Knowledge Structure of Offensive Action Pattern in Varsity Kendo Players

Motoki Okumura (University of Tsukuba)
Shigeru Yoshida (University of Tsukuba)

Abstract
The purpose of this study was to examine the knowledge of offensive action pattern in varsity Kendo players at three skill levels. Especially, we focused on the knowledge of Men attacking and its branch patterns which they have acquired and make use at the response selection stage. Data collection was carefully conducted with interview, questionnaires, and video recording to obtain whole knowledge of their action patterns and to observe the actual ways in their own attacking and the opponents' defending. Action-knowledge dendrograms were drawn through the quantitative analysis to search the styles of their knowledge structure. The results showed that the amount of stored pattern significantly increased with skill level, the number of processing step was about 3 in average in all groups, and the action-knowledge dendrograms indicated a matured knowledge structure with relation and variation in the skilled group. It was discussed that increase of the patterns and sub-knowledge facilitates making knowledge structure, the number of processing step is influenced by time pressure in offensive actions, and the structured knowledge of actions is necessary for skilled performance.

Key words: Kendo, offensive action patterns, skill levels, knowledge structure.