

Etymology. Translations. Euphemisms

Sun 5pm class 2024/12/22

“Words are vehicles on which thoughts (more than one) travel.”

Often, *several* “passengers” - see dictionaries...multiple “meanings.” The question is, *which* “passenger” (meaning for a word used) did the speaker put on the “bus”? Which “passenger” gets off (the meaning received, or “understood”) may not be the one that got on the bus years ago (etymology affects meaning—the “passenger” as he got old, changed) nor the one someone sent (not meaning intended) due to culture, society, etc. “Communication” requires the meaning, or connotation, *intended* is the one *understood*. If not, what one heard (or read) and “understood” may not be what the speaker (or writer) intended to connote at all.

Exhortations regarding our speech

Pro 10:31-32 (many Proverbs re the tongue, speech); **Eph 4:29; 5:3-4; Mt 12:33-37** (blaspheming HS)

Etymology affects meaning, or connotation, of words

“etymology” - study of the origin, history, development of words and their meanings

“goodbye”

“Goodbye” had its root in the phrase and sentiment, “**God be with you**” (900s). Now it is simply a term of farewell or parting from a person and **may be used without any intended reference to God or His blessings** at all (e.g. by an atheist).

“The etymology of the word “Goodbye” can be traced back to the phrase “God be with you” in Old English. Over time, this phrase underwent various linguistic transformations and changes in meaning, eventually evolving into the modern English word we use today. Let’s explore the origin and evolution of “Goodbye” in chronological order.

“Origin and Etymology of Goodbye in Chronological Order

[Old English (900s)] The root of “Goodbye” can be found in the Old English phrase “**God be with you.**” This phrase was commonly used as a farewell greeting, expressing well wishes and blessings for the person departing. [Middle English (1300s)] In Middle English, the phrase “God be with you” underwent a contraction, becoming “Godbwyte” or “Godbwyte.” This contraction was a result of the linguistic changes and simplifications that occurred during this time. [Early Modern English (1500s)] During the Early Modern English period, the contraction “Godbwyte” further evolved into “Goodbye” or “Good-bye.” This change in spelling was influenced by the phonetic pronunciation of the word. [Modern English (Present)] **In modern English, “Goodbye” has become the standard form of farewell.** The word has retained its meaning of bidding someone farewell and expressing good wishes for their departure.

“Meaning of Goodbye

The word “Goodbye” is a noun and an interjection. It is **used to express farewell or parting from someone.** The primary meaning of “Goodbye” is a formal or polite way of saying farewell to someone. Example sentences: 1. “She waved goodbye as the train pulled away from the platform.” 2. “Goodbye, my dear friend. I will miss you.” 3.

“Before leaving, he said goodbye to each member of the family individually.” [boldmine] <https://wikipetymology.com>

“candidate”

Derived from idea of being **robed in white**. That meaning completely lost today.

“person who seeks or is put forward for an office by election or appointment,” c. 1600, from Latin *candidatus* “one aspiring to office,” originally “white-robed,” past participle of *candidare* “to make white or bright,” from *candidus*, past participle of *candere* “to shine” (from PIE root **kand-* “to shine”).

“White was the usual color of the Roman toga, but office-seekers in ancient Rome wore a gleaming white toga (*toga candida*), probably whitened with fine powdered chalk, presumably to indicate the purity of their intentions in seeking a role in civic affairs.” <https://www.etymonline.com>

“When a man running for public office in ancient Rome greeted voters in the Forum, the center of judicial and public business, he wore a toga that had been whitened with chalk. As a result, the **Latin word for someone seeking office came to be candidatus**, meaning literally “clothed in white.” **Candidatus, in turn, comes from the adjective candidus, meaning “white.” Candidatus was adopted into English as candidate**, and since the 17th century that word has had an uncontested seat in the language.” [boldmine] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/candidate>

Bible words

“debate”

“debate” is a **sin** in the **KJV** (1611/1779) - **Rom 1:29; 2Co 12:20**. **Later versions** (NASB, NKJV, ESV) translate “**strife**.”

verb

1. To consider something; deliberate.
2. To engage in argument by discussing opposing points.
3. To engage in a formal discussion or argument. See Synonyms at discuss.
4. *Obsolete* To fight or quarrel.

Noun

4. *Obsolete* Conflict; strife.

American Heritage Dictionary © 2016 (FreeD)

G2054 *eris* - “*contention, strife, wrangling*” TH

“prevent”

Psa 88:13 “in the morning shall my prayer **prevent** [keep from happening? hinder?] thee.” KJV

Psa 119:147 “I **prevented** [keep from happening? hinder?] the dawning of the morning” KJV

1Th 4:15 “shall not **prevent** [keep from happening? hinder?] them which are asleep” KJV

“prevent” – *used to mean* “To go before.” *Now*, “to keep from happening, hinder”

“making melody” psalLO Eph 5:19 = using instruments

Amplified Bible Classic Edition

“Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [**and instruments**] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord” *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* (<https://www.bible.com/bible/8/EPH.5.19-20.AMPC>) [one of the earlier editions of the Amplified Bible]

In debate (argument actually used in debate)

psalLO (**Eph 5:19**, “making melody”) means to play with an instrument. “**to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate ... absolutely, to play on a stringed instrument, to play the harp, etc.: ...; ... to sing to the music of the harp ...**” TH

But, using a lexicon in this fashion is deceptive. It *leaves out* the information that points to the development in meaning over time... see below ...

ALL major translations (KJV, NKJV, NASB ASV, ESV) “making melody in [or, “with”] your heart”

ψαλλω psallo #5567

G5567 “ψαλλω; future ψαω; (from ψαω, **to rub, wipe; to handle, touch** (but cf. Curtius, p. 730)); a. **to pluck off, pull out**: εθειραν, **the hair, Aeschylus** Pers. 1062. [c. **500 BC**] b. **to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang**: τοξων νευρας χειρι, **Euripides**, Bacch. 784 [c. **450 BC**]; specifically, χορδην, **to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate** (**Aristotle**, probl. 19, 23 [p. 919b, 2]) [c. **350 BC**]; and absolutely, **to play on a stringed instrument, to play the harp**, etc.: Aristotle, Plutarch, Aratus (in Plato, Lysias, p. 209 b. with και κροθειν τω πληκτροω added (but not as explanatory of it; the Schol. at the passage says χηλαι, το ανευ πληκτροω τω δακτυλω τας χορδας εμαφασθαι); it is distinguished from κιθαριζειν in Herodotus 1, 155); **the Septuagint** [(c. **250 BC**] for [Hebrew] and much more oftener for [Hebrew]; **to sing to the music of the harp** [; **IN THE N.T.** [caps mine] **to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song, Jas. 5:13** (R.V. sing praise); τω κυριω, τω ονοματι αυτου (often so in the Septuagint), in honor of God, **Eph. 5:19** [here A.V. **making melody**]; **Rom. 15:9**; ψαλω τω πνευματι, ψαλω δε και τω νοι, ‘I will sing God’s praises indeed with my whole soul stirred and borne away by the Holy Spirit, but I will also follow reason as my guide, so that what I sing may be understood alike by myself and by the listeners’, **1 Co. 14:15**. * Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon”. [bold mine] Note: Thayer’s *definitions* are in *italics*. Normal font are his comments. Phrases quoted from versions are also in *italics*.

- Euripedes – c. **450 BC** [pronounced yoo RIP uh deez]
- Aristotle – c. **350 BC**
- Septuagint – c. **250 BC**
- New Testament – c. **AD 50-100**

Euphemisms

“euphemism” - “1. A mild, indirect, or vague term for one that is considered harsh, blunt, or offensive: ‘Euphemisms such as ‘slumber room’ ... abound in the funeral business’ (Jessica Mitford).” *American Heritage® Dictionary*, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 (FreeD)

“1. the substitution of a mild or indirect expression for one thought to be offensive or blunt. 2. the expression so substituted: ‘To pass away’ is a euphemism for ‘to die.’” *Webster's College Dictionary*, © 2010 (FreeD) Cmpr **Jn 11:11-14**

Like etymology, **euphemisms can change connotations** with time, **or connote different concepts in different cultures or societies**. Euphemisms can be a double-edged sword—

- ◆ We must also be **careful of accusing others** of using bad words when they intended nothing evil in their use.

“Judge righteous judgment!” Jn 7:24; Ex 23:1-2; Job 19:1-3

Since words change meanings, it is not only incorrect, but unjust to charge someone with a meaning of a word they did not intend, and has other legitimate meanings besides the one we assumed they meant. This is especially a field for misjudgment in view of the change of words over time. Words and phrases today may not connote, nor be intended to connote, an idea the word or words connoted at a different time in history, or in a different culture or society.

- ◆ We must be careful of the words we *use* and *where we use them*

Rom 12:17 **“Respect what is right in the sight of all men.”** NASB (“Have regard for ...” NKJV ; “Give thought to...” ESV; ”Be careful to do ...” NIV ; “Take thought for...” ASV; “consider what is good” NET)

2Co 8:21

Cursing; Profanity

Is someone “cursing” or using “profanity” if they use the following words?

“curse” / “cuss” - “1: a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one 2: : a profane or obscene oath or word” *Merriam Webster Dict* (merriam-webster.com)

“profanity” - “2. a. Abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language.” *American Heritage Dict* (ahdictionary.com)

“dang”

For example, if he said, “dang,” did he mean, to “**express dissatisfaction or annoyance**” or to “**damn someone to hell**? *BOTH definitions are in the American Heritage Dictionary* (<https://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=dang&submit.x=69&submit.y=28>). And if he says, “I don't give a dang,” what does he mean? Did he mean to use a curse word, or to simply express it is not something important to him— “**The least valuable bit; a jot**” (*same dictionary source American Heritage Dictionary* (<https://ahdictionary.com>))

While “dang” at one time was a euphemism for “damn” as a curse word, its use does not necessarily connote that meaning, for there are different passengers on the “dang” bus. And with some cultures it had/has no connotation of ill will toward anyone.

“damn”

History of “damn” according to *Oxford English Dictionary*: “**Damn**, which comes from French and Latin verbs, **wasn't always an expletive**. To damn someone **circa 1300** often just meant to **sentence them for a crime**. That **same century**, people began using it in theological contexts to describe the ultimate sentence: an eternity in hell. By the late **16th century**, the term had started showing up as an oath “**expressing annoyance, hatred, condemnation, etc.**,” per the OED.” [bold & underline mine] <https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/curse-word-origins>

So, while it would be **good for us to be careful** about the words we use **because of the “passengers” that once rode the “bus” and the wrong one** (not the one you intended) **may get off** when the “bus” reaches its destination (the person who hears you), **we also need to be careful of assigning a meaning to a word someone uses that they never intended and judging them guilty** of something they did not mean to imply at all.

“gosh”/“golly”

In their *history* (etymology), used as a euphemism for “God.” However, today, usually (most always?) connotes nothing more than surprise or wonder or annoyance.

“gosh” - “Used to express surprise, wonder, etc.: **orig.** a euphemism for God.” [boldmine] (yourdictionary.com) Note: same definition for “gosh” & “golly.”

“**Etymology**... euphemism for God” [boldmine] *Webster's Dictionary* (merriam-webster.com)

“Word **origin** [1750–60; euphemistic alter. of god]” [bold mine] *Collins Dict.* (www.collinsdictionary)

“A mild exclamation of surprise, alarm, dismay, annoyance, or exasperation. (‘Gosh’ here is a substitution for ‘God,’ the use of which in an oath can be considered blasphemous.) *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*. © 2024 (FreeD)

“golly” - “Etymology... euphemism for God.” *Webster's Dictionary* (merriam-webster.com)

“Used to express surprise, wonder, etc.: **orig.** a euphemism for God.” [boldmine] (yourdictionary.com) Note: same definition for “gosh” & “golly.”

Other similar euphemisms for “god” (see list at end for more) ...

“**goodness**” - “5. a euphemism for God: *Thank goodness!*” Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010

“**gracious**” - “c. 1300, "filled with God's grace," from Old French *gracios* "courteous, pleasing, kind, friendly" (12c., Modern French *gracieux*), from Latin *gratiosus* "enjoying favor, agreeable, obliging; popular, acceptable," from *gratia* "favor" (from suffixed form of PIE root **gwere-* (2) "to favor"). Meaning "merciful, benevolent" is from late 14c. As an exclamation, **elliptically for gracious God**, attested from 1713.” [boldmine] *Online Etymological Dictionary* www.etymonline.com

“**great Scott**” - Now, “an **exclamation of surprise**” *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms*. © 2024 (FreeD). “It is frequently **assumed** that Great Scott! is a minced oath of some sort, **Scott replacing God**. The 2010 edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of English* labels the expression as “dated” and simply identifies it as an “arbitrary euphemism for ‘Great God!’” en.wikipedia.org/wiki. “Word origin

[1880–85; Scott, **euphemism for god**] *Collins Dict* (<https://www.collinsdictionary.com>) [boldmine]

The following is from an email I received, 9/20/2024

The following list was compiled using Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, Webster's New World College Dictionary, Roget's International Thesaurus, Rodale's Synonym Finder, and other references.

Euphemisms for God:

•ga	•good God	•good night
•gad	•good gracious	•gosh
•gadfrey	•good grief	•gracious
•gawd	•good Lord	•great Scott
•godfrey	•goodness	•od
•gol	•goodness gracious	•odd
•golly	•goodness me	

Euphemisms for oh God:

•egad	•egads	•yegads
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Euphemisms for oh my God:

•oh my	•oh my goodness
•oh my gawd	•omigosh

Euphemisms for by God:

•begorra (Irish)	•by gar	•by Jove
•b'gosh	•by George	•pardie (French)

Euphemisms for Jesus:

•cheece	•gees	•jeepers	•sheece
•cheese	•gee whiz	•jee whiz	•sheesh
•cheez	•geez	•jeez	
•cheeze	•geeze	•jeminy	
•gee	•jee	•jiminy	

Euphemisms for Christ:

•cracky	•criminy
•cricky	•cripes
•crikey	

Euphemisms for Jesus Christ:

•jeepers creepers	•jeez Louise	•Jiminy Cricket
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Euphemisms for by Jesus:

•bejabers	•bejesus
•bejeezus	•by jingo

Euphemisms for Christ's sake:

•for chrissakes

•for crying out loud

•for Pete's sake

Euphemisms for Lord:

•lawdy

•lordy

Euphemisms for God's hooks (crucifixion nails):

•gadzooks

•odd's bodikins

•ods bodkins

•zooks

Euphemism for God's body:

•ods body

Euphemism for God's flesh:

•odds fish

Euphemisms for God's wounds:

•gadzounds

•ods zounds

•zounds

Euphemism for God's blood:

•ods blood

Euphemisms for God rot:

•drat

•drats

Euphemisms for God blind me:

•blimey

•gorblimey

Euphemisms for hell:

•heck

•Sam Hill

Euphemisms for damn:

•blame

•blast

•confound

•dang

•darn

•dash

•dern

•durn

•hang

Euphemisms for damnation:

•darnation

•tarnation

Euphemisms for God damn:

•dad blame

•dadgum

•dagnab

•doggone

•god-awful (short for goddamned awful)

•Godfrey Daniels

•god rot

•goldang

•goldarn

•goldurn

•goshdang

•goshdarn