

Kramarae and Treichler, Maggio, Daly

A Feminist Dictionary, Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler

"This is a word-book with several purposes: to document words, definitions, and conceptualizations that illustrate women's linguistic contributions; to illuminate forms of expression through which women have sought to describe, reflect upon, and theorize about women, language, and the world; to identify issues of language theory, research, usage, and institutionalized practice that bear on the relationship between women and language; to demonstrate ways in which women are seizing the language; to broaden knowledge of the feminist lexicon; and to stimulate research on women and language" (1).

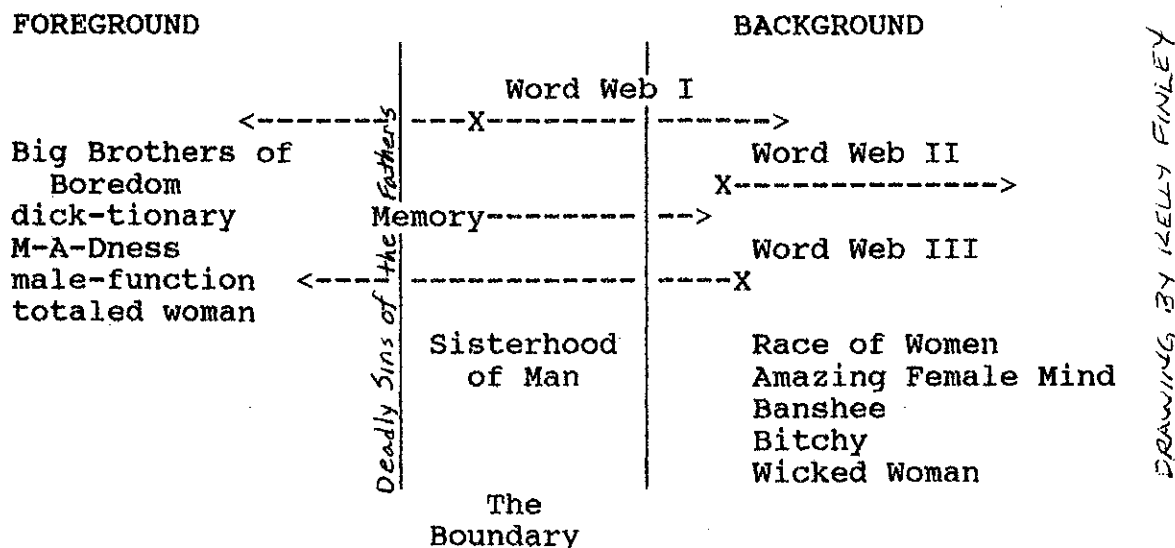
The Nonsexist Word Finder: A Dictionary of Gender-Free Usage,
Rosalie Maggio

"Today a new kind of reference has taken its place with [the] old standbys: a book like this one, designed to help writers solve the recurring problems created by sexist language" (vii).

"[The author's] objective is not to impose her point of view on others, but to assist people 'at their own levels of understanding and commitment' to enunciate theirs" (ix).

Webster's First New Intergalactic Wickedary of the English Language, Mary Daly, with Jane Caputi

"The work of the Wickedary is a process of freeing words from the cages and prisons of patriarchal patterns. . . . Webster's unwind the bindings of mummified/numbified words. This process involves Hearing/Speaking through Other Time/Space. . . . The Wickedary is a declaration that words and women have served the fathers' sentences long enough" (3).



Separatism, Radical Feminist ° : theory and actions of Radical Feminists who choose separation from the Dissociated State of patriarchy in order to release the flow of elemental energy and Gynophilic communication; radical withdrawal of energy from warring patriarchy and transferral of this energy to women's Selves. *Compare*: **Dissociated State**; **separatism**, **phallic** (w-w 3)

Shape-shifting ° : transcendent transformation of symbol-shapes, idea-shapes, relation-shapes, emotion-shapes, word-shapes, action-shapes; Moon-Wise Metamorphosis

Sin *n* : *See* **Originally Sinful Acts**; **Original Sin of Women** (w-w 1)

Sisterhood ° *n* : authentic bonding of women who Biophilically affirm individual freedom and Originality, refuse tokenism, and actively give primal loyalty to women. *Compare* **brotherhood** (w-w 3)

Spinning ° **1** : Gyn/Ecological creation; Dis-covering the lost thread of connectedness within the cosmos and repairing this thread in the process; whirling and twirling the threads of Life on the axis of Spinsters' own be-ing **2** : turning quickly on one's heel; moving Counterclockwise; whirling away in all directions from the death march of patriarchy

spiritualization ° *n* : strategy used to distract from present oppression by deceitfully projecting all "happiness" onto future full-fillment either in this world or in some cockocratic otherworld. *See* **other-world**, **patriarchal** (w-w 1); **full-fillment** (w-w 3)

States of Grace ° : Realms of Metapatriarchal Metamorphosis: Be-Longing, Be-Friending, Be-Witching

Super Natural ° [*supernatural* "transcending nature in degree and in kind or concerned with what transcends nature (a divine order which directs history from outside and keeps man in touch with the eternal world through the Church and the sacraments—*Times Lit. Supp.*)"—*Webster's*] : Unfolding Nature or concerned with what Unfolds Nature (an Elemental order which directs History from inside and keeps women and all Biophilic creatures in Touch with the real world through the senses—*Tidal Times*): SUPREMELY NATURAL, PERFECTLY NATURAL

Surviving ° [derived fr. L. *super-* beyond + *vivere* to live—*Webster's*] : the process of Spinsters living beyond, above, through, around

the perpetual witchcraze of patriarchy; Metaliving, be-ing. *Canny Comment*:

If anyone should ask a Negro woman what is her greatest achievement, her honest answer would be: "I survived!"
—Pauli Murray⁵⁷

Telic Focusing Principle ° **1** : all-pervasive principle within an organism, entirely present in all parts of the organism; Source of deep purposefulness, which makes possible growth, adaptation, creation **2** : Re-membering and Metapatterning principle in Metamorphosing women

Terrible Taboo ° : the universal, unnatural patriarchal taboo against women Intimately/Ultimately Touching each Other; prohibition stemming from male terror of women who exercise Elemental Touching Powers. *See* **Total Taboo** (w-w 1). *Compare* **Physical Ultimacy** (w-w 1)

Tidal ° *adj* : characterized by cosmic interconnections and rhythms; Elemental; Wild

Tidal Memory ° : Memory of the Deep Background, characterized by Tidal Rhythms of Re-membering: ELEMENTAL MEMORY

Tidal Time ° [*tide* derived fr. ME *tyde*, *tide* time, fr. OE *tīd*; akin to Gk. *daiesthai* to distribute, divide—*Webster's*] : Elemental Time, beyond the clocking/clacking of clonedom; Wild Time; Time that cannot be grasped by the tidily man-dated world; Time of Wicked Inspiration/Genius. *See* **Demons**, **Tidal** (w-w 1). *Compare* **tidy time** (w-w 1)

tidy ° *adj* ["free from irregularity or slovenliness and often from any marked individuality: PRECISE (a tidy handwriting) (tidy thinking) (a tidy mind)"—*Webster's*] : tracked, tamed, sanitized, routinized, tied down, fixed up—esp. applied to women held captive in the State of Feminitude

tidy ° *v* : to "correct" Life and natural activities, killing and destroying Wildness, manufacturing lifeless substitutes. *Example*:

He [Constantine] did not formally become a Christian until near the end of his life. Then, having tidied the Empire of subterranean lunar cults, he tidied his own life: after murdering his wife and son he took baptism.

—James Vogh⁵⁸

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SOOTHSAYER: *a woman who Dares to counter the patriarchal deadly sin of deception; Courageous Truth-sayer*

Spell-Glance *n* : an Eye-Beam/Gleam that casts a Sparking Spell

Spell-Muttering : the mad mumbling/grumbling of Furious Crackpot Crones. *Example:* the mutterings of "Trudy," character created by Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner for Tomlin's one-woman show, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* (1985)

Spell-Weaver *n* : Creative Crone who weaves contexts in which Wonders can happen: WEBSTER. *Canny Comment:*

Inanna spoke:

"What I tell you
Let the singer weave into song.
What I tell you
Let it flow from ear to mouth
Let it pass from old to young"¹¹³

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Spinster ⁹ *n* : a woman whose occupation is to Spin, to participate in the whirling movement of creation; one who has chosen her Self, who defines her Self by choice neither in relation to children nor to men; one who is Self-identified; a whirling dervish, Spiraling in New Time/Space. See **Spinning** (w-w 1)

Spiraling ⁹ : Metamorphic movement that leaps off the confining circular paths/grooves of archetypal deadtime; swirling movement that is in harmony with the rhythms of whirlwinds, whirlpools, and spiraling galaxies of Other worlds. *Canny Comment:*

The Eye-Goddess . . . becomes simply a double spiral representing her cosmic, magic eyes. This Eye-Goddess design is found on pottery, on statues, on clay and bone implements all over the Near East and Europe.

—Monica Sjöö and Barbara Mor¹¹⁴

Spiration ⁹ *n* ["*obs*: the action of breathing as a creative or life-giving function of the Deity"—*Webster's*] : Creation inspired by the Arch-image: the breathing forth of Musings by Muses; Be-Speaking Original words, transversing the verbicide of the ages

Spooking ⁹ : Re-membering Witches' powers to cast Glamours; Re-calling our powers to detect and exorcise patriarchal patterns that spook women; Dis-possessing women's Selves of the demons of the Predatory State. *Example:*

Voyage *n* : Amazon Argonaut; Otherworld Journeyer. *See Journeyer* (w-w 2)

Wanton ¹ *n* [*wanton adj* "archaic: lacking discipline: not susceptible to control: UNRULY . . . excessively merry or gay: FROLICSOME. . . LUSTFUL"—*Webster's*] : a Lusty, Uncontrollable, Unruly woman; one who, by the standards of Stag-nation, is excessively merry, gay, and frolicsome: PIXILATED WOMAN

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Wanton Virgin : Gay, Frolicsome Old Maid

Water Witch *n* ["a witch reputed to live in or haunt a body of water"—*Webster's*] : This definition has been awarded *Websters'* Intergalactic Seal of Approval.

Webster ¹ *n* [(derived fr. OE *webbestre* female weaver—*Webster's*): "A weaver . . . as the designation of a woman"—*O.E.D.*] : a woman whose occupation is to Weave, esp. a Weaver of Words and Word-Webs. *See Unweaving* (w-w 2); **Weaving** (w-w 1). *N.B.*: The word *Webster* was Dis-covered by Judy Grahn, who has written:

Webster is a word that formerly meant "female weaver," the "ster" ending indicating a female ancestor, or female possession of the word.

The word-weavers of recent centuries who have given us the oration of Daniel Webster and the dictionary listings of Merriam-Webster stem from English family names that once descended through the female line. Some great-great-grandmother gave them her last name, *Webster*, she-who-weaves.¹²⁸

Weird ¹ *n* ["FATE, NORN . . . SOOTHSAYER . . . SPELL, CHARM . . . a supernatural tale . . . PROPHECY, PREDICTION"—*Webster's*; also *pl.* "the Fates, the three goddesses supposed to determine the course of human life"—*O.E.D.*] : These definitions have been awarded *Websters'* Intergalactic Seal of Approval.

Weird ¹ *adj* ["UNEARTHLY, MYSTERIOUS"—*Webster's*] : Earthy, Metamysterious, Uncanny

Weirddom *n* ["the supernatural world"—*O.E.D.*] : the Super Natural World; Country of the Strange; Familiar Territory

Weirdie (Weirdy) *n* ["one that is extraordinarily strange, eccentric, or unnatural"—*Webster's*] : one who is extraordinarily Strange, Eccentric: a Natural Woman

Weirdly *adj* ["*Scottish* Favored by fate, happy, prosperous"—*O.E.D.*] : Graceful: said of one who hears the Word of the Weird and follows the Call of the Wild

Weird Sister ["FATE, NORN"—*Webster's*] 1 : Fate, Norn 2 : Gossip, Boon-Companion, Chum

Weirdward ¹ *adj* ["bordering upon or approaching the supernatural. 1866 J. B. Ross tr. Ovid's *Metamorphosis* XIII. 697 'Unnumbered sisterhood of weirdward birth'—*O.E.D.*] : on the Boundary of the Wild: Hag-identified. *Canny Comment*:

Everywhere today, an Unnumbered Sisterhood of Weirdward birth are Be-Wishing Metapatriarchal Metamorphosis and Announcing the end of fooldom.

—Robbin Hagge (May Day speech to the Merrie Band, May 1, 1991, A.F.)

See Robbin Haggas' Merrie Band (w-w 2)

Wicked/Wiccen Woman [*wicked* akin to OE *wicce* witch—*American Heritage*, Appendix on Indo-European Roots] : a woman who steadfastly Sees through patriarchal "good" and "evil," reversing the inherent reversals of phallic morality; a Good woman: Prude. *See Wicked* (w-w 1)

Widdershins (Withershins) *adv* [(derived fr. MHG *widersinnen* to go back, go against, fr. *wider* back, against + *sinnen* to travel, go . . . akin to OHG *sind* journey, road): "in a left-handed or contrary direction: CONTRARILY, COUNTERCLOCKWISE—used esp. of ritual circumambulation"—*Webster's*; also "in a direction opposite to the usual; the wrong way"—*O.E.D.*] : in a direction that counters the processions or clockocracy/cockocracy; in a manner that grinds the doomsday clocks to a halt, that turns back the clocks of father time: Contrariwise: the Wrong Way. *See doomsday clock* (w-w 3)

Wild Cat ¹ *n* ["The European wild species of cat, *Felis catus* . . . also applied to other wild animals of the cat tribe. . . . *fig.* applied to a savage, ill-tempered, or spiteful person, esp. a woman. . . . *fig.* one who forms a rash project or engages in a risky or unsafe enterprise"—*O.E.D.*] 1 : a

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honor of the Obscene Society; the Courage to be intellectual in the most direct and daring way, claiming and trusting the deep correspondence between the structures/processes of one's own mind and the structures/processes of reality; the Courage to trust and Act on one's own deepest intuitions. *See Originally Sinful Acts* (w-w 1)

Daughter ° n : the Original Self; the Untouchable Integrity in every woman; the Wild Virgin within every woman who Lives beyond the confines of patriarchal rules and roles, reveling in be-ing Alone and fiercely bonding with her own kind

Daughter-Right ° n : the Right of a woman to Re-member her Original Integrity; the Right of every Daughter to proclaim her Divinity, to Name her Self, to Act as Nemesis, to right the reversals of "divine sons," to reclaim her place in the sun. *See Nemesis* (w-w 1). *Compare daughter-blight* (w-w 3)

deadly sins of the fathers ° : the primary manifestations of patriarchal evil, incarnated in phallo-institutions and in those who invent, control, and legitimate these institutions; biocidal blockages/obstructions to Wild Women's Otherworld Journeying. These are:

processions: the basic sin of phallocracy: *deception*; the production of distorted mirror images of Spinning Process which corral/track Movement/Creativity into endless dead and deadening circles. *Example*: the ritual embedding of patriarchal fairy tales into the minds of little girls

professions: the ultimate manifestation of empty male "pride" (vanity); assumption by males of self-legitimizing control in every cultural activity deemed prestigious by themselves; the consequent condensation of the process of know-ing into inert and mystifying "bodies of knowledge." *Example*: male assumption of control over the sphere of healing, reducing this to the "field of medicine"—a reversal and caricature of genuine healing

possession: androcratic *avarice*; demonic seizure and domination of Elemental energy sources accomplished through political, economic, and technological means and, most profoundly, through the manufacture and proliferation of male myth. *Example*: the "divine commands" in Genesis: "God blessed them, saying to them 'Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.'"—Gen. 1:28 [J.B.]. Also: "To the woman he [god] said: 'I will multiply your pains in childbearing, you shall give birth to your children in pain. Your yearning shall be for your husband, yet he will lord it over you.'"—Gen. 3:16 [J.B.]

aggression: malevolent male violence, misnamed *anger*; the raping, killing, and leveling of all forms of life. *Examples* a: the nuclear arms race relentlessly marching to its ill-logical conclusion—nuclear holocaust b: the European witchcraze c: the holocaust of the Jews under the nazis

obsession: phallic *lust*; the deadly dis-passion that prevails in patriarchy; the life-hating lechery that seeks to penetrate, violate, and spoil all Elemental Integrity. *Examples* a: the incessant despoliation of women's bodies by the eight-billion-dollar pornography industry b: the colonization and conquest of America—the "Virgin Land"—its native inhabitants and its wilderness c: incestuous abuse of girls

assimilation: gynocidal/biocidal *gluttony* which expresses itself in vampirism/cannibalism, feeding upon the *living* flesh, blood, spirit of women and Others while tokenism disguises the devastation of the victims. *Examples* a: patriarchal marriages b: slavery c: zoos and circuses

elimination: necrophilic *envy* of Biophilic powers, which demands the eradication of ensouled matter and the fabrication of replacements, imitations, simulations of Life. *Example*: the invention of technological miracles such as television, urbanization, and Disneyland—"The Happiest Place on Earth"

fragmentation: patriarchally enforced *sloth* which enslaves women and other living creatures, severing them from their Original Capacities to Act, to Realize their potential to glimpse their Final Cause; the stunting and confining of Elemental growth, movement, and creativity by mandatory subservience assuming the forms of enforced passivity and/or ceaseless busyness. *Examples* a: S. Weir Mitchell's rest cure for women¹² b: the busy housewife syndrome c: the professional "rat race" and structural unemployment d: the usage of animals as "biomachines" in agribusiness¹³ e: forest management by the lumber industry

demon-wardens ° n : personifications of the deadly sins of the fathers; wardens who block gateways to the Passages throughout the Otherworld Journey and who must be exorcised by Naming. *See Naming; Otherworld Journey* (w-w 1)

Demons, Tidal ° [demon (derived fr. Gk *daimōn* spirit, deity; prob. akin to Gk *daiesthai* to distribute, divide): "an attendant, ministering, or indwelling power or spirit: DAIMONION, GENIUS"—Webster's] : Goddesses, Geniuses, Spirits; Sources and Mediums of Positively Wicked Inspiration; Guides who Presentiate their Selves to women who are coming into Touch with Tidal rhythms, enabling

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foreground ° (Denise D. Connors²³) *n* : male-centered and mono-dimensional arena where fabrication, objectification, and alienation take place; zone of fixed feelings, perceptions, behaviors; the elementary world: FLATLAND. *See* **elementaries** (w-w 1); **fix** (w-w 3). *Compare* **Background** (w-w 1)

Big Brothers of Boredom ° : the all-male corporate caste in the perpetual 1984 of Boredom; the ruling/snooping class

lick-tionary *n* : any patriarchal dictionary: a derivative, tamed, muted exicon compiled by dicks, which, despite its distortions, contains clues for Word-Weaving Websters/Wickedarians. *Examples*: *Webster's*, *Oxford English Dictionary*, *Cirlot's Dictionary of Symbols*. *Compare* **Wickedary** (w-w 1)

M-A-Dness ° : "Male Approval Desire"—Honor Moore

male-function ° *n* 1 : characteristically unreliable performance of phallic equipment. *Example*: the explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger* 2 : archetypically endless ceremony or gathering of male-dom. *Examples*: diplomatic functions, church functions, White House functions

totald woman ° : [*total woman* "(one who) caters to her man's special quirks, whether it be in salads, sex, or sports"—Marabel Morgan, *The Total Woman*] : one conditioned to cater compulsively to her man's "special" quirks, whether it be in salads, sex, or sports. *Sad Commentaries*:

It is only when a woman surrenders her life to her husband, reveres and worships him, and is willing to serve him, that she becomes really beautiful to him.

—Marabel Morgan¹⁰⁶

Try to spend a little time each day visualizing Jesus coming in the door from work. Then see yourself walking up to him, embracing him. Say to Jesus, "It's good to have you home, Nick."

—Ruth Carter Stapleton¹⁰⁷

Boundary, the ° *n* : the location of New Time/Space; Time and Space created by women Surviving and Spinning on the Boundaries of patriarchal institutions; dimensions of being experienced by Labrys-wielding Amazons who choose not only to combat the phallocratic order but also to wrench back our Archaic Heritage and Journey into the Background. *See* **Surviving; Spinning** (w-w 1)

Boundary Living ° : Realizing Power of Presence on the Boundaries of patriarchal institutions; Presentiating the Background in the midst of foreground conditions by communicating contagious Courage, Pride, and Other Volcanic Virtues. *Examples* a: the Chinese marriage resisters (nineteenth and twentieth centuries)° b: the Beguines of medieval Europe¹⁰

Memory ° *n* : the power to remember, the categories of tidy time, to connect with the sources of instinctive, ecstatic knowledge. *Example*:

Pretty soon all this will be gone . . . twenty years, ten. This house, me, you. But the river's still here, and the fields, and the trees, and the smell of the Gulf. I always got my strength from that. Not from houses and not from people.

—Geraldine Page as Mrs. Watts, in the film *The Trip to Bountiful*³¹

Sisterhood of Man ° : transitional expression giving a generic weight to the word *sisterhood* while at the same time emasculating the pseudo-generic term *man*. *N.B.*: This phrase is marked by built-in obsolescence, for, once the expression is understood, the culturally entrenched assumptions it reflects can be discarded. *Man* can no longer pass as a functioning generic and *sisterhood* is freed of the burden of association with this pseudogeneric context.

Background ° (Denise D. Connors³) *n* : the Realm of Wild Reality; the Homeland of women's Selves and of all other Others; the Time-Space where auras of plants, planets, stars, animals and all Other animate beings connect. *Compare* **foreground** (w-w 1)

A-mazing Female Mind ° : the Labrys that cuts through the double binds and doublebinding words that block our breakthrough to understanding Radical Feminist Friendship and Sisterhood

Banshee *n* 1 : a woman of Fairyland who foretells death, comforting and welcoming those whom she loves, portending doom to those who have been evil-doers 2 : a woman who participates in the power of the Banshee, encouraging Lusty Women on the Otherworld Journey and Pronouncing the doom of patriarchy

Bitchy *adj* : having the threatening characteristics of a female canine (a wolf, dingo, coyote, wild dog, fox) applied esp. to a woman who is

active, direct, blunt, obnoxious, competent, loud-mouthed, independent, stubborn, demanding, achieving, overwhelming, Lusty, strong minded, scary, ambitious, tough, brassy, boisterous, turbulent, sprawling, strident, striding, and large (physically and/or psychically). *Comment*:

Bitches are good examples of how women can be strong enough to survive even the rigid, punitive socialization of our society. As young girls it never quite penetrated their consciousness that women were supposed to be inferior to men in any but the mother/helpmate role. They asserted themselves as children and never really internalized the slave style of wheedling and cajolery which is called feminine. . . . All Bitches refused, in mind and spirit, to conform to the idea that there were limits on what they could be and do.

—Joreen, "The Bitch Manifesto"¹¹

Wicked/Wiccan Woman [*wicked* akin to OE *wicce* witch—*American Heritage*, Appendix on Indo-European Roots] : a woman who steadfastly Sees through patriarchal "good" and "evil," reversing the inherent reversals of phallic morality; a Good woman: Prude. *See* **Wicked** (w-w 1)