

# “kalopsia”

— (*noun*) Originated from *Ancient Greek*, *kalopsia* is defined as the delusion that things are more beautiful than they really are.

- **etymology:** **καλοψία** (*kalopsía*), **καλός** (*kalós*, “good, beautiful, lovely”) + **ὄψις** (*ópsis*, “view”).

# “mad'ouk”

— An untranslatable Arabic word, *mad'ouk* is known as being experienced or toughened by life/

# “adoxography”

— (*noun*) A dead word, *adoxography* is a term that was coined in the late 19th century, which is defined as beautiful writing on a trivial or useless subject. writing on a trivial or base subject”.

# “ostranenie”

— (*noun*) An untranslatable Russian word, *ostranenie* is known as the act of encouraging people to see the beauty and familiar in the unusual and wild. It is the process of defamiliarizing something in order to understand it in a profound level.

## “exulansis”

- (*noun*) Defined as the tendency to surrender about trying to talk about an experience because people are unable to relate to it.

## “coddiwomple”

- (*verb*) An old English slang word, *coddiwomple* is defined as the action of traveling in a purposeful manner to an unknown destination.

## “amaranthine”

- (*æm əˈræn θɪn*, **adjective**) 1. A rare and ancient word, *amaranthine* is defined as an eternal, undying and immortal beauty, particularly that of a flower. 2. a purplish-red color.

## “食い倒れ | kuidaore”

- A Japanese untranslatable word, *kuidaore* is characterized as eating yourself into bankruptcy. Overall it roughly means “to ruin oneself by extravagance in food.”

## “raxeria”

- (noun) An untranslatable Galician word, *raxeira* is defined as the lines, which appear as shadows on the floor, as the sun enters through the windows. The poetic definition captures a fleeting moment in time, when the sun is entering into a manmade space.

## “sillage”

- (noun) Containing a beautiful and romantic definition, *sillage* is defined as the lingering aura a scent leaves behind. It is the pleasant trail and presence of someone, it is the trace of perfume.

## “adoxography”

- (noun) A dead word, *adoxography* is a term that was coined in the late 19th century, which is defined as beautiful writing on a trivial or useless subject. writing on a trivial or base subject”.

## “sareureuk”

- (adjective) A beautiful untranslatable Korean word, *sareureuk* is described as the muted sound and the motion of snowflakes, which gradually melt in warmer temperatures or under the winter’s sunshine.

## “virago”

- (*noun*) A word with Latin roots, *virago* is defined as a strong, courageous woman with a warlike heart; she is a woman who portrays exemplary and heroic qualities.

## “abendrot”

- (*noun*) A German word, *abendrot* is defined as the color of the sky as the sun sets.

## “dil baagh baagh ho-gaya”

- (*proverb*) An Urdu and Punjabi, untranslatable phrase literally, meaning “my heart became a garden.” It is a phrase used to expressed overwhelming joy.

# “mångata”

- An untranslatable word with Swedish origins, *mångata* is defined as the shimmering and ethereal road-like reflection of the moon on water.

# “trouville”

- (*trōō vī*, **noun**) A word with French origins, *trouville* is defined as a serendipitous, lucky encounter with something wonderful.

# “lotus-eater”

- (*loŭ tēs, i tēr*, **noun**) A word with Greek mythology origins, a *lotus-eater* is characterized as one who lives their life in a constant state of dream and fantasy, they are completely indifferent to the busy world and its problems.
  - **etymology:** In classic mythology, lotus-eater are a member of people, whom Odysseus discovered in an eternal condition of forgetfulness. They were completely enraptured by their indulgence of the fruit of the legendary lotus.

# “epeolatry”

— (noun) With Ancient Greek roots, *epeolatry* is defined as the worship of words.

- etymology: It derives from ἔπος *épos*, which unlike λόγος *lógos* more specifically means *word* in Greek.

## schadenfreude

[sha-den-froy-duh]

(*noun*) an untranslatable, German word, meaning the pleasure one takes from someone else's misfortune.

## ennui [ahn-wee]

(*noun*) A French word, meaning a feeling of oppressive boredom.

## exigent

[ek-si-juhnt]

(*adjective*)

1. requiring immediate action or aid; urgent; pressing.
2. requiring a great deal, or more than is reasonable.

## taarradhin [tah-rah-deen]

*(noun)* Arabic has no word for “compromise” in the sense of reaching an arrangement via struggle and disagreement. But a much happier concept, *taarradhin*, exists in Arabic. It implies a happy solution for everyone, an “I win, you win.” It’s a way of resolving a problem without anyone losing face.

## dépaysement [de-peiz-mɑ̃]

*(noun)* An untranslatable French word, meaning the feeling that comes from not being in one’s home country. It describes the feeling of disorientation and bewilderment one might feel upon being in a totally foreign environment, for example, how a European might feel in the middle of Japan. It doesn’t only apply to physically moving either, it could also be used to describe a change of mental state or feelings as a result of any major life event.

## ilunga [ee-lun-ga]

*(noun)* From the Tshiluba language spoken in south-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, this word has been [chosen by numerous translators](#) as the world’s most untranslatable word. Ilunga indicates a person who is ready to forgive any abuse the first time it occurs, to tolerate it the second time, but to neither forgive nor tolerate a third offense.

# ineffable

(adj.) unspeakable, incapable of being expressed through words

# alexithymia

[ey-lek-suh-thahy-mee-uh]

**noun** *Psychiatry.* difficulty in experiencing, expressing, and describing emotional responses.

# duende [dwen-day]

(*adjective*) This untranslatable Spanish word captures an entire world of passion, energy, and artistic excellence and describes a climactic show of spirit in a performance or work of art. *Duende* originally meant “imp” or “goblin” and came to mean anything magical. It now has a depth and complexity of meaning that crosses artistic borders, from flamenco dancing to bullfighting. The Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca wrote an eloquent essay on *duende* that explores the complex and inspirational flavor of its sense, and I know no better introduction. Read the essay, “The Theory and Play of the *Duende*” [here](#). It is strongly recommended.

# tatemae [tah-tay-mye]

(*noun*) An untranslatable, Japanese term often translated as “form,” but it also has the specific cultural meaning of “the reality that everyone professes to be true, even though they may not privately believe it.” For privately held views, the Japanese have a different term,

*honne*, meaning, “the reality that you hold inwardly to be true, even though you would never admit it publicly.”

## **dil baagh baagh ho-gaya**

[*dil* bahg bahg ho-*gye-ah*]

(*proverb*) An Urdu and Punjabi, untranslatable phrase literally, meaning “my heart became a garden.” It is a phrase used to express overwhelming joy.

## ***tabula rasa***

[tab-yuh-luh rah-suh]

(*noun*) Literally means “blank slate” in Latin.

1. a mind not yet affected by experiences, impressions, etc.
2. anything existing undisturbed in its original pure state

***Tabula rasa*** is the epistemological theory that individuals are born without built-in mental content and that their knowledge comes from experience and perception. Generally proponents of the *tabula rasa* thesis favour the “nurture” side of the nature versus nurture debate, when it comes to aspects of one’s personality, social and emotional behaviour, and intelligence.

# ***amor vincit omnia***

[ahh-mohr weeny-kit  
ohm-nee-ah]

(*Latin*) ***Love conquers all things.*** This is one of the few Latin phrases, over the centuries, which has been widely used enough to be included in the English language dictionary.

- Shortly before the start of the first millennium, the Roman poet Virgil wrote “love conquers all things; let us too surrender to Love.” The phrase and the concept (in Latin and in English) caught on: a character in Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, written in the late 1300s, wore a brooch engraved *Amor Vincit Omnia*; Caravaggio used the phrase as the title of his painting of Cupid in the early seventeenth century; the twentieth century poet Edgar Bowers reinterpreted the phrase all over again in the poem with that title.

# **mokita [moh-kee-tah]**

(*noun*) From Kiriwina, New Guinea, this powerful, untranslatable word is used to describe the truth that everyone knows but no one wants to talk about openly. This unspoken truth is usually an unpleasant or unwelcoming thought that will disrupt the social peace or bring perceived family embarrassment if brought into the open.

## hozhoni [hoh-sho-ni]

(*noun; Navajo, North America*) This means “the beauty of life, as seen and created by a person.” For the Navajo, this is something that grows from within a human being and spreads outward to penetrate the universe. It can be intellectual, emotional, moral, aesthetic and biological. Navajo life and culture are very much based on this concept of *hozhoni* and indeed the goal of life is unity of experience. *Hozhoni* expresses the idea of order, happiness, health, and well-being as well as balance and harmony, Hence, it is not only a way of looking at life, but a way to live.

## otherworldly [uhth-er-wurld-lee]

(*adjective*) of, pertaining to, or devoted to another world, as the world of imagination or the world to come.

## honne [on-eh]

(*noun*) An untranslatable Japanese word, describing a privately held belief, you would never express publicly. *Honne* may be contrary to what is expected by society or what is required according to one’s position and circumstances, and they are often kept hidden, except with one’s closest friends.

- Japanese culture places great stress on distinguishing the *honne*, one’s genuine feelings, from the *tatemae*, what one must say publicly.

# thambos [tham-bos]

(noun) θάμβος, ουσ, τό, An untranslatable Greek word.

Faced with nature in all its various aspects and moods, from its exquisite calmness to its most terrible extremes of violence, from its spectacular immensity to its tiniest and most detailed beauty, what are we to feel? Fear? Or joy? A sense of homage, awe, or respect? Whatever our feelings, they will be a curious blend of all these, and the Greeks had a word for it. *Thambos* summarizes all those mingled emotions that go with being struck dumb, literally “immobilized,” by something way beyond one’s understanding. (Christopher J. Moore, [\*In Other Words\*](#))

# fernweh [feyrn-vey]

(noun) This wonderful, untranslatable German word describes the feeling of homesickness for a far away land, a place you have never visited. Do not confuse this with the word, wanderlust; *Fernweh* is much more profound; it is the feeling of an unsatisfied urge to escape and discover new places, almost a sort of sadness. You miss a place you have never experienced, as opposed to lusting over it or desiring it like wanderlust. You are seeking freedom and self-discovery, but not a particular home. There are too many feelings wrapped up into this wonderful, little word. Remember, the world is your home!