korean martial arts. However, the physical evidence displayed in this study points overwhelmingly to the contrary. By sticking to their position the taekwondo establishment increasingly risks becoming a victim of denial and ridicule in the broader martial arts world. It is high time to modify the ‘official’ historical narrative of taekwondo’s origins as suggested in some publications [Capener 1995; Madis 2003; Moenig 2015], so that the taekwondo organizations and leadership can establish a proper legitimacy and gain more respect in the wider martial arts community [Bowman 2020].

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²⁴ This is the first *taekkyon* textbook.

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Wczesne koreańskie podręczniki sztuk walki: zarejestrowane dowody pochodzenia taekwondo od karate

Słowa kluczowe: Światowe Taekwondo (WT), Koreańskie Stowarzyszenie Taekwondo (KTA), Kukkiwon, podręczniki taekwondo, historia taekwondo

Streszczenie

Tłó. Różne organizacje taekwondo, takie jak Światowe Taekwondo (WT), poprzednio znane jako Światowa Federacja Taekwondo (WTF), Kukkiwon, Koreańskie Stowarzyszenie Taekwondo (KTA) i inne zrzeszenia taekwondo, szkoły i osoby prywatne, ogólnie utrzymują, że taekwondo jest rezultatem około 2000 lat ewolucji koreańskich sztuk walki lub swego rodzaju mieszkanką sztuk walki z Japonii, Chin i Korei. Z drugiej strony, w ciągu ostatnich dwóch dekad wiele publikacji podważało rozpowszechnioną, popularną narrację i twierdziło, że korzenie taekwondo wywodzą się głównie z japońskiego karate. Metoda. Metodologia tego artykułu obejmuje obszerny przegląd literatury dotyczącej wczesnych japońskich i koreańskich podręczników. Głównym celem i metodą tego badania było wizualne porównanie ilustracji. Kilka ważnych publikacji zostało wybranych jako próbki do porównania fotografii przedstawiających postawy i techniki kopnięć pomiędzy japońskimi i koreańskimi instruktorami.

Wyniki i wnioski. We wszystkich zestawionych publikacjach koreańskich sztuk walki z lat 1949-1972 nie można zauważyć istotnych kontrastów w zakresie obrazów i tekstu w stosunku do współczesnych lub wcześniejszych publikacji karate japońskiego.