



## **The Depiction of Hand Symbols (In) in Animated Series Naruto: Shippuden Episode 375**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Naruto comics by Masashi Kishimoto are very popular comics. Besides Naruto comics are made in animated series films, and they are also available in the form of a game. Like the comics' success, the Naruto animated series films were made up of hundreds of episodes. In the Naruto series, the most dominant element appears, namely the hand symbol. The hand symbol as part of the Ninja moves becomes an important element in this film and becomes an attraction for Naruto fans. In each episode of Naruto, there are depictions of hand symbols, one of which is in the Shippuden episode 375. This study aims to classify the types of hand symbols depicted on the characters of the animated film Naruto Shippuden episode 375 and the point of view of the depiction through descriptive methods. Data were collected through literature and observations of the animated series Naruto Shippuden episode 375. Hand symbols were collected through screenshots and tabulated. The results show that there are four depictions of hand symbols on the six figures. The character is depicted with six depiction points of view so that it affects the depiction of the hand symbol.

Keywords: Hand Symbol, animation, Naruto, Angel, Japan.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Naruto animated series by Masashi Kishimoto is very well known and has been published in various countries and translated into various languages. This animated series tells the story of the character of Naruto who wants to become Hokage, a great leader in a ninja village, Naruto must go through various challenges and obstacles to become a great ninja. The Naruto animated series tells the main character's life whose full name is Uzumaki Naruto, a teenage ninja who always makes noise, is hyperactive, and ambitious (Arik Yudiawati, 2013). Hutchinson (2020) states "The pilot manga for Naruto, published in Akamaru Jump as a "one-



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shot” in 1997, introduced a young boy who could transform into a fox-spirit. Developing this idea into a full story, artist and writer Kishimoto Masashi decided to place his character in a ninja school setting. The protagonist Uzumaki Naruto must learn his craft and battle his rivals while trying to accept the truth of his own origins”. Naruto is told to practice techniques and practices in the field against enemies with weapons and use the powers of the ninja element, the ninja element as a move depicted in the form of a hand symbol by Masashi Kishimoto (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. One of hand sign in Naruto.  
Source: Hand Seal (2020)

In the story of the animated series Naruto, a ninja masters several martial techniques such as issuing a Jutsu or move. The sequence of procedures for issuing these moves is to focus the energy within, concentrate, then make a combination of several hand symbols called in by chanting a mantra. As stated by Hand Seal (2020), 印(In) or Hand Signs are used to perform many ninjutsu, genjutsu, and other secret arts other than taijutsu. Invented by Indra Ōtsutsuki, they are designed to aid people in properly summoning and moulding chakra necessary to perform a technique. The technique of the move with the symbol of the hand or chakra is described by the comic artist based on the reference.

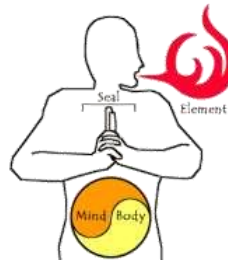


Figure 2. Depiction of the flow of ninja moves in Naruto animation.  
Source: leafninja.com

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The hand symbol in the Naruto animated series is the dominant element that appears. As an action comic genre, which is based on the story of Ninja, the movement of Ninjutsu which is a ninja technique that uses chakra to issue moves with certain elements related to it, Julyana Dewi (2015) states "This manga tells of Naruto's efforts to master Jutsu-Jutsu, to be able to carry out his duties as a ninja" so that in the Naruto storyline the hand symbol is one of the main elements depicted. The depiction of hand and hand symbols or what is referred to as in the Naruto animated series is very interesting to study as research on visual elements. There are 12 hand symbols in the Naruto animated film series and their combinations, the depiction of the hand symbol movements on each character is also with a hand cave and with one hand, also taking the point of view of the image affects the depiction of the hand symbol, such as the depiction of the Tora or tiger hand symbol will differ when described from the point of view of a mid-long shot with a high-level shot. Based on this, this study aims to classify the depiction of hand symbols contained in the animated series Naruto: Shippūden episode 375. Hand symbols as part of a technique or martial arts technique in Ninja are representative of Japanese cultural identity presented in the animated series Naruto, exploring the depiction of the hand symbol also expands Japanese culture through the animated series Naruto, as stated by

Hutchinson (2020) "Naruto can be used in a number of different ways: as a "Japanese culture" text, to learn about contemporary ideas of ninja and the representation of Japanese myth and legend in popular media; as a gender text, showing the expectations of the shōnen in their relation to the opposite sex, friends, and authority figures".

## **METHOD**

Classification of the depiction of hand symbols in the animated series Naruto: Shippūden episode 375 which was carried out using a descriptive method, hand symbols were collected from the Naruto animated film which was obtained through YouTube on the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BRRW36S4P0>. Data were collected through literature and observation. The data obtained were then tabulated and supplemented with screenshots showing the hand symbols of the shows and depictions of their point of view. With the classification of hand symbols, it is hoped that the types of hand symbols contained and their descriptions in Naruto: Shippūden episode 375 will be known.



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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The animated series Naruto is set in the ninja world, where life and the main profession in the story are centered on the ninja. In the story of the animated series Naruto, ninjas have their level, and to reach a higher level, an ability test is held to reach the level of a ninja and a ninja must master basic moves. One type of moves taught is to use a combination of hand symbols as the embodiment of move exits. The shape of the hand symbol (in) in this animation is very much due to the many types of ninja, ninja groups, ninja origin areas, or special ninja clans that have their moves. So, there are a lot of moves and hand combinations. One of the most important parts of ninjutsu in Naruto are the hand signs. For each special move, there is a different main hand sign, or multiple hand signs, that triggers the ability (Marceau, 2019). Of the many hand symbols, there are 12 basic hand symbols which are explained in one of the episodes (see Figure 3).

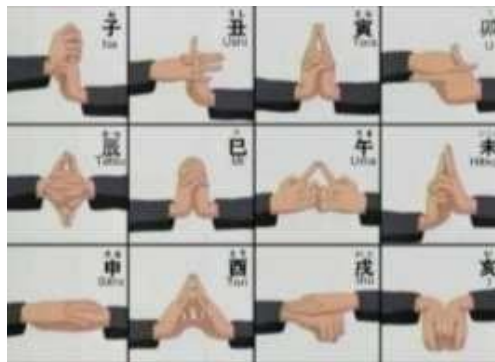


Figure 3. 12 Basic Hand Symbols in Naruto

Source: Snapshot from Naruto Shippuden Episode 28, TV Tokyo, September 13, 2007)

The twelve hand symbols represent the 12 Chinese zodiac signs (see Figure 4). Namely birds, dogs, dragons, horses, monkeys, buffalo, rats, snakes, pigs, tigers, rabbits, and sheep, in their scientific knowledge the twelve Chinese zodiacs have the natural elements that represent them, as stated by Marceau (2019) that “Each of the 12 basic hand signs takes inspiration from Chinese astrology. Also, quite a few of them are associated with specific nature releases and styles. For example, the Rooster or Bird hand sign is paramount in Wind Release ninjutsu. Between the hand motions and the meanings behind them, these signs can get pretty complex. The hand symbol movements found in the Naruto animated series can be seen in Table 1.



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Figure 4. 12 Symbols of the Chinese Zodiac  
Source: Hand Seal (2020)

**Table 1.** Basic Hand Symbols in Naruto

No	Hand Symbols					
1	Depiction					
2	Name	<i>Mi / Snake</i>	<i>Hitsuji/Sheep</i>	<i>I / Pig</i>	<i>Uma / Horse</i>	<i>Tora / Tiger</i>

As a comparison, the depiction of hand symbols in the animated series Naruto is also found in Japanese ninjas who use hand gestures as symbols. The hand symbol comes from Buddhist teachings that spread to Japan. In this regard, Bunce (in Devi, 2009) explains that the religion that existed in early Japan, namely Shinto, also joined Buddhism and created spiritual activities in Japan. Buddhism that entered Japan is called Mikkyou which means secret teachings. There are two types of hand symbols performed by Japanese ninja, namely Kuji-in and Kuji-Kiri. These hand symbols come from Mudra, namely the hand gestures on the Buddha statue (Hidayat, 2014).



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*Kuji-in* means nine hand symbols that have a function as a concentration of energy and thoughts (Hatsumi, 1981). This gesture of the hand symbol (see Figure 5) is very important for a Japanese ninja to master because their mission is not easy, and they must have extraordinary composure. Nine hand symbol is only so from the number of the other in if we follow the Mudra derived from Buddhism. While *Kuji-Kiri* is a movement such as cutting on 9 lines consisting of 5 horizontal and 4 vertical lines while doing the movement of chanting the existing mantras. In addition, five natural elements are related to each hand in the implementation of *Kuji-in*, namely the thumb hand which has an abstract element (empty), the index hand is bound to the air element, the middle hand is bound to the fire element, the third/sweet hand has the water element, and the little hand is the earth element (Lepine, 2006).

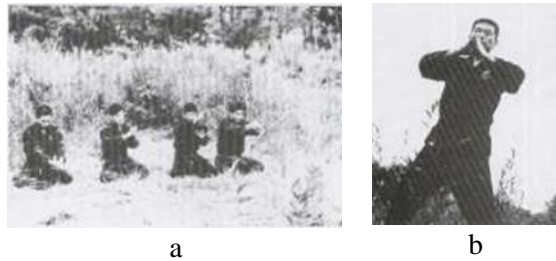


Figure 5. Movement of *Kuji-in* in Japanese Ninja  
Source: *Ninjutsu History and Tradition*, Masaki (1981)

## Classification of Hand Symbols in Naruto: Shippūden episode 375


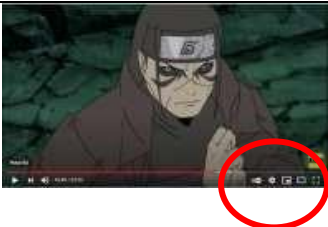


The animated series Naruto: Shippūden episode 375 with the title "Kakashi vs Obito" tells the fight between Kakashi and Obito, in the story the ET Hokage group arrived on the battlefield, team 7 reunited and Minato had Kyuubi mode, and Obito managed to become the jinchriki Juubi of the 10-tailed (Animes, 2021). Naruto: Shippūden episode 375 has a duration of 23 minutes 20 seconds, and 16 hand symbols appear. The symbols are classified based on the order in which they appear in the film, given the description of the character's name, hand symbol, and the point of view of the image. According to Alim (in Risata and Maulana, 2016) type of shoot is more associated with human objects, but this application also applies to other objects. Inclusion of information on the type of shooting in the table to determine the point of view of the depiction. The classification of hand symbol movements and their depiction can be seen in Table 2.



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**Table 2.** Classification of the depiction of hand symbols in Naruto: Shippūden episode 375









<b>Hand Symbols in Naruto: Shippūden episode 375</b>					
1	Snapshot in Scene 6:58		Snapshot in Scene 15:29		
					
	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha	Name of Character	Bunshin	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Close Up	Picture Point of View	High Level Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	Ne/rat	
2	Snapshot in Scene 7:03		Snapshot in Scene 16:11		
					
	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha	Name of Character	Tobirama	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Shot	Picture Point of View	Long Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	The Shadow Clone	
3	Snapshot in Scene 7:06		11	Snapshot in Scene 16:18	





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	Name of Character	Kakashi Hatake	Name of Character	Madara Uchiha	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Shot	Picture Point of View	Mid Long Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	
	Snapshot in Scene 8:54		Snapshot in Scene 16:29		
4		12			
	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha	Name of Character	Minato Namikaze	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Long Shot	Picture Point of View	Mid Long Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Tora/Tiger	Hand Symbol	The Shadow Clone	
	Snapshot in Scene 8:59		Snapshot in Scene 16:30		
5		13			
	Name of Character	Kakashi Hatake	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Shot	Picture Point of View	High Level Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	
	Snapshot in Scene 15:16		Snapshot in Scene 16:49		
6		14			
	Name of Character	Bunshin	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha	
	Picture Point of View	High Level Shot	Picture Point of View	Chanted Shot	
	Hand Symbol	Ne/Rat	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	
	Snapshot in Scene 15:09		Snapshot in Scene 16:53		
7		15			
	Name of Character	Madara Uchiha	Name of Character	Madara Uchiha	
	Picture Point of View	Mid Close Up	Picture Point of View	Mid Close Up	
	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	
8	Snapshot in Scene 15:24		16	Snapshot in Scene 17:09	



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Name of Character	Madara Uchiha	Name of Character	Obito Uchiha
Picture Point of View	Mid Shot	Picture Point of View	High Level Shot
Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram	Hand Symbol	Hitsuji/Ram

## CONCLUSION

There are 16 hand signs taken from 16 scenes that appear in the animated series Naruto: Shippūden episode 375. Of the 12 basic symbols, four symbols appear, namely Ne/rat, The Shadow Clone (double-cross from Hitsuji/Ram), Hitsuji/Ram, and Tora/Tiger. The depiction of hand symbols is also depicted from several angles of character depiction such as mid-closeup, mid-shot, long shot, mid-long shot, high-level shot, and chanted shot. From this, it can be concluded that in this episode there are four depictions of the types of hand symbols used by the six figures. The characters with the hand symbol are depicted in 6 different points of view. For the depiction with the point of view of the mid-shot and mid-long shot, the hand symbols are still clearly visible, while for the depiction with the point of view of Mid Close Up, HighLevel Shot, Long Shot and Chanted Shot, the hand symbols are not clear. The presentation of the hand symbol with a certain point of view in this episode affects how the hand symbol looks. As Marceau stated above that one of the most important parts of ninjutsu in Naruto are the hand signs.

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