

Confidence in Katastematic Pleasure

Post by “Don” of February 11, 2023 at 10:28 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

[Quote from Joshua](#)

in the cases of schadenfreude, déjà vu, or a cappella

Who gets to decide what these words actually mean? Who do we all accept is the authority?

This question is similar to the whole "Eskimos have a hundred words for snow" myth. The Inuit may have individual words for different types of snow, but English can still convey the meaning. It just takes more words. There may be one word in Inuktitut for it, but English can still say "packed snow that can be used to track an animal etc."

As to "who gets to decide", the authority at the present is the LSJ for ancient Greek that's available on Perseus.

The Thesaurus Linguae Latinae (TLL) is the most authoritative dictionary of ancient Latin. It is the only lexicon to cover all surviving Latin texts from the earliest times down to AD 600. Another is the Lewis and Short.

These dictionaries take into account scholarship, context, historical linguistics, and other factors to convey the range of meaning inherent in the words.