

## A Cautionary Note Ronald Klein

*NB I am not making any of this up. This is based on a manuscript I was asked to read.*

Dear Young Colleague,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to read your manuscript, prior to its publication. Without doubt, it was a result of great effort and scholarship. Your teachers would be proud. I have marked the pages with some comments you may consider.

Regarding language, some people savour big words (also referred to as sesquipedalianism) and complex sentences; some people choke on them. I found myself thumbing through my dictionary to find words I probably should know, but didn't. To list a few jargon words and phrases:

allochrony  
aporetic  
asservations  
instantiates  
interpretant  
proleptic  
propadeutic  
prelapsarian  
rebarbative

Then there were the jargon phrases that felt very in-groupy (also referred to as arcane exclusivity):

aetiology shorn of received categories  
appropriative agendas  
assigned metaphysical alterity  
auratic object  
culturalist sequestration  
contestatory telos  
dissident telos  
endo-psychic conflict  
exilitic valences  
hermeneutics of memory  
hyperstating strategy  
metafictional injunction  
neoliberal hegemony  
oneiric logic

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# TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

parabolic optic  
perdurable nature  
self-Orientalism  
reificatory dimensions  
revisionary-ethnography valences

semi-epipantic engagement  
toponymic references

Then, *eureka!* the foreign *bon mots*:

tout court  
cui bono  
idée fixe  
modus vivendi  
folie de grandeur  
mise-en-abyme  
terminus ad quem

Then words used less conventionally – nouns becoming verbs, adjectives becoming nouns, verbs becoming nouns.

by that problematic (adjective as noun)  
novel's regenerative thematic (adjective as noun)  
parabolic optic (adjective as noun)  
never writs large (noun as verb)  
neo-liberal construal (adjective as noun)  
the novel's troping of ... (noun as verb)

Then there were the long complex compound sentences, with all the above, plus two or more quotations often refuting each other.

So as you can see, when you string a bunch of these together you are getting into a syntactical esoteric, to coin a phrase.

As you continue your no doubt long and fruitful journey into academia, I hope you will occasionally pause over an urgent phrase to ask if this will be intelligible to more than a half dozen other similarly trained academics.

With best wishes,

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