

## Japanese Writing for Kata names

(as used in Tani-ha Shito-ryu Karate-do Kofukan International)

Karate katas have been handed down from person to person and there is no document or record of origin or proper name for the majority of katas (most katas originated in China).

When Okinawan masters came to mainland Japan, they tried to make sense for Japanese people by using some Kanji (Chinese characters) of the same or similar pronunciation or creating new Japanese names.

So, these Kanji names are new creations and most of them are not the real names of origin. I understand the curiosity of people, but attempts to make a correlation between the meaning of a Kanji name and the content of the kata is nonsensical in most cases.

Some people say that the correct way to write kata names is using Katakana (Japanese phonetic writing for foreign words).

Firstly, I list the katas which I know are the correct Kanji names:

Shiho Sanshiki	(四方三式)
Roppo Hijiate	(六法肘当)
Pin'an	(平安)
Shodan	(初段)
Nidan	(二段 / 弐段) *left is modern writing and right is old writing
Sandan	(三段 / 参段) *left is modern writing and right is old writing
Yondan	(四段)
Godan	(五段 / 伍段) *left is modern writing and right is old writing
Sanchin	(三戦)
Tensho	(転掌)
Gekisai	(撃碎)
Ichi	(一 / 壹) *left is modern writing and right is old writing
Ni	(二 / 弐) *left is modern writing and right is old writing
Juroku / Seiru	(十六)
Matsukaze	(松風)
Aoyagi / Seiryu	(青柳)
Myojo	(明星)
Kosokun / Kusanku	(公相君)
Dai	(大)
Sho	(小)
Shiho	(四方)
Chatan'yara	(北谷屋良)

Useishi / Gojushiho	(五十四歩)
Seisan	(十三)
Seipai	(十八)
Sanseiru	(三十六)
Suparinpai	(壹百零八)
Niseishi	(二十四歩)
Unshu	(雲手)
Hakucho / Haffa	(白鳥)
Nipapo	(二十八歩)
Papuren	(八歩連)

All other kata names are of unknown origin so those kanji names are new creations. I write the katakana first, then the kanji used in Tani-ha Shito-ryu Kofukan:

Naihanchin	(ナイハンチン / 内歩進)
Bassai	(バッサイ / 抜砦)
Dai	(大)
Sho	(小)
Tomari	(泊)
Matsumura	(松村)
Jitte	(ジッテ / 十手)
Jiin	(ジイン / 慈允)
Jion	(ジオン / 慈恩)
Wanshu	(ワンシュウ / 腕秀)
Chinto	(チントー / 鎮東)
Chintei	(チンテイ / 鎮定)
Saifa	(サイファ / 最破)
Seienchin	(セイエンチン / 征遠鎮)
Shissochin	(シッソーチン / 師壯鎮)
Kururunfa	(クルルンファー / 来留破)
Wankan	(ワンカン)
Rohai	(ローハイ / 鷺牌)
Koshiki	(古式)
Annanko	(アンナンコー / 安南硬)
Shinpa	(シンパー / 審破)