



hunk



(thanks, Liza)

piece

- Why are we reading old articles?
- The discursive construction of meaning
 - Laconic
 - Tongzhi
- Epicene pronouns and the ordering of binomials

LACONIC?

- ... after church their laconic, slow-paced Sunday afternoon began with her grandparents' table laden with foods they raised, caught or canned.
- The short lyric forms used in *Slow Motion* are perfect vehicles for the laconic voice of the waterman.
- Rather, the adjacent bar/cafe was often empty, unevenly stocked, and staffed with laconic, slow-moving folks that may or may not have had a bottled beer or panini to offer you.
- Lloyd Ruby, a laconic Texan whose slow speech belied his fast and hard driving style, amassed over 150 recorded victories.
- Few moviegoers would have guessed from his laconic and occasionally blissed-out performances
- A collection of laconic and beautiful sentiments, culled from ancient and modern poetry
- A mixtape ... designed for a laconic Sunday drive to the ocean. Put the top down on the Karmann Ghia and drive west on Sunset to the sea.

The 2014 Gucci fall collection “... proved once again that a truly beautiful lady doesn’t have to wear thousands of accessories. The collection is very laconic yet super stylish and cool.”



Laconic

Oxford: “(of a person, speech, or style of writing) using very few words: his laconic reply suggested a lack of interest in the topic.”

Miriam Webster: “using or involving the use of a minimum of words. Concise to the point of seeming rude or mysterious.”



Australia's Victorian Bar Julian Burnside

News and Views/ A Bit About Words

“It is difficult to pin down the current, received meaning of *laconic*. A statistically meaningless straw poll suggests that in Australia at present it means something like “laid back, relaxed”. I confess to having thought that was its proper meaning, but I lack a classical education.

In 1989, in *Pacific Dunlop Ltd v Hogan*, Sheppard J described Crocodile Dundee as being portrayed in the film of the same name: “... in a laconic, laid-back style and yet [the feats of the character in the film] are all pervaded with a certain cockiness and insolence.”

- Uninterested, disengaged
- Laid-back, not rushed
- Unwilling, not disposed to talk/communicate much
- Sad, looking at a distance, quiet
- Relaxed
- Lazy
- Lazy, slow moving, with little energy
- Related to slowpaced, relaxed, lazy kind of style, typical
- Reserved, slow slow-moving
- Lazy
- Mellow
- Not caring too much about the results of your actions, relaxed
- Depressed, bored, melancholic, unsatisfied, similar to lethargic
- Lazy, relaxed

- Someone who is kind of apathetic in an attempt to be cool
- Lazy
- Laissez-faire, laid back, couldn't care less
- Kinda lazy and relaxed in approach to life
- Bored, uninterested, a bit lazy
- Nonchalant
- Superior, snobby
- Laid back, droll
- Laid back, easy-going
- Melancholic
- Slow & relaxed
- Droll
- Laid back
- Devilish
- Laid back, slow

My Institute Class (with no prompts)

- tending to use few words, terse
- A person with very few words
- using few words, brief and not containing any details
- Don't know (8)
- the use of vegetables in denaturing chemicals
- combination of lexical items and emoji expressions
- socially meaningful icon
- a not ideal form
- signature, or like Laocoön
- quiet
- quiet, dry, serious
- easy going, uninterested
- nonchalant, without much affect
- disinterested, mellow, meh
- dead pan
- slow, sleep-inducing
- lazy and slow-moving
- short
- pithy, witty (of speech or writing)
- tearful, sad
- sad, hopeless
- acerbic
- wry or humorous
- pleasant to be around
- interested, passionate about a topic

Students in LINGUIST 150 (several years ago with no prompts)

- Slow, lazy, relaxed?
- Annoying???
- Laid-back and disinterested as if due to existential doubt
- Lazy (best guess)
- Quiet
- Laidback, low energy, chill in speaking. Concise and to the point. dispassionate.
- Boring, slow?
- Judgmental (wild guess)
- Not speaking much or speaking slowly?
- Dry, dull?

Collins

Terse

Short

Brief

Synonyms

VisualSynonyms.com

Crisp

Curt

Terse

Thesaurus.com

Brusque

Pithy

Terse

- Why is this adorably **terse and** sexless pop diva so famous? (Is Shania Twain human?)
- Tense, terse and troubled .. Tiger Woods shows the strain days before Open.
- “The United States Constitution is terse and old, and it guarantees relatively few rights”
- What was the name of the newspaper where Hemingway wrote for seven months, and learned his hallmark writing style of being “**terse and** clear”?
- "**Terse and** to the point," remarked Holmes, stretching his long, thin legs towards the fire.
- Jay Cutler has a tendency to be rather surly, insouciant, condescending, cold, terse, apathetic and even rude to the media at times.

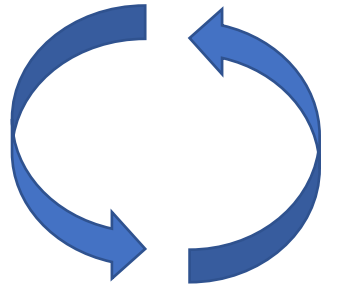
?

- ... after church their terse, slow-paced Sunday afternoon began with her grandparents' table laden with foods they raised, caught or canned.
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In other words ...



- MEANING IS LEARNED/MADE IN USE
- THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION IS TURTLES



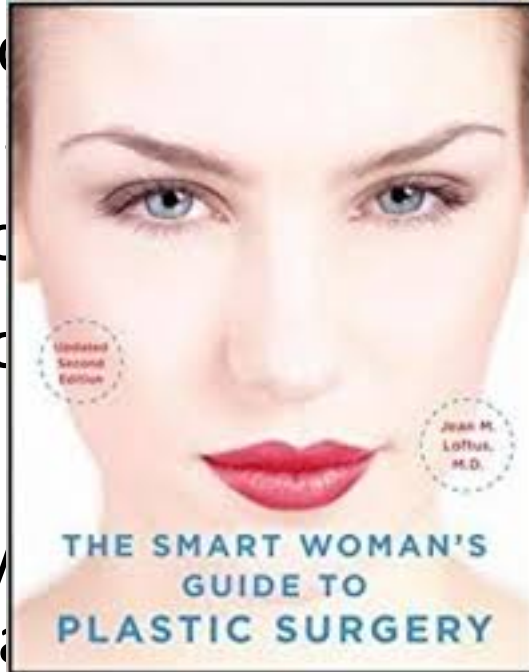
Smart men

- I was asked once, “you’re a smart man, why ain’t you rich?” I replied “you’re a rich man, why ain’t you smart?”
- A smart man makes a mistake and never makes the same mistake again. But a wise man makes a mistake and learns from him how to avoid the mistake again.
- A smart man can’t beat a happy man and a hardworking man can’t beat a happy working man.
- I’m not a smart man, Jenny, but I know what love is.
- A smart man only believes half of what he hears, a wise man knows which half.



Smart women

- A smart woman lets his actions speak for him not his words.
- A smart woman kisses but doesn't love before she is left and forgets before she is forgotten.
- Men who marry smart women are fools.
- Smart women make each other smarter.
- You see a lot of smart guys with plastic surgery, but you hardly ever see a smart woman with plastic surgery.



- Akshay: Why does MG use language acquisition as a metaphor for speech inequalities? Was this more clear to other people?
- Claire Baker: I was very intrigued by the statement "men are much more likely than women to be unaware that their own view is not universally shared". Does this relate to the way it is thought that women use more qualifiers in their speech to indicate that they are not sure about something (like "seems" or "could be" or "in my opinion")?
- Elizabeth: Could we simply say to the man who says "you think like a woman" something along the lines of "I don't understand; what do you mean?" until he is forced to confront the underlying sexist attitudes?

Tongzhi

- (2,200 years ago): ‘pertaining to people who have the same ethics and ideals’
- Dr. Sun Yat-Sen: will calling on his followers to carry on the revolution.
- Communist Revolution: replace address terms that signal differences in social status.
- 1980’s: Appropriated by gay rights activists in Hong Kong to refer to those of non-normative sexual orientation.
- 1991: Decriminalization of homosexuality in Hong Kong, birth of *tongzhi* movement.

Wong, Andrew. 2008. The trouble with Tongzhi: The politics of labeling among gay and lesbian Hongkongers. *Pragmatics* 18.277-301.

Non-activists

- Sometimes I wonder why I have to call myself *tongzhi* or *tung-sing-lyun je*. Heterosexuals don't walk around telling everyone that they are heterosexual.... I actually prefer not to label myself as *tongzhi* or *tung-sing-lyun je*. I don't really like these labels because they categorize me. They take out a certain part of my identity and magnify it.... I don't like to highlight my sexual orientation. For me, it is sort of like highlighting a particular sex organ. It's rather strange to me.
- I actually don't use any labels for myself. I only know that I'm attracted to women.

Anti-language

	Definition	Literal meaning
<i>mem-ba</i>	Gay (or lesbian)	Member
<i>Friend</i>	Boyfriend	Friend
<i>wui-so</i>	Gay bar or club	Association
<i>chau-fui</i>	To be attracted to white men	To smell dust
<i>diu-yu</i>	To go cruising	To go fishing
<i>yu-tong</i>	Cruising places	Fishing ponds
<i>Em</i>	To be the insertor in sexual intercourse	Possibly an abbreviation of the English word <i>man</i>
<i>keep yan</i>	To be in a relationship	To keep someone

Table 1: Gay Hongkongers' anti-language

- [naming] ...is not just a matter of hanging linguistic labels on a pre-existing chunk of reality which was always 'there' just waiting to be named. The production of the opposed categories 'homosexual' and 'heterosexual', for instance, reconfigures the reality which the labels purport to describe, bringing into view something - what we now refer to as 'sexual orientation' or 'sexual preference' - that had not been part of previous understandings of sexual behaviour.

Cameron, Deborah & Don Kulick. 2003. Language and sexuality Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. p. 24

- there is no social agent who does not aspire, as far as his [sic] circumstances permit, to have the power to name and to create the world through naming.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. Language and symbolic power Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press. p. 105

As McConnell-Ginet (2002: 153) argues, the use of *queer* as a term of abuse in homophobic discourse, as well as its suggestions of ‘odd’ and ‘strange,’ gave the queer activists’ slogan “We’re here, we’re queer, get used to it!” its in-your-face effectiveness. Using a word that has lived a different social life - e.g., *gay* or *homosexual* (“We’re here, we’re gay/homosexual, get used to it!”) - would be far less effective. Thus, the discursive history of *queer* enhances the political efficacy of activists’ appropriation of the term. In a similar fashion, the revolutionary connotations of *tongzhi* contribute to its political effectiveness as a label for members of sexual minorities.

Wong 2008 p. 299, citing McConnell-Ginet, Sally (2002) ‘Queering’ semantics. In Kathryn Campbell-Kibler, Robert Podesva, Sarah Roberts & Andrew Wong (eds.), *Language and sexuality: Contesting meaning in theory and practice*. Stanford: CSLI Publications, pp. 137-160.

Elizabeth: Additionally, this made me think of a lot of examples of layers of reclamation of polarizing language in the last 2 years: “nasty woman” and “nevertheless, she persisted” on the left, and “deplorable” and “clinging to guns and religion” on the right.

“Politically correct”

- Early 20th C. Conforming to Stalinist (and Nazi) orthodoxy
- 1960's-70's, New Left used ironically, to guard against orthodoxy.
- 1990's, re-derogated by the Right to focus negative attention on reforms in higher education.
 - “Political Correctness was invented by the Left so as not to hurt the feelings of their poor snowflakes. ”

- Eve: At what point, if any, does it become okay for someone outside of a community use a reclaimed word? For instance, while the n word has been reclaimed by many people, it is not at all acceptable for people outside the black community to use it. However, queer is sometimes used by cisgendered and heterosexual people without offending.

Meanings are produced and reproduced within the political structures that condition discourse.

(McConnell-Ginet 1989 p.50)

Everyone should bring his/their own lunch



Gender

Number

Geoffrey Pullum 2006 SHAKESPEARE USED *THEY* WITH SINGULAR ANTECEDENTS SO THERE

<http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/language-log/archives/002748.html>

A Comedy of Errors, Act IV, Scene 3:

*There's not a man I meet but doth salute me
As if I were their well-acquainted friend*

The Rape of Lucrece:

*Now leaden slumber with life's strength doth fight;
And every one to rest themselves betake,
Save thieves, and cares, and troubled minds, that wake.*

	NUMBER			
PERSON	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
1st	I		WE	
2nd	YOU			
3rd	IT	SHE	HE	THEY

FIGURE 1. English pronouns according to usage. (Two significant features of Figure 1 are the extension of 'you', which will not be discussed here, and the extension of 'they', which is the subject of this paper. Personal pronominal usages not included in Figure 1 are 'it' when used of a baby, second person plural 'ya'll' or 'you all', and impersonal 'one'.)

	NUMBER			
PERSON	SINGULAR			PLURAL
1st	I			WE
2nd	YOU			
3rd	IT	SHE	HE	THEY

FIGURE 2. English pronouns according to traditional grammatical analysis.

Bodine, Ann. 1975. Androcentrism in prescriptive grammar: Singular 'they,' sex-indefinite 'he,' and 'he or she'. *Language in Society* 4.129-46.

Letter from members of the Harvard Linguistics department to the Harvard Crimson. Nov. 16, 1971
<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/1971/11/16/pronoun-envy-pt-to-the-editors-of/>

Many of the grammatical and lexical oppositions in language are not between equal members of a pair but between two entities one of which is more "marked" than the other (to use the technical term). The more marked member carries more information, tends to be less frequent, and always means exactly what it says. The less marked member carries less information, since it can be used ambiguously or as a cover term for both, tends to be the more frequent, and can be substituted for the marked member. Thus the plural is more marked than the singular, since, for example, the singular can be used for plural reference (many a horse horse-thief), but not the other way around. Markedness is one of the fundamental principles which govern the organization of the internal economics of all human languages.

....

For people and pronouns in English the masculine is the unmarked and hence is used as a neutral or unspecified term. This reflects the ancient pattern of the Indo-European languages, seen also, for example, in French: *hommes et femmes heureux* "happy men and women" (with the masculine form of the adjective). Thus we say: All men are created equal. Each student shall discuss his paper topic with his section man. Madam Chairman, I object.

The fact that the masculine is the unmarked gender in English (or that the feminine is unmarked in the language of the Tunica Indians) is simply a feature of grammar. It is unlikely to be an impediment to any change in the patterns of the sexual division of labor toward which our society may wish to evolve. There is really no cause for anxiety or pronoun-envy on the part of those seeking such changes.

- Some will set the Carte before the horse, as thus. My mother and my father are both at home, even as though the good man of the house were no breaches, or that the graye Mare were the better Horse.... let us kepe a natural order, and set the man before the woman for maners Sake (Wilson 1560)
- Properly speaking, a man is not married to a woman, or married with her; nor are a man and a woman married with each other. The woman is married to the man....she has been attached to him by a legal bond, not he to her....we do not speak of tying a ship to a boat, but a boat to a ship.... so long, at least, as man is the larger, the stronger, the more individually important ... it is the woman who is married to the man. (White 1886)

- The Relative agrees with the Antecedent of the more worthy gender: as, the King and the Queen whom I honor. The Masculine gender is more worthy than the Feminine (Poole 1646).
- Act of Parliament 1850: An Act for shortening the language used in all acts of Parliament ... in all acts words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females ...

Binomial ordering

- Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls vs. he and she

Law and order

Rich and famous

Rules and regulations

Out and about

Assets and liabilities

- <http://languagelog.idc.upenn.edu/nll/?p=1998>

A few constraints

- Power constraint: Word whose referent is more powerful or central in society appears first.
 - Mother and child
 - Husband and wife
- Metrical constraints
 - number of syllables
 - smallest number of consecutive unstressed syllables
 - avoidance of ultimate stress
- frequency

Mollin, Sandra (2012). Revisiting binomial order in English: Ordering constraints and reversibility. *English language and linguistics*. 16:1. 81-103