

## **Abstract**

The subject of this thesis Symbolism in Korean martial art Taekwondo is the analysis of symbols appearing in the two largest Taekwondo Federations - ITF and WTF.

The first part introduces relevant semiotic theories, historical background, the emergence of taekwondo and its federations and a short biography of Ch'oe Honghŭi - one of the most important figures associated with this martial art.

The extensive second part presents a closer look on symbolism, language and visual signs and their development in the most common styles: ITF and WTF. From the language signs, due to their amount, are selected only those most frequently used. The visual signs are analyzed in detail, especially to bok uniform, flag and patterns. The conclusion is a comparison of the similarities and differences of the described symbols and signs and how these differences affect the possible future of Taekwondo.

## **Keywords**

Symbolism, Korean martial arts, Taekwondo, visual sign, Ch'oe Honghŭi, Korean history, Korean philosophy