Abstract

One of Japanese cultures that has been known by most people in the world is, sumo. The wrestlers of sumo are not only from Japan, but also from other countries. Some of those foreign wrestlers surprised the sumo world by gaining prestigious achievement, such as being ozeki (second highest rank in makuuchi division) and yokozuna (grand champion).

Takamiyama, Konishiki, Akebono, Musashimaru, Kotooshu, and Hakuho are few of those foreign sumo wrestlers. Even though there are some disadvantages that could harm them by joining sumo, they keep doing on sumo and concentrating on their career. This research aims to describe what factors of attraction of sumo for the foreign wrestlers are, by using qualitative approach and analyzing the collected literatures. This research uses the concept of globalization and the concept of interest.

The conclusion of this research is, there are some factor of attractions of sumo that encourage the foreign sumo wrestlers to join in sumo. Those factors are geography, which is happened to sumo wrestlers from Hawaii because the position of Hawaii and Japan are in Pacific Ocean. It makes the influence of Japan could be delivered and understood by people in Hawaii. The second one is cultural factor, that sumo is known as Japanese culture and has its own cultural beauty for some foreign sumo wrestlers which makes them interested in sumo. There is also economic factor, that salary of sumo is considered more than enough for some wrestlers who need money for their daily life. The last one is factor of interest of the previous martial arts, that the wrestlers had been joining another martial art in advance before they found sumo as one of martial art. In their opinion, sumo has its own characteristic. All of those things make them interested to sumo and decided to join in sumo professionally, though there are some negative sides they get as foreign sumo wrestlers.

Keywords: Sumo, Foreign Wrestlers, Interest, Globalization