

## ***Jūjutsu* and *jūdō*: Hungarian and international reflexes of some Japanese sports terms**

In dictionaries of the English language, the English version of the Japanese word *jūjutsu* appears in four different spellings: *jujutsu*, *jujitsu*, *jiujutsu*, and *jiujitsu*, sometimes embellished by a hyphen, too. The form *jiu-jitsu* — in which the hyphen only refers to the fact that the word was originally written with two Chinese characters — has also become a loanword in German (also spelt *Dschiu-Dschitsu*) and in French. On the other hand, the spelling of the Japanese word *jūdō* is *judo* in all three languages. (Note that the horizontal stroke standing for vowel length in the Romanised rendering is often omitted.) According to the orthographical rules of the syllabic *kana* script of the time — that continued to be in use until 1946 — *jū* was written with two syllabic characters, as *ji* + *u*. In three editions of James Curtis Hepburn’s excellent and highly popular Japanese–English dictionary, this word was spelt in three different manners: *jū-jutsz* (1<sup>st</sup> edition, 1867), *jū-jutsu* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1872), and *jūjutsu* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1886). In the Meiji period, another Romanisation in which the syllable *jū* was written as *jiu*, was also used. As far as *jutsu* is concerned, the phenomenon that *ju* is often pronounced as *ji* can still be observed in the Tokio dialect. Adding all that up (*jiu/ju* + *jutsu/jitsu*), we get the four spellings of the word *jūjutsu* mentioned above, less the hyphenated versions. It can be safely said that the spelling *jujitsu* that is the most frequently encountered version in present-day English can be attributed to the form that occurs in the Tokio dialect. The word *jūdō* became widely known abroad a couple of decades later than *jūjutsu*; it was especially after the outbreak of the Russian–Japanese war that serious interest began to be taken in it. The two words practically meant the same thing in those days. It was not only in English but also in German and French, etc. that the spread of the form *jiu-jitsu* was largely due to H. Irving Hancock’s books whose titles included this particular spelling. Similarly, Hungarian adopted the form *dzsiu-dzsiu*. Hungary played a pioneering role in the early history of the spread of the word *jūdō* in Europe, given that in 1906 Kichisaburō Sasaki taught a four-month course there at the initiative of Miklós Szemere, and in the next year his book entitled “Djudo” was published in Hungarian. That was probably the first book ever written in a language other than Japanese with the word *jūdō*, rather than *jūjutsu*, in its title.

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