

Re: Query: Use of WO where DE is expected.

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- *From:* Bart Mathias <mathias@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 14 Jul 2006 15:14:55 -1000
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mirror wrote:

Hello,

In Jack Halperin's big kanji dictionary on page 30 for the entry I (as in `igai' and irai') is...

"Kogatana o motte korosu." (to kill [a person] with a knife)

This is an odd usage of the particle O. I would have expected DE here, since O seems to say "to kill a knife". Can anybody help me understand this idiom?

You're skipping the "motte" = "holding." Usually when someone who is holding a knife kills someone else, it's a case of killing with a knife.

"-o motte" is a long-winded way of saying "-de." You will probably encounter "-de motte" from time to time. I'll not try to explain that one.

Bart

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