

Assignment 2 – Ontology

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Shotokan Karate Ontology

I chose to do my ontology on the basic components of Shotokan karate. There are three major parts of this martial art that I focused on. The first part was katas or the patterns of movement that are used as teaching aids and as pre-formed attacks. The second part was kihons or the basic movements that make up the whole style of Shotokan karate. Without the katas and the kihons practitioners would have no standard way to learn and preserve the Shotokan style. The third, but less focused on, part was sparring. Sparring is used to put the katas and the kihons into practice. Low ranking students are often not allowed to spar until they have learned at least some of the basics. This is for their safety and for the safety of others.

I limited my ontology to the katas, kihons, and sparring of the specific style of Shotokan, both because I knew it from experience and because including other styles would have made the ontology too extensive. There are many parts of Shotokan karate that I left out of my ontology, such as the relationships between the ranks, how tournaments are run, who the important figures in Shotokan are, and a whole host of other nuances that make up what Shotokan is as a martial art.