BRAVE NEW WORDS: LITERARY GLOSSOPOESIS AS A NARRATIVE FRAMEWORK IN SCIENCE FICTION

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**DEFINITIONS**

**Literary Glossopoesis**
Any use of a constructed/fictional language in a work of fiction.

**Narrative**
refers to a story being told. It is the account of events, experiences and details.

**Narrative Framework**
Underlies the manner in which a narrative is presented to a reader.

- Fully-fledged conlangs
- Sketch conlangs
- Conceptual conlangs
- Naming conlangs

- Linear
- Non-linear
- **Embedded**
- Circular
Embedded Narratives

One or more secondary/ancillary narrative(s) within a surface narrative. A.k.a framing narrative(s)
They may be simple or complex, short or long

- A character’s flashback
- A parallel plot
- Illustrations: pictures, maps, etc
- Conlangs

Words from natural languages carry embedded history

English word “health”

From Old English hælp, “wholeness, a being whole, complete”. Also originated “whole”.

- 🇳🇱 heel, heilig;
- 🇳🇴 🇩🇰 hel, helig;
- 🇸🇪 hela, helig.

Greek word for health, “υγεία”

English “hygiene”
Literary Glossopoeisis

Hildegard von Bingen’s *Lingua Ignota*, in the 1200s

*Utopia* (1516), by Thomas More

*Gulliver’s Travels* (1726), by Jonathan Swift

James Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake* (1939)

George Orwell’s *1984*
Language sample
Theoretical basis: Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

- bellyfeel
- crimethink
- duckspeak

Narrative on Winston Smith in a dystopian “future” told in traditional prose.

Ingsoc’s evil and totalitarianism relayed through Newspeak.

“Die Arbeit macht frei”
Language sample
Theoretical basis: Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

*sháadehul*

*ramimelh*

*wohosheni*

Narrative on Nazareth and Michaela told in traditional prose.

The women’s cry for liberation relayed through the few Láadan words in the text and extrapolated through the extensive material beyond the narrative limits.
Language sample
Theoretical basis: Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

*ammar*

*kleggich*

Don’t egoize!

Narrative on Shevek’s journey to “dystopian world” told in traditional prose.

Pravic relays the ambiguity of the society that speaks it.
Thank you!
Comments welcome!

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Twitter: @israelnoletto

Newspeak: https://www.translationdirectory.com/glossaries/glossary316.php

Láadan: https://laadanlanguage.com/dictionaries/laadan-to-english-dictionary/

Pravic: https://martinedwardes.me.uk/pravic/english_pravic_english_dictionary.pdf