

The Order of Things - Preface

Michel Foucault

pp. xvi-xvii

GLOSSARY

This glossary is an attempt to take the words of Foucault describing a fictitious classification of animals quoted by Jorge Luis Borges in "The Analytical Language of John Wilkins" essay and put them in a different classification system so as to separate them from its original context and see if they would lose their meaning away from their intended phrases.

A

Amphibious *adjective*

relating to, living in, or suited for both land and water.

B

Bestiary *noun*

a descriptive or anecdotal treatise on various kinds of animal, especially a mediaeval work with a moralising tone.

C

Contagion *noun*

the communication of disease from one person or organism to another by close contact.

Classification *noun*

the action or process of classifying something.

D

Demoniacal *adjective*

relating to or characteristic of a demon or evil spirit.

E

Exorcized *verb*

drive out or attempt to drive out (a supposed evil spirit) from a person or place.

Epidermis *noun*

the surface epithelium of the skin, overlying the dermis.

Extremes *plural noun*

either of two abstract things that are as different from each other as possible.

Enumeration *noun*

the action of mentioning a number of things one by one.

Enchantment *noun*

the state of being under a spell; magic.

F

Fable *noun*

a short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.

Fantastic *adjective*

imaginative or fanciful; remote from reality.

H

Heraldry *noun*

the system by which coats of arms and other armorial bearings are devised, described, and regulated.

I

Imagination *noun*

the faculty or action of forming new ideas, or images or concepts of external objects not present to the senses.

Inconceivable *adjective*

not capable of being imagined or grasped mentally; unbelievable.

Insinuate *verb*

suggest or hint (something bad) in an indirect and unpleasant way.

Interstitial *adjective*

of, forming, or occupying interstices.

J

Juxtaposition *noun*

the fact of two things being seen or placed close together with a contrasting effect.

L

Limitation *noun*

a limiting rule or circumstance; a restriction.

M

Meaning *noun*

what is meant by a word, text, concept, or action.

Maiden *noun*

an unmarried girl or young woman.

Monstrosity *noun*

a thing which is outrageously evil or wrong.

P

Polymorphous *adjective*

occurring in several different forms or stages.

Proximity *noun*

nearness in space, time, or relationship.

S

System *noun*

a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; a complex whole.

Squamous *adjective*

covered with or characterised by scales.

T

Taxonomy *noun*

the classification of something, especially organisms.

REFERENCES

Borges, J. (1937-1952) *"The Analytical Language of John Wilkins" Other Inquisitions*. Translated from the [Spanish] by R. Simms, 1964.

Foucault, M. (2001) *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. London: Routledge, p. 16-17.