Author-Created Languages:
Complicating the Reading while Keeping the Reader

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'Naming Languages'

'It begins with naming. Those who write fiction with an entirely imaginary setting - fantasy or far-future or alien-world science fiction - play Adam: they must make up names for the characters and creatures of their fictive world.'
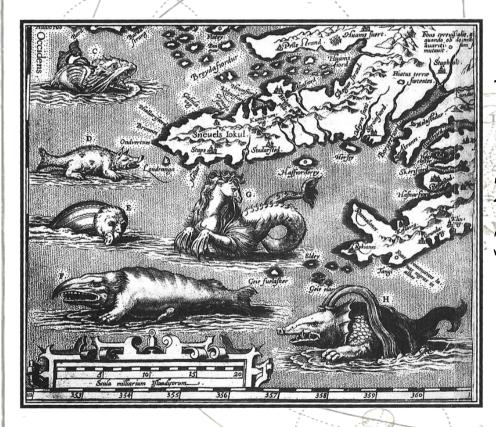
-Le Guin 2006, xvii

Conlang, Conworld, Conculture, Concomitant

'[F]or the perfect construction of an art-language it is found necessary to construct at least in outline a mythology concomitant. [...] The converse indeed is true, your language construction will breed a mythology.'
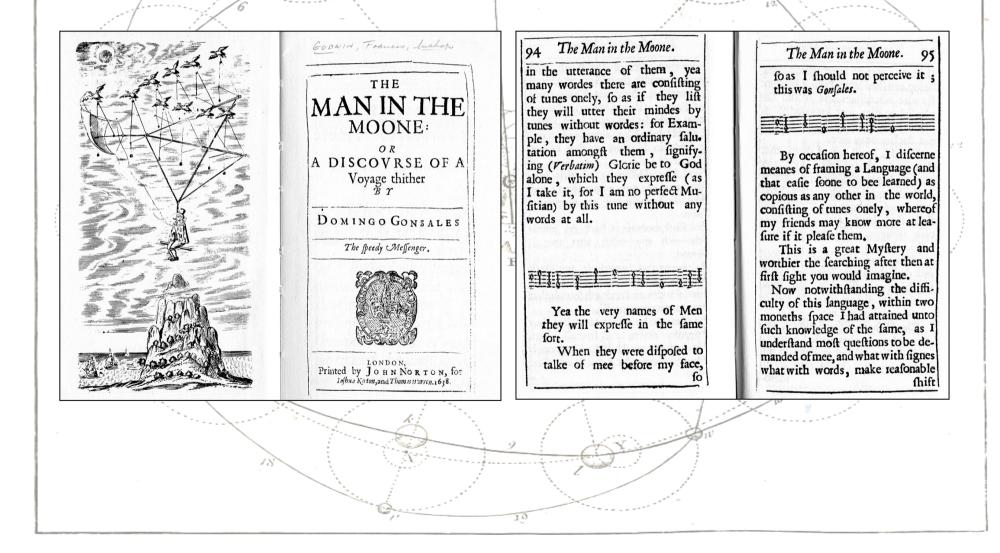
-Tolkien 1997, 210-211

In the beginning was the word….

1. Religion, specifically the story of Babel
2. Age of Exploration
3. Language creation associated with formal language study

The Man in the Moon (1638)

THE
MAN IN THE
MOONE:
OR
A DISCOVRSE OF A
Voyage thither
BY

DOMINGO GONSALES

The speedy Messenger.

LONDON,
Printed by JOHN NORTON, for
Ioshua Knton, and Thomas warren. 1638.

in the utterance of them, yea many wordes there are consisting of tunes onely, so as if they list they will utter their mindes by tunes without wordes: for Example, they have an ordinary salutation amongst them, signifying (*Verbatim*) Glorie be to God alone, which they expresse (as I take it, for I am no perfect Musitian) by this tune without any words at all.

Yea the very names of Men they will expresse in the same sort.

When they were disposed to talke of mee before my face, so

so as I should not perceive it; this was *Gonsales*.

By occasion hereof, I discerne meanes of framing a Language (and that easie soone to bee learned) as copious as any other in the world, consisting of tunes onely, whereof my friends may know more at leasure if it please them.

This is a great Mystery and worthier the searching after then at first sight you would imagine.

Now notwithstanding the difficulty of this language, within two moneths space I had attained unto such knowledge of the same, as I understand most questions to be demanded of mee, and what with signes what with words, make reasonable shift
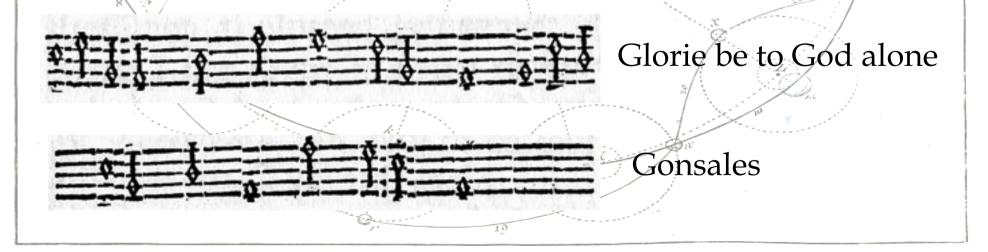
Conveniently Christian

St. Martinus -- 'they all bowed their bodies, and held up hands in signe of great reverence: the reason whereof I learned to bee, that *Martin* in their language' must be the word for God.

-Godwin 1638, 82-83

Musical Transcription

'The Difficulty of that language is not bee conceived, […] it consisteth not so much of words and Letters, as of tunes and uncouth sounds, that no letters can expresse.'
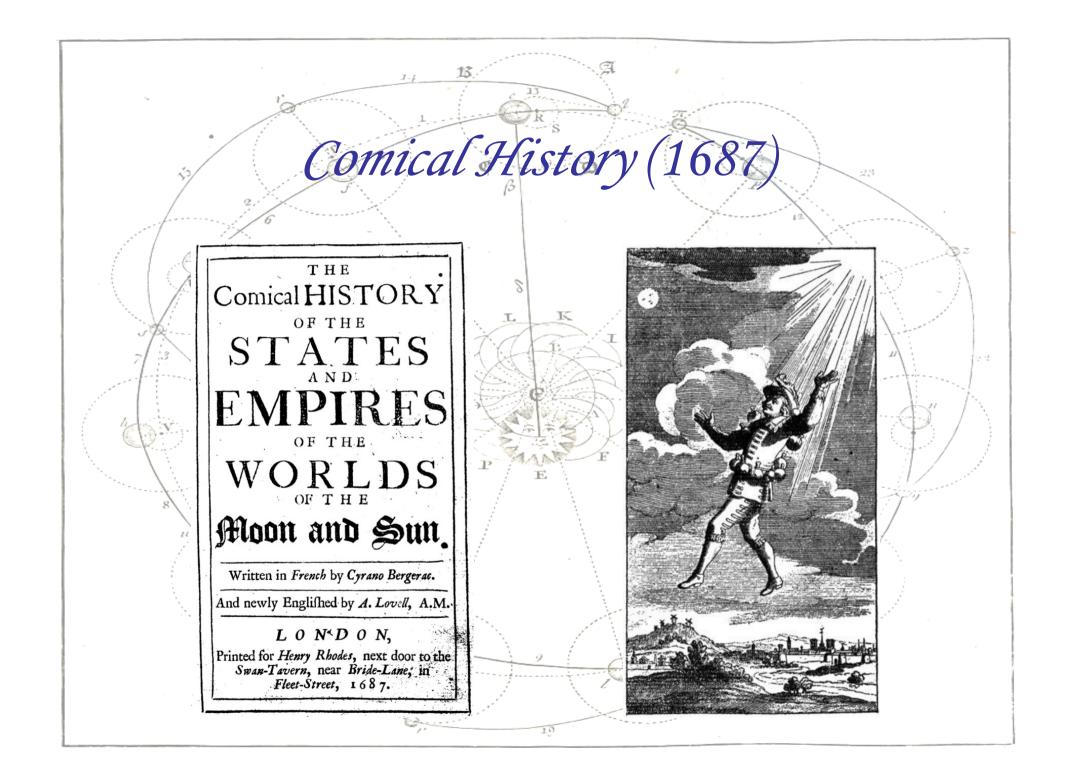-Godwin 1638, 93

Glorie be to God alone

Gonsales

Matteo Ricci in China

MATTHEVS RICCIVS MACERATENSIS QVI PRIMVS E SOCIETA
ESV EVANGELIVM IN SINAS INVEXIT OBIIT ANNO SALVTIS
1610 ÆTATIS 60

Translating the Unnamed

Lunars 'account them most base creatures, even but a degree before bruite beasts imploying them accordingly in all the basest and most servile offices, tearming them by a word that signifieth bastard-men, counterfetts, or Changelings.'

-Godwin 1638, 78-79

Cultural Conventions

- 'And his name being *Irdonozur*, his heires, unto this day, doe all assume unto themselves that name.' (Godwin 1638, 76)

- priceless stones 'whereof one they call *Poleastis*, another *Machrus*, and third *Ebelus*.' (Godwin 1638, 97-98)

Comical History (1687)

THE
Comical HISTORY
OF THE
STATES
AND
EMPIRES
OF THE
WORLDS
OF THE
Moon and Sun.

Written in *French* by *Cyrano Bergerac.*

And newly Englished by *A. Lovell*, A.M.

LONDON,
Printed for *Henry Rhodes,* next door to the
Swan-Tavern, near *Bride-Lane,* in
Fleet-Street, 1687.

Joining Domingo Gonsales

'They said then, (as I had it interpreted to me since) That I was infallibly the Female of the Queens little Animal. […] I observed by the muttering and gestures, both of the People and Magistrates, that they were consulting what sort of a thing I could be.'

-Cyrano de Bergerac 1687, 34
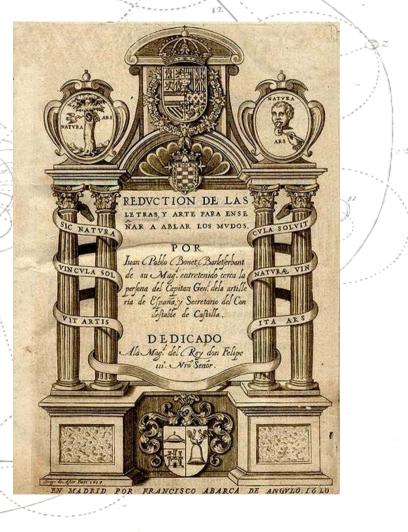
He had a nose like a sundial

'I asked what it was a Clock several times in the Street, but they made me no answer, but by opening their Mouths, shutting their Teeth, and turning their Faces awry. How, cried all the Company, did not you know by that, that they shewed you what it was a Clock?'

-Cyrano de Bergerac 1687, 126

Sign Language Instruction

- Juan Pablo Bonet published the first modern treatise on phonetics and speech therapy in 1620
- great interest in gesture-as-language for military purposes and long-distance communication
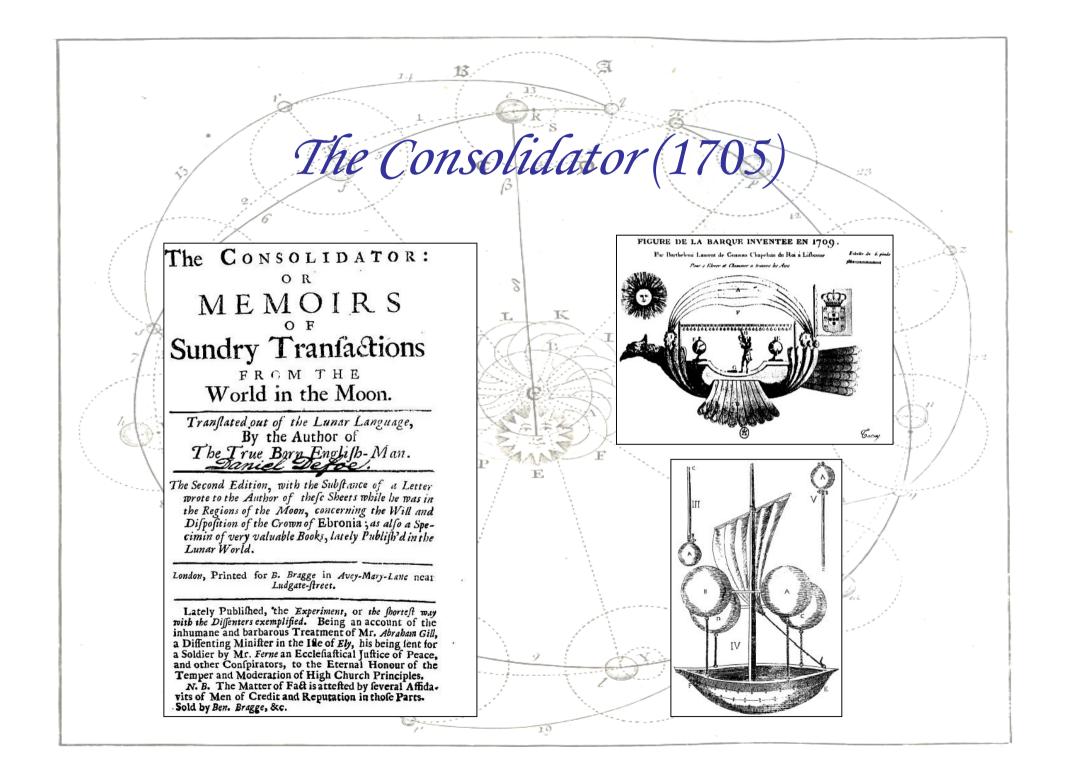
Sound Recordings

'Young-Men of that Country, were more knowing at Sixteen, or Eighteen years Old, than the Gray-Beards of our Climate; for knowing how to Read as soon as Speak, they are never without Lectures, […] they need but wind up a Spring, to hear a whole Chapter,'
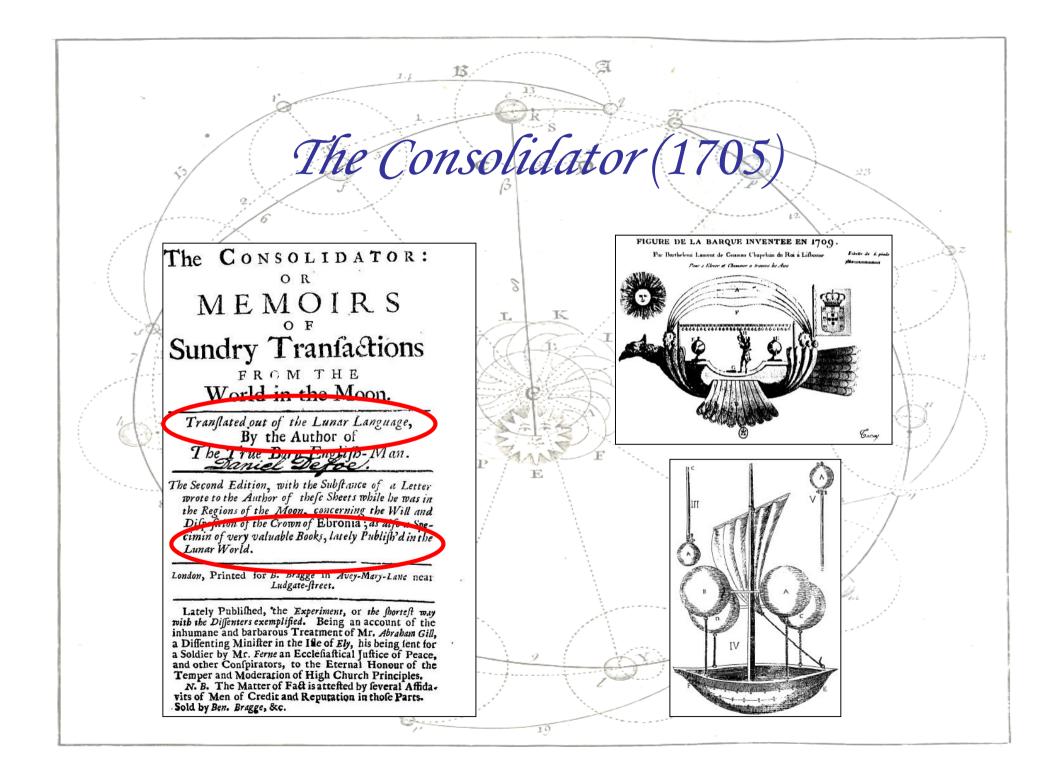
-Cyrano de Bergerac 1687, 122

Moving Away from Earth/Babel

Stranger spoke 'a language, which I knew very well I had never heard before, and which hath not the least resemblance with any of the Languages in this World; notwithstanding I comprehended it faster, and more intelligibly than my Mother Tongue.'

-Cyrano de Bergerac 1687 vol. 2, 60-61

The Consolidator (1705)

The CONSOLIDATOR:
OR
MEMOIRS
OF
Sundry Transactions
FROM THE
World in the Moon.

Translated out of the Lunar Language,
By the Author of
The True Born English-Man.
Daniel Defoe.

The Second Edition, with the Substance of a Letter wrote to the Author of these Sheets while he was in the Regions of the Moon, concerning the Will and Disposition of the Crown of Ebronia; as also a Specimin of very valuable Books, lately Publish'd in the Lunar World.

London, Printed for B. Bragge in Avey-Mary-Lane near Ludgate-street.

Lately Published, the Experiment, or the shortest way with the Dissenters exemplified. Being an account of the inhumane and barbarous Treatment of Mr. Abraham Gill, a Dissenting Minister in the Isle of Ely, his being sent for a Soldier by Mr. Ferne an Ecclesiastical Justice of Peace, and other Conspirators, to the Eternal Honour of the Temper and Moderation of High Church Principles.
N. B. The Matter of Fact is attested by several Affidavits of Men of Credit and Reputation in those Parts.
Sold by Ben. Bragge, &c.

The Consolidator (1705)

The CONSOLIDATOR: OR MEMOIRS OF Sundry Transactions FROM THE World in the Moon. Translated out of the Lunar Language, By the Author of The True Born English-Man.

FIGURE DE LA BARQUE INVENTEE EN 1709.

Antediluvian History

'if it be true […], That the *Chinese* Empire was Peopled long before the Flood, and that they were not destroyed in the General Deluge in the Days of *Noah*; 'tis no such strange thing, that they should so much out-do us'

-Defoe 2001, 26

Neologisms?

- 'he turn'd *Abogratziarian*, a zealous fiery Sect something like our *Anti-every-body-arians* in *England.*' (Defoe 2001, 19)
  - Abogratziarian, Abogratrianism, Abrogratzian, Abogrian, Abrograzian

- 'and this Neighbouring People, who they call *Mogenites*,' (Defoe 2001, 112)

Lunar poetry

'This confusion of Circumstances has occasion'd a certain Copy of Verses to appear about the Moon, which in our Characters may be read as follows.

Wondelis Idulasin na Perixola Metartos,
    Strigunia Crolias Xerin Hytale sylos;
Farnicos Galvare Orpto sonamel Egonsberch,
    Sih lona Sipos Gullia Ropta Tylos.

Which may be English'd thus.

    Caesar you Trifle with the World in vain,
    Think rather now of Germany *than* Spain;
    He's hardly fit to fill th' Eagle's *Throne,*
    Who gives new Crowns, and can't protect his own.'

-Defoe 2001, 121

Writing System

'All these Translations have innumerable Hyerogliphical Notes, and Emblems painted on them, which pass as Comments, and are readily understood in that Climate.'

-Defoe 2001, 137

~~Conclusion~~ – *Launch Pad*

- Emerging ideas in linguistics

- Education reforms

- Tropes of language presentation

- Onomatopoeia

- Your thoughts, hints, suggestions?

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