



NOTICE

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Use of titles

Within Japanese ju-jitsu there are four distinct systems of recognising ju-jitsuka: *menkyo*, *dan-i*, *shogo* and other titles.

Menkyo

The *Menkyo* ('licence') system is the traditional Japanese method of progression in ju-jitsu. Promotion is by way of scrolls which allow the ju-jitsuka access to the next level of techniques, and licences which allow advanced ju-jitsuka to teach. This form of promotion is rare in modern ju-jitsu.

Dan-i

In 1883 Jigoro Kano, the founder of judo, divided his students into *mudansha* ('people without a grade') and *yudansha* ('people with a grade'). The *yudansha* were further divided into levels, known as *dan* ('step' or 'grade'), from *sho dan* ('first grade') to *ju dan* ('tenth grade'). This is known as the *Dan-i* system and is the most common system of recognising a person's expertise in modern ju-jitsu.

Shogo

The *Shogo* system was instigated by the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai about 1895. *Shogo* means 'title' and includes the three progressive titles: *Renshi* ('polished person'), *Kyoshi* ('person with philosophy') and *Hanshi* ('model person'). In most cases the award of a *shogo* title follows a thesis and practical demonstration of that thesis, and the consideration of the applicant's age and length of time in the martial arts. Only a select few institutions - such as Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, International Martial Arts Federation, All Japan Kendo Federation and All Japan Karate-do Federation - award *shogo*.

Other titles

Other titles used in ju-jitsu derive from forms of address in Japanese society. The *kohai* ('junior') - *senpai* ('senior') relationship is very important in Japanese life and it has been used by ju-jitsu for the relationship between less- and more-experienced practitioners. *Sensei* means 'one who was born before' and recognises a person of greater experience. It is a title given to professionals and academics, and in martial arts it is taken to mean 'teacher'. *Shihan* is a title used within the martial arts and means 'model teacher'.

Summary

Within Western ju-jitsu there appears to be some confusion as to the use of titles. Some attach *shogo* titles to certain *dan* ranks and seek to place them higher or lower than teaching titles. Mostly this demonstrates a lack of understanding of the various systems. *Shogo* titles are honorary titles that are rarely used by the holder of the title themselves. They also have little relevance to *dan* promotions. It should be noted that, in Japan, a person of any *dan* rank or *shogo* title will be addressed as *sensei* without offence and heads of ju-jitsu schools may accept the title *shihan*.

NZJJF's policy

At this time, NZJJF is able to assess *dan* grades for validity and reasonableness. However, it is unable to verify the various titles used by individuals and organisations. Therefore, NZJJF has determined that Members will be addressed in communications by name and *dan* rank only. This is not to cause offence but, rather, to avoid offending.