

Collected weirdly words and phrases pertaining to the use and unusual undulations of language, plus indented incidentally inspired meanderings from mine own mind

hapax legomenon

A word that occurs only once within a context, either in the written record of an entire language, in the works of an author, or in a single text.

codex phenomenon?
sui generic, singularic
astronomically sans synonymically
stature ironic,
synaptic capture iconic,
master of thine phonics

nonce word

A lexeme created for a single occasion to solve an immediate problem of communication.

sine qua non of yon lexicon
the nonce wants not; squats atop the logical chopping block
quincunx and cumquats
not quants
an onslaught brought on by a long con

hypocoristic

A nickname but: not shorter — often longer, in fact! From the Greek *hypokorizomai*: "I speak in the language of children".

supercalihypocoristicexpialadocious
(this is it: a hypocoristic for hypocoristic, to be specific)

cryptophasia

A secret language shared by twins. From the Greek "kryptós", meaning hidden, and "phánai", to speak. See also: "idioglossia" (secret language), "Eigensprache" (twin talk), and "autonomous language".

ipso facto
fantasia
presto chango
phase change of a named sage
listful, bashful
Bashō

amphigory

A nonsense verse. Specifically, a poem designed to look and sound good, but which has no meaning upon closer reading. The term 'amphigory' could be applied to large segments of modern poetry, except that its authors probably actually believe that what they are writing is something other than a meaningless trifle.

twoddled minst yod whibsy vims thim amphigory breeshes
cloghst whan fjusted rembic trams thon rahmsignory sweeshes

boustrophedon

Of writing, alternating left to right then right to left. Not a word with a great deal of utility, unless you study ancient inscriptions, but very descriptive. I like the metaphor of an ox ploughing the field back and forth from one direction to the other.

I designate this verse of mine
rhymes alternating time
This line proceeds from left to right
lines even thus unwind

enchoridion

A book carried in the hand for reference, especially one used for music or theology. Etymologically, it's a book that is meant to be able to be carried in one's hand, which today probably encompasses most books, but, ironically enough, not all 'handbooks'. What a strange language we have ...

enchoridion?
prime (rhyme) meridian?
verse quotidian?
mode is lydian?
stone's obsidian?

incunabulum

An early printed book; an early version or stage; the cradle or birthplace of something. While initially (and still occasionally) used today to refer to the books printed at the dawn of the printing press (prior to 1500), it can also be used in other, more general senses, with great usefulness today. For instance, we might call Project Gutenberg an incunabulum of the Internet.

the incunabulum of wisdom is awareness
the incunabulum of understanding is an inkling
the incunabulum of love is a glance that lingers

Fragmented dictionary of alphabetized accumulations curated largely from The Phrontistery, foremost fount of wordly wonder, and other such lexicographical lists and repositories

A

aerolith

Stone that falls from the sky; meteorite.

aeviternity

Eternal existence.

aleatory

Dependent on chance, luck, or an uncertain outcome.

amaranthine

Immortal; undying; deep purple-red colour.

antichthon

Hypothetical second Earth on the opposite side of the sun.

aporia

A figure in which the speaker professes to be at a loss what course to pursue, where to begin to end, what to say, etc.

arctogaean

Of the arctic regions of the earth.

B

bathos

In speech or writing, a ludicrous descent from sublime to commonplace; anticlimax.

C

charrette

An intense period of design or planning activity.

clinamen

An inclination or a bias (originally: Lucretius' term for the unpredictable swerve of atoms).

commuovere

(Italian, verb)

Often taken to mean "heartwarming", but directly relates to a story that moves you to tears.

D

daedal

Intricate; skillful, artistic; adorned with many things.

delenda

Things to be blotted out or erased.

dialogismus

Speaking as someone else, either to bring in others' points of view into one's own speech, or to conduct a pseudo-dialogue through taking up an opposing position with oneself.

E

eclipsareon

Astronomical toy used to show phenomena of solar and lunar eclipses.

ecmnesia

Loss of memory of the events of a specific period.

eidetic

Of, pertaining to, or constituting visual imagery vividly experienced and readily reproducible with great accuracy and in great detail.

ergodic

In literature, refers to a text that requires nontrivial effort to traverse.

eunoia

'Well mind; beautiful thinking'; the goodwill a speaker cultivates between self and audience, a condition of receptivity.

eversion

The process of turning inside-out.

enantiodromia

The changing of something into its opposite.

F

frostwork

Delicate figures and patterns in which frost forms on surfaces.

furrawn

(Welsh, noun)

The kind of talk that leads to intimacy.

G

gallimaufry

Hodgepodge; jumble; mixture of diverse things.

geoid

A mathematical object that, ideally, represents the precise shape of the earth if it were only under the influence of gravitation and rotation.

geomorphology

The study of landforms.

growlery

A retreat for times of ill humour.

gurfa

(Arabic, noun)

The amount of water that can be held in one hand.

H

haecceity

Property that uniquely identifies an object; "thisness".

haptic

Relating to/based on the sense of touch.

hebdomad

A group of seven; a period of seven days.

hylozoism

Philosophical point of view that all matter is in some sense alive.

I

isobront

Line on map passing through points at which first peal of thunder is heard.

itinerarily

In the course of wandering.

J

jugaad

(Hindi, noun)

Ensuring that things happen even with minimal resources.

K

keld

A well, fountain, spring; a deep, still, smooth part of a river.

kith

Friends and neighbors.

Kapellmeister

A musician equipped both to compose and produce such music as is needed in his position or environment.

komorebi

(Japanese, noun)

The sunlight that filters through the leaves of the trees.

L

lambent

Playing lightly on or over a surface; flickering.

legerity

Alert, facile quickness of mind or body.

lemniscate

May refer to any of several figure-eight or ∞ -shaped curves.

ludic

Of, relating to, or characterized by play or playfulness.

M

macaronic

Involved / characterized by mixture of languages; mixed or jumbled.

matriotism

Love for country or other institution when regarded as a mother.

mazy

Dizzy; confused; labyrinthine; convoluted.

metanoia

A change of mind; a transformative change of heart or spiritual conversional.

montivagant

Wandering over hills and mountains.

mumpsimus

A view stubbornly held even when shown to be wrong; one holding such a view.

N

numen

Spiritual force or influence often identified with a natural object, phenomenon or place; a guiding principle, force, or spirit; creative energy / genius.

nembutsu

Buddhist invocation chanted to achieve enlightenment.

noogenesis

Production of knowledge.

O

omphaloskepsis

Navel-gazing; not normally used literally, but instead to refer to the sort of introspective self-analysis all too common in academia and pop psychology.

ontic

Of, relating to, or having real being.

orotund

Marked by fullness, strength and clarity of sound; sonorous.

P

paracosm

A richly detailed imaginary / fantasy world, involving humans and / or animals, or perhaps even fantasy or alien creations; having its own geography, history, and language.

paranatellon

A star that rises at the same time as another star.

periaster

Point in orbit of a body in which it is nearest to a specified star.

phrontistery

A thinking-place; a place for study.

prolepsis

The assigning of a person, event, etc., to a period earlier than the actual one; the representation of something in the future as if it already existed or had occurred; prochronism.

Q

quacksalver

One who falsely pretends to knowledge of medicine.

quale

A property considered apart from things having the property; a universal.

quantulate

To calculate the magnitude of.

quatch

A word; a sound.

quondam

Former; sometime.

quicquidlibet

Whatever one pleases; anything whatsoever.

R

resistentialism

Humorous theory that inanimate objects display malice towards humans.

reticle

Set of intersecting wires used to facilitate accurate observations.

S

saudade

(Portuguese, noun)

A vague, constant desire for something that does not and probably cannot exist.

selcouth

Strange; unusual; rare; wondrous; marvelous.

sidereal

Of / relating to / expressed in terms of stars or constellations; astral.

syntony

The state of being normally responsive to and in harmony with the environment.

syzygy

Straight line configuration of three celestial bodies.

salsipotent

Ruling the salt seas.

scaffmaster

Steward.

shake

Unit of one hundred millionth of a second used to measure nuclear processes.

slugabed

One who spends much time in bed due to laziness.

T

tellurian

Of or relating to the earth.

terraforming

Modifying the environment at vast scales.

transduction

The process of reshaping of information from one mode to another.

tregetour

A juggler, trickster or deceiver.

tremogram

Irregularity in a person's handwriting.

tyro

A beginner in learning; a novice.

tsundoku

(Japanese, noun)

Leaving a book unread after buying it, typically piled up together with other unread books.

U

ultracrepidate

To criticize beyond sphere of one's knowledge.

V

volcanology

Study of volcanoes.

vorpal

Keen; deadly.

veterorian

Crafty; subtle.

vicambulate

To walk about in the streets.

vocitate

To name or call.

vespertine

Pertaining to the evening.

W

welter

A confused mass; a jumble; turmoil or confusion.

widdershins

Counterclockwise; in the contrary direction.

X

xenolalia

Person's knowledge of a language never studied.

Y

yantra

Geometrical diagram designed as a meditation aid.

Z

zetetic

Proceeding by inquiry; a search or investigation; a skeptical seeker of knowledge.

zeugma

Use of a word to modify or govern two or more words (each in a different sense).

zeitgeber

Rhythmically occurring event that cues organisms' biological rhythms.

zodiographer

One who writes about animals.

zonelet

A little zone.

zugzwang

A position in which any decision or move will result in problems.

Assorted appendices arising from above said spelunking through selected selcouth sources

Appendix - Studies

aerography

Descriptive work on the atmosphere.

anemography

Treatise on the winds.

cosmosophy

Knowledge of the cosmos.

deipnosophy

Learned dinner-conversation.

folkloristics

Study of folklore and fables.

helicosophy

Geometry that deals with spirals.

helioseismology

Study of sun's interior by observing its surface oscillations.

hypnosophy

Knowledge of phenomena relating to sleep.

microscopy

Study of minute objects.

mysteriosophy

System of knowledge concerning secrets and mysteries.

neutrosophy

Study of the origin and nature of philosophical neutralities.

pantosophy

Universal knowledge; pansophy.

physiosophy

Assumption of knowledge of nature.

pneumatophilosophy

Philosophy of spirits or the spirit world.

psilosphy

Shallow philosophy; limited knowledge.

pyrosophy

Knowledge of the properties of fire.

zoosemiotics

Study of animal communication.

Appendix - Manias

epomania

Craze for writing epics.

doromania

Obsession with giving gifts.

ecdemomania

Abnormal compulsion for wandering.

onomamania

Mania for names.

photomania

Pathological desire for light.

phytomania

Obsession with collecting plants.

scribbleomania

Obsession with scribbling.

Appendix - Lines

isacoustic

Line connecting points of equal acoustic quality.

iseidomal

Line connecting points of equal visibility of a spectacle.

isentropic

Line connecting points of equal entropy.

isobathytherm

Line connecting points of equal temperature and depth underground.

isochar

Line connecting points of similar distinguishing characteristics of plant life.

isoflor

Line connecting points of equal number of plant species.

isogam

Line connecting points of equal acceleration due to gravity.

isograd

Line connecting points of similar conditions during geological metamorphism.

isograph

Line connecting points of same linguistic usage in some respect.

isolex

Line connecting points of same vocabulary usage.

isomorph

Line connecting points of same linguistic morphological forms.

isonephelic

Line connecting points of equal cloud cover.

isophene

Line connecting points of the same phenotype or seasonal variation.

isopiestic

Line connecting points of equal pressure but varying temperature and volume.

isotach

Line connecting points of the same wind speed.

isothermobath

Line connecting points of equal temperature at a given ocean depth.

isotherombrace

Line connecting points of equal ratio of summer rainfall to annual rainfall.

Appendix - Governments

binarchy

Government by two people; diarchy.

logocracy

Government of words.

paedocracy

Government by children; paedarchy.

papyrocracy

Government by newspapers or literature.

Appendix - Words (Other)

anteloquy

A preface.

bahuvrihi

Compound word whose second part is a noun but that acts as an adjective.

biblioclasm

The practice of destroying, often ceremoniously, books or other written material and media.

calque

Word or expression introduced into a language by literally translating it.

epopoeist

One who writes epic poetry.

glossolalia

The fluid vocalizing of speech-like syllables that lack any readily comprehended meaning, in some cases as part of religious practice (aka: "speaking in tongues").

hyperbaton

A figure of speech in which two ordinary associated words are attached; or more generally all different figures of speech which transpose / invert natural word order in sentences.

incunabulist

One who collects early books.

scripturient

Possessing a violent desire to write.

spatchcock

To insert into a text too hurriedly or inappropriately; a fowl stuffed and cooked immediately after killing.

Sources

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