



The Geography of Words

Languages around the world organize their lexicons, or vocabularies, in myriad different ways. This book is a celebration of global linguistic diversity that brings together fascinating cases from a wide range of languages to explore how and why this lexical variation occurs. Each of the thirty-six short chapters shows how different culturally specific words, relating to a range of phenomena such as kinship, color, space, time, objects, smells, and animals, vary across languages and geographical locations. The book also explains the mechanisms of development in vocabularies, showing why this variation occurs, and how languages and cultures interact, to deepen the reader's understanding of one of the most important aspects of linguistics. Assuming little to no prior knowledge of linguistics, and introducing concepts in an accessible way, this book is an entertaining, informative read for anyone who wants to learn more about the incredible variation and diversity of the human lexicon.

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The Geography of Words

Vocabulary and Meaning in the World's
Languages

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Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiv
Introduction	1
 Part I How Words Are Studied	
A What Is a Word?	7
B The Internal Affairs of Words	10
C The External Affairs of Words	13
 Part II How Words Are Carved Out	
1 1 = 2, 5, 6, or 7	19
2 Beer Eyes and Wine-Dark Sea	25
3 Second Cousins Twice Removed	31
4 I Have Three Sons and a Child	37
5 Concepts on the Chopping Block	43
6 Unripe Bananas and Ripe Tomatoes	49
7 Mums and Clocks Mean Death	54
8 The Past Is in Front of Us and the Future Is behind Our Back	62
9 Far and Wide, Here and There	68
10 Bottles with Throats	74
11 Setting the TV on Fire and Extinguishing It	79

Part III How Things Are Done with Words

12	Traduttore, Traditore!	87
13	May You Suffer and Remember	92
14	I Screw Your 300 Gods	98
15	Either He Is Crazy or His Feet Stink	103
16	Shoo and Scat	108
17	A Dog and Pony Show	112
18	Blah-Blah-Blah, Yada-Yada-Yada	117
19	Acts of Darkness	122
20	This for That	128
21	Me Tarzan, You Jane	133
22	How Many Languages Do You Speak?	138
23	Harmful and Shitty People	143

Part IV How Words Are Born

24	Cars with Tails and Leadfooted Drivers	151
25	Monkey, Dog, Worm, Snail, i.e., “Crazy A”	156
26	Rovers and Ski-Rolls	161
27	Extra Crispy Soccer Players	165
28	Chinglish and Eurenglish	170
29	Comrade, Sir	175
30	Beer and Whiskey Might Risky	180
31	SOFs and SOWs	186

Part V Where Words Live

32	Old-Lady Torturers, Horse Killers, and Bad Mornings	193
33	A Fleeing Bus	199

<i>Contents</i>	vii
34 I Wish That You Enjoy in What You Have Deserved!	204
35 Happy Hunting Ground	209
36 A Language Is a Dialect with an Army and Navy	214
 Part VI A Word After	
 Part VII Words about Words	
Selected Chapter Readings	221
Pronunciation Respelling	229
Language-Specific Latin Characters	231
<i>References</i>	235
<i>Index of Languages</i>	245
<i>Person and Subject Index</i>	253

Figures

1.1 East German muscle (or to be precise, mussel) car: Trabant (hrstklnkr/Getty Images)	page 20
1.2 The author jumping with the Maasai in Kenya right before the sunset at 6 p.m. (photo by Ljiljana Šipka)	22
1.3 US and Slavic handwritten numbers (photo by the author)	24
2.1 A bottle of Grüner Veltliner (photo by the author)	27
2.2 Children in Rajasthan, India, playing with paint during Holi, an ancient Hindu festival (Bartosz Hadyniak/ Getty Images)	28
2.3 Red and blue eggplant, red onion, and other colorful produce (David Malan/Getty Images)	29
3.1 A family tree (johnwoodcock/Getty Images)	32
3.2 A Putin T-shirt that reads “everything is going according to the plan” (photo by the author)	35
3.3 Family resemblance (Jasmin Merdan/Getty Images)	36
4.1 A non-Serbo-Croatian marriage (Peter Dazeley/Getty Images)	38
4.2 An expert at <i>onna kotoba</i> (electravk/Getty Images)	41
4.3 Loonie, a currency of choice for Canadiens and Canadiennes alike (Bloomberg Creative Photos/Getty Images)	42
5.1 Chopped-up anatomy (appleuzr/Getty Images)	44
5.2 Planes, trains, and automobiles (MHJ/Getty Images)	45
5.3 Past, future, and present (porcorex/Getty Images)	47
6.1 Test tube tastes (Shana Novak/Getty Images)	50

<i>List of Figures</i>	ix
6.2 The spice map of the world (Cavan Images/Getty Images)	51
6.3 Variety is the life of spices (fcafotodigital/Getty Images)	53
7.1 Taiwanese building with no fourth floor (photo by Mladen Šašić)	55
7.2 Dangerous Japanese crows (photo by the author)	56
7.3 Čevapčići (photo by the author)	59
7.4 Raw-fish sushi: all smiles in Japan, all frowns in the Balkans (photo by the author)	60
8.1 A winding clock (DigiPub/Getty Images)	63
8.2 An astrological clock in Prague, Czech Republic (Craig Hastings/Getty Images)	66
8.3 “No future here: Stop! This is the Empire of Death” – written above the entrance to the Catacombs of Paris (photo by the author)	67
9.1 The meeting of waters in Manaus, Brazil (photo by Mladen Šašić)	69
9.2 Ljubljana River (photo by the author)	69
9.3 An address in Sapporo, Japan (photo by the author)	72
9.4 Baldwin Street in Dunedin, New Zealand, known as the world’s steepest street (photo by the author)	73
10.1 Assorted spirits sticking out their necks (Chay Chay Chiy Ceriy/EyeEm/Getty Images)	75
10.2 A floating island (thelinke/Getty Images)	76
10.3 A snake shepherd (photo by the author)	77
11.1 A hang-up phone (PKM2/Getty Images)	80
11.2 The starboard side of a Saxon ship (duncan1980/Getty Images)	82
11.3 A fiery speech (akindo/Getty Images)	83
12.1 A somewhat rusty reset button (Jupiter Images/Getty Images)	88
12.2 A less than ideal choice of words in a Chinese-English translation (photo by Mladen Šašić)	89
12.3 A turkey from Turkey (PeopleImages/Getty Images)	90

13.1	Interpunction cursing (IntergalacticDesignStudio/ Getty Images)	93
13.2	A <i>nazar</i> (photo by the author)	95
13.3	A <i>hamsa</i> (photo by the author)	96
14.1	Dropping the F-bomb (JakeOlimb/Getty Images)	99
14.2	The lightning curse would not have worked on him: Nikola Tesla (Stefano Bianchetti/Getty Images)	100
14.3	One of 300 Slovene devils (chud/Getty Images)	101
15.1	Going flamingo (RyanLane/Getty Images)	104
15.2	Exploding with anger (John M. Lund Photography Inc./Getty Images)	105
15.3	Hitting the jackpot (AdShooter/Getty Images)	107
16.1	Shooing pigeons (aka flying rats) (Qiang Dongliang/ EyeEm/Getty Images)	109
16.2	Japanese beckoning cats talismans: Bringing good luck without meowing (Yagi Studio/Getty Images)	110
16.3	Tweeting (pixelfit/Getty Images)	111
17.1	A silent dog command (westend61/Getty Images)	113
17.2	The author with faithful dog Hachiko in Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan (photo by Ljiljana Šipka)	115
17.3	Where bulls and bears live (Mateo Colombo/Getty Images)	116
18.1	An empty talk (Lisa-Blue/Getty Images)	118
18.2	A crying baby – annoying, whatever the onomatopoeia may be (yuoak/Getty Images)	119
18.3	Kaboom: As American as apple pie (zak00/Getty Images)	120
19.1	Fear the fork: The Sun Devil's hand gesture (photo by the author)	123
19.2	Taboo: Some roads are best not travelled (Adél Békefi/Getty Images)	125
19.3	A cocky rooster (GeoStock/Getty Images)	126
20.1	A missing piece (JoKMedia/Getty Images)	129
20.2	Dictionary, a fathomless well of unknown words (Angela May/Getty Images)	130

<i>List of Figures</i>	xi
20.3 Doing (im)possible things with words (Isabel Pavia/ Getty Images)	132
21.1 Me Tarzan (Zulapi/Getty Images)	134
21.2 A monument to Dr. Esperanto in Odessa, Ukraine (Martin Ebner/Getty Images)	136
21.3 Raw materials for the words of constructed languages (Catherine Falls Commercial/Getty Images)	136
22.1 A promo T-shirt of the author's School of International Letters and Cultures (photo by the author)	139
22.2 Hard at language learning (Ian Nolan/Getty Images)	140
22.3 No language knowledge can be found in this hat (Sean Gladwell/Getty Images)	142
23.1 A monument to Joseph Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union at that time – collateral damage to false friends (Craig Pershouse/Getty Images)	144
23.2 Stop so that I can shoot you (by_nicholas/Getty Images)	145
23.3 Back of an envelope waiting for a calculation (kyoshino/Getty Images)	147
24.1 Lights are lit, but the head and the tail are in the dark (Michael Duva/Getty Images)	152
24.2 Electric hands (Yagi Studio/Getty Images)	153
24.3 A T-bone steak (Diane Labombarbe/Getty Images)	154
25.1 The @ seal (Laurent Hammels/Getty Images)	157
25.2 All hat and no cowboy (photo by the author)	158
25.3 A computer at the time when its name became relevant (Weerayut Renmai/EyeEm/Getty Images)	159
26.1 A modern “woodcycle” (photo by Mladen Šašić)	162
26.2 Waiting to scoot away (Brian Bumby/Getty Images)	163
26.3 Roller skaters rocking and rolling (Flashpop/Getty Images)	164
27.1 Capital punishment with no life lost (Image Source/ Getty Images)	166

27.2 The Conquistador side of a Brazilian chess set (photo by the author)	167
27.3 The Indigenous side of a Brazilian chess set (photo by the author)	168
28.1 Chinglish gone wild (photo by Mladen Šašić)	171
28.2 The Motherland Calls – a monument in Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, Russia (Victoria Sedykh/Getty Images)	173
28.3 Cohen’s crack (Slavi Korchev/EyeEm/Getty Images)	174
29.1 A comrade quartet (Dina Alfasi/EyeAm/Getty Images)	176
29.2 This sir is present but nowhere to be seen (Sean Gladwell/Getty Images)	177
29.3 A dean (or perhaps an associate dean) hard at work (andresr/Getty Images)	179
30.1 Are they going to heed the Russian voice of reason? (Izabela Habur/Getty Images)	181
30.2 An orange-tail cocktail (Jordan Lye/Getty Images)	182
30.3 A meeting of the Maases (Westend61/Getty Images)	183
31.1 A R.A.D.A.R. (Vyacheslav Arenberg/Getty Images)	188
31.2 FYI, this is an acronym (Melinda Podor/Getty Images)	189
31.3 Information-age acronyms (Vladimir Godnik/Getty Images)	189
32.1 A bad morning (sturti/Getty Images)	194
32.2 A memorial plaque in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on a house where Dostoevsky lived (photo by the author)	195
32.3 Sixteenth-century Janissaries (duncan1890/Getty Images)	197
33.1 A fleeing bus (ljubaphoto/Getty Images)	200
33.2 Privacy requested (Image Source/Getty Images)	202
33.3 A piece of cake: No problem (ArxOnt/Getty Images)	203

<i>List of Figures</i>	xiii
34.1 Congratulations are in order (Luis Alvarez/Getty Images)	205
34.2 A nonverbal approval (Kiyoshi Hijiki/Getty Images)	206
34.3 Onto your health! (Teeramet Thanomkiat/EyeEm/Getty Images)	208
35.1 The Old West straight from a Karl May novel (Matthias Clamer/Getty Images)	210
35.2 They have all said goodbye (nokee/Getty Images)	211
35.3 Cat condolences (Benjamin Torode/Getty Images)	213
36.1 Boomerang (photo by the author)	215
36.2 The author at the Australian National Dictionary Centre (photo by Ljiljana Šipka)	216
36.3 A T-shirt with Aussie expressions (photo by the author)	218

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xv

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