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.

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 "'Culis,' 'Clunes' and Their Synonyms in Latin," Gliotta, 59 (1981), 231-64.

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


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.


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.


2430. FISCHER, EDITH. *Amor und Eros: eine Untersuchung*
Study of linguistic substitution and censorship, particularly in the sexual sphere (see esp. pp. 132-36). Bibliography; index of expressions.

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).

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 sortie sans souci: essai d'interprétation homosexuelle* (Paris: Champion, 1977).

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

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

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

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.
Peridot, at present a designation of the chrysolite and olivine, derives from the Greek paideros, "boy love."

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.

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.

Difficulties of integrating the international vocabulary into Finnish.

In this study on terms of abuse in Latin, see pp. 122, 155, 174-75, 228, 260, 264.


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.

Canvasses 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) re-
fl ects 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
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-
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:
Dictionary of contemporary German sexual slang, partic-
ularly 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 Thes-
saurus.

2449. BOSWORTH, JOSEPH, and T. NORTHCOTE TOLLER. An
Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. London: Oxford University
See pp. 65 (baeddl, 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 Supplemen
to the work, where (p. 61), baedling is defined as "an
effeminate person."

2450. BURNAZ, JULIAN M. Die Gaunersprache der Wiener 
Galerie. Lubeck: Verlag für polizeiliches Fach-
A lexicon of the argot of the Viennese criminal under-
world. 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 
Gaunersprache," Archiv für Kriminal-Anthropologie und 
Kriminalistik, 15 (1904), 171-237.

2451. CANTAGALLI, RENZO. Con rispetto parlando: seman-
Dictionary of common Italian double-entendre terms (see 
e.g., the entries for bagascia, bardascia, checca, finoc-
chio, frocione, zia).

2452. CARADEC, FRANCOIS. Dictionnaire du français 
251 pp. 
Practical and up-to-date lexicon of French vernacular, 
essential for contemporary French studies. See also: 
Rene James Herail 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 ["Freep-
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 inominabili. 
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, 
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 
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