

VIII. LANGUAGE

A. LANGUAGE STUDIES

Apart from the intrinsic interest of all words, and especially those concerned with sexual behavior, the study of language offers a number of valuable perspectives for the understanding of homosexuality. The structure of vocabulary employed by the larger society to describe homosexuality, whether the terms be of learned or slang origin, belongs broadly to the apparatus of social control, and stands over against the body of words created, adopted, and adapted by homosexuals themselves, which reflect, however incompletely, a tendency of resistance to control. Moreover, the meaning of words alters over time, and these semantic changes can be used--with all due caution--to monitor shifting patterns of conceptualizing and stereotyping. The existence of homosexual vocabularies in the various languages offers considerable vistas for cross-cultural comparison--though at present only the classical and modern European languages have been examined in this light. Much work of all sorts--lexical, semantic, and sociolinguistic--remains to be done among the languages not influenced by the classical tongues of Europe.

2421. ADAMS, J. N. **The Latin Sexual Vocabulary.** London: Duckworth, 1982. 272 pp.

A major contribution to the study of Latin semantics, metaphor, and the definition of words. Treats the semantic fields of penis, female genitalia, sexual acts, and (concisely) anus/rectum. For more detail on the last topic, see his "'Culus,' 'Clunes' and Their Synonyms in Latin," *Glotta*, 59 (1981), 231-64.

2422. ARANGO, ARIEL C. **Las malas palabras.** Buenos Aires: Legasa, 1983. 223 pp.

Psychoanalytically oriented study of taboo words; international rather than purely Hispanic emphasis.

2423. ASHLEY, LEONARD R. N. "Kinks and Queens: Linguistic and Cultural Aspects of the Terminology for Gays," *Maledicta*, 3:2 (Winter 1979), 215-56.

Witty, but somewhat impressionistic collage of characteristic expressions in American and British slang. See also his: "Lovely, Blooming, Fresh and Gay: The Onomastics of Camp," *ibid.*, 4:2 (1980), 223-48; and "Dike Dictum: The Language of Lesbians," *ibid.*, 6 (1982), 123-62.

2423A. BARON, DENNIS. **Grammar and Gender.** New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986. 249 pp.

Historical notes on such questions as the search for a

gender-neutral third person singular pronoun, the origin of Ms., and changes in occupational names prompted by feminism.

2424. CHAUTARD, EMILE. **La vie étrange de l'argot**. Paris: Denoël et Steele, 1931. 720 pp.

"Comment ils aiment" (pp. 155-393) contains an extensive vocabulary of sexual expressions from the slang of the French criminal underworld. Still other terms are scattered throughout the volume. An "Index alphabétique" appears on pp. 685-720.

2425. CORY, DONALD WEBSTER (pseud. of Edward Sagarin). "The Language of the Homosexual," **Sexology**, 32:3 (1965), 163-65.

Comments on the use of the sublanguage as a device for reinforcing social solidarity among its users, with a short glossary. A longer lexicon--about 80 items--appears in his (with John P. Leroy): **The Homosexual and His Society** (New York: Citadel, 1963), 161-66. See also Sagarin, **The Anatomy of Dirty Words** (New York: L. Stuart, 1962), pp. 109-12.

2426. COUROUVE, CLAUDE. **Vocabulaire de l'homosexualité masculine**. Paris: Payot, 1985. 248 pp.

Precise and richly documented essays on 74 key words in the French language for male homosexuality, with many insights on French history and literature. About 1000 source citations are included. Appendices of texts; bibliography; index. See also his "Aspects of Male Love in the French Language," **Gay Books Bulletin**, no. 7 (1982), 13-14; and "The Word 'Bardache,'" *ibid.*, no. 8 (1982), 17-19.

2427. DAHLSTEDT, KARE-HAMPUS. "Spraksituationen i Norden," **Nordisk utredningsserie**, 32 (1975), 19-30. On minority speech, including gay speech, in Scandinavia.

2428. DYNES, WAYNE. **Homolexis: A Historical and Cultural Lexicon of Homosexuality**. New York: Scholarship Committee, Gay Academic Union, 1985. 177 pp.

A series of essays on historical semantics intended chiefly as a contribution to the history of ideas (and of ideology), though information is given on more than 600 words, including their sources in other languages. Annotated bibliography; index of words.

2429. FÉRAY, JEAN-CLAUDE. "Une histoire critique du mot homosexualité," **Arcadie**, no. 325 (January 1981), 11-21; no. 326 (February 1981), 1150-24; no. 327 (March 1981), 171-81; and no. 328 (April 1981), 246-58.

Traces the German origins and diffusion of the term "homosexual(ity)," with useful references.

2430. FISCHER, EDITH. **Amor und Eros: eine Untersuchung**

des Wortfeldes "Liebe" im Lateinischen und Griechischen. Hildesheim: Gerstenberg, 1973. 83 pp.
Philological study of Greek and Latin words for "love."

2431. GALLI DE' PARATESI, NORA. **Le brutte parole: semantica dell'eufemismo.** Milan: Mondadori, 1969. 221 pp.

Study of linguistic substitution and censorship, particularly in the sexual sphere (see esp. pp. 132-36). Bibliography; index of expressions.

2432. GRAHN, JUDY. **Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds.** Boston: Beacon, 1984. 325 pp.

While the personal narrative of this popular book is lively and sometimes moving, as a contribution to philology and historical semantics it is fanciful and unreliable (as seen in the absurd derivation of the word "dyke" from Queen Boudicca).

2433. GUIRAUD, PIERRE. **Le jargon de Villon, ou le gai savoir de la coquille.** Paris: Gallimard, 1968. 326 pp.

Advances a controversial argument interpreting the obscure language of Francois Villon's (b. 1431) six Ballades as being written (at one level) in homosexual argot. For another speculative contribution to this period, see: Ida Nelson, **La sottie sans souci: essai d'interprétation homosexuelle** (Paris: Champion, 1977).

2434. HENDERSON, JEFFREY. **The Maculate Muse: Obscene Language in Attic Comedy.** New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975. 251 pp.

Of limited value: scants homoerotic material and is sometimes unreliable for what it does contain.

2435. HILLER, KURT. "Zur Frage der Bezeichnung," **Der Kreis**, 14:8 (1946), 2-6.

Proposes the terms **Androtrope** and **Gynäkotrope** for the male and female homosexual respectively.

2435A. HOLZINGER, HERBERT. **Beschimpfung im heutigen Französisch: Pragmatische, syntaktische und semantische Aspekte.** Salzburg: Universität, 1984. 292 pp. (dissertation)

Contemporary French insults as found in novels and cartoons; includes the semantic field **pede**.

2436. JOHANSSON, WARREN. "The Etymology of the Word 'Faggot,'" **Gay Books Bulletin**, no. 6 (1981), 16-18, 33.

Definitive study of this controversial term, showing that it is an American slang use of the British dialectal word **faggot**, a contemptuous term for a fat, slovenly woman, and has nothing to do with the supposed burning of sodomites at the stake in medieval England.

2437. KAHANE, HENRY, and RENEE KAHANE. "Romano-Aegyptiaca: I. The Stone **peridot**," **Romance Philology**, 14 (1961), 287-89.
Peridot, at present a designation of the chrysolite and olivine, derives from the Greek **paideros**, "boy love."
2438. KRAMARAE, CHERIS, and PAULA A. TREICHLER. **A Feminist Dictionary**. Boston: Pandora, 1985. 588 pp.
A resolutely engage work, mingling exhortation and feminist assertion with fact. Some will question the assumption that there are two entirely different genres of dictionaries, one for men and the other for women, as implying a cognitive dichotomy of all human experience. Useful for the numerous quotations.
2439. MEÏLAKH, MIKHAIL. "L'argot de la subculture homosexuelle en Russie," **Spirales**, no. 12 (February 1982), 10-11.
Soviet scholar's summary of his research on Russian homosexual slang in the USSR, which may never be published in full because of his arrest.
2440. NEVIS, JOEL A. "Gai, Gei, Homo, and Homoseksuali in Finnish," **Maledicta** 8 (1984-85), 158-60.
Difficulties of integrating the international vocabulary into Finnish.
2441. OPELT, ILONA. **Die lateinische Schimpfwörter und verwandte sprachliche Erscheinungen**. Heidelberg: Winter, 1965. 283 pp.
In this study on terms of abuse in Latin, see pp. 122, 155, 174-75, 228, 260, 264.
2442. RICHLIN, AMY. "The Meaning of **irrumare** in Catullus and Martial," **Classical Philology**, 76 (1981), 40-46.
On the Latin expression for active buccal thrusts during fellation. See also her book: **Garden of Priapus**. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983).
2443. ROBERTS, J. R. "In America They Call Us Dykes: - Notes on the Etymology and Use of 'Dyke,'" **Sinister Wisdom**, no. 9 (Spring 1979), 3-11.
Offers a plausible explanation, based on conventions of dress. Reprinted in E. Shore (ed.) **Alternative Papers** (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982), pp. 313-17. See also R. A. Spears, below.
- 2443A. SPEARS, RICHARD A. "On the Etymology of **Dike**," **American Speech** 60:4 (1985), 318-27.
Canvases a broader range of possibilities than J. Roberts (above), suggesting that the word may be a clipped form of "bulldike" and its variants.
2444. STONE, CHARLES. "The Semantics of Gay," **Advocate**,

no. 325 (September 3, 1981), 20-22.
Suggests that the outrage expressed by pop grammarians at the purported "kidnapping" of the word **gay** (in contrast to their silence vis-a-vis **pansy**, **fruit**, and **fairy**) reflects their discomfort in seeing homosexuals manifest their own power. See also: Scott Tucker, "The Power of Naming," **Christopher Street**, no. 58 (1982), 60-63.

B. DICTIONARIES AND GLOSSARIES

Dictionaries and word lists that are useful in studying homosexual words are of two kinds: general and specialized (erotic). While older dictionaries tend to restrict coverage of sexual words, there are exceptions, and in any case it is often necessary to examine the older works in order to trace the development of current terms.

2445. ALMEIDA, HORÁCIO DE. **Dicionário de Termos Eróticos e Afins**. Second ed. Rio de Janeiro: Civilização Brasileira, 1981. 285 pp.

Brazilian-Portuguese sexual vocabulary, including some local Brazilian dialect terms; occasional source citations from other dictionaries and novels.

2446. BARDIS, PANOS D. "A Glossary of Homosexuality," **Maledicta**, 4:1 (1980), 59-64.

Modest roster of 46 terms, ostensibly chosen because of their rarity.

2447. BLONDEAU, NICOLAS. **Dictionnaire érotique latin-français**. Paris: Liseux, 1885. 152 pp.

Blondeau's manuscript, which was completed in the 17th century, contains much material of value in deciphering Renaissance erotic poetry.

2448. BORNEMAN, ERNEST. **Sex im Volksmund: der obszöne Wortschatz der Deutschen**. Reinbek bei Hamburg: Rowohlt, 1974. 2 vols.

Dictionary of contemporary German sexual slang, particularly rich in the language of prostitutes. Vol. 1 presents the words in alphabetical order; vol. 2 offers a thematic classification in the manner of Roget's Thesaurus.

2449. BOSWORTH, JOSEPH, and T. NORTHCOTE TOLLER. **An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary**. London: Oxford University Press, 1898. 1302 pp.

See pp. 65 (**baeddel**, **baedling**); and 1156 (**waepen-wifestre**) all defined as "hermaphrodite." According to most authorities, the first two are the origin of the modern English word "bad." See also the 1921 **Supplement** to the work, where (p. 61), **baedling** is defined as "an

effeminate person."

2450. BURNADZ, JULIAN M. **Die Gainersprache der Wiener Galerie.** Lubeck: Verlag für polizeiliches Fachschrifftum Georg Schmidt-Romhild, 1966. 124 pp.
A lexicon of the argot of the Viennese criminal underworld. Unlike many previous glossaries in this field, it is rich in terms for male and female homosexuality, since "in the underworld everything in the last analysis turns around easily acquired money and (much of the time perverted) sexuality." Compare: Max Pollak, "Wiener Gainersprache," *Archiv für Kriminal-Anthropologie und Kriminalistik*, 15 (1904), 171-237.
2451. CANTAGALLI, RENZO. **Con rispetto parlando: semantica del doppiamento.** Milan: Sugar, 1972. 239 pp.
Dictionary of common Italian double-entendre terms (see e.g., the entries for *bagascia*, *bardascia*, *checca*, *finocchio*, *frocione*, *zia*).
2452. CARADEC, FRANCOIS. **Dictionnaire du français argotique et populaire.** Paris: Larousse, 1977. 251 pp.
Practical and up-to-date lexicon of French vernacular, essential for contemporary French studies. See also: Rene James Heraïl and Edward Lovatt, *Dictionary of Modern Colloquial French* (Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1984; 327 pp.); and Emile Chautard, *La vie étrange de l'argot* (Paris: Denoël et Steele, 1931: 720 pp.).
2453. DELVAU, ALFRED. **Dictionnaire érotique moderne, par un professeur de langue verte.** Brussels ["Free-town"]: Gay, 1864. 320 pp.
This pioneering dictionary of taboo words, several times enlarged and reprinted, is with its quotations from the erotic classics an archetypal work in the genre.
2454. DE MAURO, TULLIO. "Lessico dell'omosessualità," in: Riccardo Reim et al., **Pratiche innominabili.** Milan: Mazzotta, 1979, pp. 98-112.
Despite De Mauro's established reputation, this word list is insufficient and unreliable; it will be replaced by a major work by Giovanni Dall'Orto in preparation.
- 2454A. ENDT, ENNO, and LIENEKE FRERICHS. **Bargoens woordenboek.** Revised ed. Amsterdam: Bakker, 1986. 193 pp.
Glossary of current Dutch urban slang with many entries for homosexuals and lesbians.
2455. FARMER, JOHN STEPHEN. **Vocabula amatoria: A French-English Glossary.** New York University Books, 1966. 268 pp.
Reprint of the 1903 edition, when it appeared as vol. 8 of Farmer and W. E. Henley's classic *Dictionary of Slang and Its Analogues, Past and Present*. This vol., assembled