

す もろ ま ひょうげん
■相撲から来た表現 Expressions from Sumo

The following expressions all originate from sumo.

や おちよう
八百長

This refers to a match or a competition, the result of which is set up beforehand. It comes from the story of や お や ちようべ え 八百屋の長兵衛 (Choubee the greengrocer) who also ran a sumo restaurant, and who would always deliberately lose an Igo game with the president of the Sumo Association to humour him.

し あい ぜったい や おちよう おも
「あの試合は絶対に八百長だと思う」

'I'm sure that that match was set up.'

むね か
胸を借りる

Literally 'to borrow someone's chest', this means you are given a workout by fighting a far superior opponent, as in sumo.

こんど し あい むね か
「今度の試合は胸を借りるつもりでがんばります。」

'We don't have a chance in this match, but we'll do our best and consider it as training.'

ひと すもう
人のふんどしで相撲をとる

ふんどし (loincloth) is here used as まわし . This means to get ahead by using the ability of others.

ひと すもう
独り相撲

Literally 'sumo wrestling with yourself' this refers to a situation in which someone struggles alone and makes a big fuss with little result.

ドジ

In the Edo Period there was an expression 「^{どじ}土地^ふを踏む」 which referred to a wrestler stepping outside the sumo ring. It has now become 「^{どじ}ドジ^ふを踏む」 which means to make a blunder. The word is also used to refer to a person who blunders.

「あいつは^{ほんとう}本当にドジなやつだな」

'That guy is a real bungler.'

■^{とく}取り組みの^{ことば}言葉 Language used in bouts

ひがし vs にし 東 vs 西

In Sumo tournaments, all wrestlers are divided into two groups, ^{ひがし}東 (East) and ^{にし}西 (West), and enter from either corner. Before each match the ^よ呼び出し^だ(ring attendant) calls out the names of the competing wrestlers, drawing out his words.

「ひがーしー、むさしーまーる、にーしー、たかのーはーなー」

はっきよい、のこった

These phrases are yelled out by the ^{ぎょうじ}行司 (referee) during a match. 「はっきよい」(はっけよい is sometimes used but is not officially correct is said to be an abbreviation from ^{はっき}発^き揮^{よう}揚^{よう}々, which means 'lively, with vigour'.

「のこった」(literally 'it remains') is used to indicate that the fight is not over yet so the wrestlers have to fight.

■^し四^こ股^な名の^{かんじ}漢字 Kanji in rikishi names

Each sumo wrestler has his own ring name or ^し四^こ股^な名. This name usually includes kanji which has the connotation of 'big' or 'strong'. ^{うみ}海 (ocean) and ^{やま}山 (mountain) are very common in

wrestlers' names. Other examples are 龍 (dragon), 力 (power), 島 (island), 波 (big wave), 富士

(Mt. Fuji). The other part of the name usually indicates the 部屋 (stable) to which the wrestler

belongs. This is derived from the ring name of the 親方 (stable master), with names such as

貴 琴千代 . The kanji in the name of the Mongolian champion 朝青龍 comes from the 四股

名 of his master. Sometimes the name of a wrestler's hometown or his real name is used. The

kanji or kana 乃 , 之 , 乃 (all are equivalents of the particle) often connects these parts to form a single name.

Make your own 四股名 !

eg. ジョン乃山、金ノ海、ボンダイ龍、貴乃港 (港 = harbor)

日本の格闘技ブーム

(Martial Arts Boom in Japan)

Recently martial arts have been enjoying a boom in Japan. The main current of this boom is

called 総合格闘技 or mixed martial arts, in which athletes from various martial arts of the

world fight together. As well as contestants from pro-wrestling, karate, kickboxing and so on,

there are also former sumo 横綱 and Olympic 柔道 gold medallists. Stadiums where these

tournaments take place such as Tokyo Dome, which accommodates over 55000 people, are always full, with young women among the enthusiastic fans.

K-1 is one of the most popular mixed martial arts in Japan, in which contestants of full-contact martial arts from all over the world such as karate, kickboxing, Tae Kwon Do and Muay Thai fight together. Australian kickboxer Stan 'The Man' and karate champion Sam Greco have also taken part in this tournament.

PRIDE (<http://www.pridefc.com/>) is the most popular 'ValeTudo' (anything goes) type of tournament, which includes a wide variety of martial arts such as Brazilian jujitsu.

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