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## Whitman and Language: An Annotated Bibliography

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## WHITMAN AND LANGUAGE: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Although there are some specialized Whitman bibliographies, there is no bibliography of the primary and secondary sources presenting information about Whitman and language, a subject that fascinated him. Whitman confessed that he had difficulty getting the subject of language out of his mind and that he thought of *Leaves of Grass* as an experiment in language. He even kept a "Word" book that was a collection of various notes concerning language. However, such concerns about language were never formalized extensively in his writings. What statements he did make are scattered throughout his prose and poetry; his most sustained comments are in *Rambles Among Words*, a book on language and words that Whitman compiled with William Swinton, and *An American Primer*, his unfinished manuscript for a lecture on language. In view of his obsession with language, this annotated bibliography of sources about Whitman and language should prove a valuable resource for Whitman scholars interested in the topic.

The main sources used to compile the bibliography were: Gay Wilson Allen, *Twenty-Five Years of Walt Whitman Bibliography, 1918-1942* (Boston: Faxon, 1943); Gay Wilson Allen and Evie Allison Allen, "A Check List of Whitman Publications, 1945-1960," in *Walt Whitman as Man, Poet, and Legend* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1961); James T. Tanner, *Walt Whitman: A Supplementary Bibliography, 1961-1967* (Kent: Kent State University Press, 1968); Scott Giantvalley, *Walt Whitman, 1838-1939: A Reference Guide* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1981); Donald D. Kummings, *Walt Whitman, 1940-1975: A Reference Guide* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1982); "Whitman: A Current Bibliography" by William White in issues of the *Walt Whitman Review* and the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*; and the annual PMLA bibliographies. Included are materials published up through the end of 1983.

Part I lists Whitman's prose and poetical works that contain statements about language or individual words. Each entry includes a brief summary of Whitman's comments on language as given in the work.

Part II lists secondary sources containing information about Whitman's theory and use of language as well as his use of individual words. Usually, each entry includes a brief summary of the author's ideas; however, when the author's statements are very brief and very general, there is no annotation. The annotations in the bibliographies compiled by Scott Giantvalley and Donald Kummings are also very helpful.

I encourage readers to contact me about errors and omissions in this bibliography; I can be reached at the English Department, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078.

### Part I. Whitman and Language: Primary Sources

Kennedy, William Sloane, ed. "Personal Memoranda, Notes and Jottings," *Walt Whitman's Diary in Canada*. Boston: Small, Maynard, 1904, pp. 66-73. Some of this material appears in Whitman, *Daybooks and Notebooks, Vol. III: Diary in Canada, Notebooks, Index*, ed. William White. New York: New York University Press, 1978.

Swinton, William. *Rambles Among Words*, rev. ed. New York: Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor, and Company, 1872. Even though only Swinton is listed as the author of this book, C. Carroll Hollis believes Swinton collaborated with Whitman. See Hollis, "Whitman and William Swinton: A Cooperative Friendship," *American Literature*, 30 (January 1959), 429–449. In this article, Hollis lists the passages in *Rambles Among Words* that he, Charles Feinberg, and Gay Wilson Allen agree were written by Whitman; he also indicates that parts of many paragraphs and many of the etymologies seem to be Whitman's. These passages are reprinted in Whitman, *Notebooks and Unpublished Prose Manuscripts*, ed. Edward F. Grier. New York: New York University Press, 1984, vol. 5, pp. 1624–1662.

Whitman's major contributions include:

- (1) Passages in Chapter 1, "Preliminary," and Chapter 3, "The Idealism of Words."

By reflecting man's mind, words "present a humanitarian geology where histories, philosophies and ethics lie embodied and embalmed." Furthermore, language is a living organism that constantly changes and that progresses cyclically. Also movements in a nation's life are repeated in its language. The English language, one of immense assimilation and best suited to express the spirit of modern American life, is the best inheritance America has received.

- (2) Chapter 6, "Words of Abuse."

Whitman classifies words of abuse and discusses their etymology.

- (3) Chapter 11, "The Growth of Words."

Language, an organism that constantly changes and that acquires individuality, is alive in the sense that it displays "successive processes of growth and development within the limits of its linguistic individuality." Thus, the English language has achieved an individual identity, like the English nation has, because it has been subjected to the same influences as the English people. There has been no adequate treatment of the English language; it needs a history, a dictionary, and a work like the "Teutonic Grammar" by Jacob Grimm. Whitman would like to write an epic of the blendings of all the elements included in the English language, but he must content himself, for now, with a brief discussion of "the most eminent contributions"—Anglo-Saxon, the French added during the Norman Conquest, and the Greek and Latin added during the sixteenth century.

- (4) Chapter 12, "English in America."

America contains a great potential for developing the English language; however, it is not surprising or fortuitous that English should be the speech of America, for English contains the spirit of the modern—"the splendid newness, the aspirations of freedom, individualism, democracy." Although the English language is not at present adequate for the utterance of America, it can be because, more than any other language, it "lends itself plastic and willing to the moulding power of new formative influences." The English language must be shaped by copious verbal contributions of various idioms and according to the entire American spirit with its "large hospitality and impartiality." Scholars have at-

tempted to discourage expansions of the language for hundreds of years and, because of this attempt, literary expression has become a "watery affair." A new mold of the language is needed, and he must contain many qualities, among them a knowledge of the philosophy of speech and rich aesthetic instincts.

Teller, Walter, ed. *Walt Whitman's Camden Conversations*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1973, pp. 200–203. Teller has arranged quotations from the first five volumes of Horace Traubel's *With Walt Whitman in Camden* under subject headings. The quotations on these pages appear under the heading "Words & Language."

Traubel, Horace. *With Walt Whitman in Camden*. Vol. I: March 28–July 14, 1888. Boston: Small, Maynard, 1906. Vol. II: July 16, 1888–October 31, 1888. New York: D. Appleton, 1908. Vol. III: November 1, 1888–January 20, 1889. New York: Mitchell Kennerley, 1914. Vol. IV: January 21–April 7, 1889. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953. Vol. V: April 8–September 14, 1889. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1964. Vol. VI: September 15, 1889–July 6, 1890. Eds. Gertrude Traubel and William White. Carbondale, Illinois: Southern Illinois University Press, 1982. Comments on language and words by Whitman are scattered throughout these six volumes of Traubel's record of daily conversations with Whitman: Vol. I (pp. 163, 217, 461–462), Vol. II (pp. 39, 44, 51, 77, 88, 136, 142, 150, 158, 164, 182, 188, 244, 249, 269, 272–273, 386, 520), Vol. III (pp. 35, 123, 131, 133, 207, 211, 299, 321, 366, 390, 494), Vol. IV (pp. 77, 92, 96–97, 208, 243, 324, 329, 441), Vol. V (pp. 143, 194, 469–470, 487–488, 492–493), Vol. VI (pp. 17–18, 20, 132, 143, 148–149, 151, 164–165, 186–187, 193, 285, 341, 342–343, 386, 400, 477, 480).

Whitman, Walt. "The American Idiom." Unpublished MS fragments in the Feinberg Collection. Also in C. Carroll Hollis, "Whitman and The American Idiom," *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 43 (December 1957), 419–420. The English language is our most precious inheritance of the past because "it is not a fossil language, but a broad fluid language of democracy." Nonetheless, it can be improved, and it must be adapted to America and the American spirit. A dictionary for the real words and a grammar of the people are needed.

———. "America's Mightiest Inheritance," *Life Illustrated* (1856). Also in *New York Dissected*, ed. Emory Holloway and Ralph Adimari. New York: Rufus Rockwell Wilson, 1936, pp. 55–65. Language cannot be traced to its origins and only language endures. The English language, America's best inheritance, is a composite language. It and all European tongues are varieties of Asiatic stock; the most important part of English is the Anglo-Saxon stock. Whitman calls for a writer of the people of America and a perfect English dictionary. In his appendix, he lists French words and meanings with suggested pronunciations.

———. *Daybooks and Notebooks, Vol. III: Diary in Canada, Notebooks, Index*, ed. William White. New York: New York University Press, 1978.

"Other Notebooks, &c. on Words," pp. 759–825.

"The Primer of Words," pp. 728–757. The text in this edition is reproduced from the 110-page MS in the Feinberg Collection. Also "An American Primer,"



*Atlantic Monthly*, 93 (April 1904), 460–470. Also *An American Primer*, ed. Horace Traubel. Boston: Small, Maynard, 1904, which has been reprinted, photographically, by City Lights Books, San Francisco, 1970, and by the Folcroft Press, Folcroft, Pennsylvania, 1969. Also in Francis Murphy, ed., *Walt Whitman: A Critical Anthology*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1970, pp. 64–79. Whitman explains his conception of words, possible sources for the new American language, and his view of himself as poet, user of words. “Words,” pp. 664–727.

———. *Leaves of Grass: Comprehensive Reader’s Edition*, ed. Harold W. Blodgett and Sculley Bradley. New York: New York University Press, 1965.

“A Broadway Pageant,” pp. 242–246.

“By Blue Ontario’s Shore,” pp. 340–355.

“Chanting the Square Deific,” pp. 443–445.

“A Clear Midnight,” p. 487.

“France,” pp. 235–236.

“Good-bye My Fancy,” p. 540.

“Great Are the Myths,” pp. 585–588.

“I Sing the Body Electric,” pp. 93–101.

“[Language for America],” p. 630.

This poetic passage excluded from *Leaves of Grass* celebrates some of the characteristics of English.

“Mannahatta,” pp. 474–475.

“Myself and Mine,” pp. 236–238.

“Of the Terrible Doubt of Appearances,” p. 120.

“One’s-Self I Sing,” p. 1.

“Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking,” pp. 246–253.

“Pensive and Faltering,” p. 455.

“Poets to Come,” p. 14.

“Reconciliation,” p. 321.

“Salut Au Monde,” pp. 137–148.

“Scented Herbage of My Breast,” pp. 113–115.

“Shut Not Your Doors,” pp. 13–14.

It is not the words of his poetry, but what they suggest and represent that is important.

“Small the Theme of My Chant,” pp. 525–526.

“So Long!,” pp. 503–506.

“Song of the Answerer,” pp. 166–170.

The poet is able to translate every idiom into his own—to join them all into one. He presents the words of true poems, and such words allow the reader to form poems for himself by giving him “religions, politics, war,/peace, behavior, histories, essays, daily life, and every/thing else.”

“Song of Banner at Daybreak,” pp. 284–291.

“Song of the Exposition,” pp. 195–205.

“Song of Myself,” pp. 28–89.

This poem is not so much an important source for Whitman’s philosophy of language as it is a summary of his basic ideas and theory of poetry.

“Song of the Open Road,” pp. 149–159.

"Song of the Redwood," pp. 206–210.

"A Song of the Rolling Earth," pp. 219–225.

Words are more than "those upright lines" and "those curves, angles, dots."  
However, language is inadequate and cannot express nature, life and flux on the rolling earth; it can only suggest the truths of life.

"Spontaneous Me," pp. 103–105.

"Starting From Paumanok," pp. 15–28.

"There Was a Child Went Forth," pp. 364–366.

"Thou Mother With Thy Equal Brood," pp. 455–461.

"Vocalisms," pp. 383–384.

"What Am I After All," p. 392.

"Year of Meteors," pp. 238–239.

"Yonnonidio," p. 524.

———. *Notebooks and Unpublished Prose Manuscripts*, ed. Edward F. Grier. 6 vols. New York: New York University Press, 1984. These volumes bring together Whitman's various notes on language, including the sections of *Rambles Among Words* that seem to have been written by Whitman; many of the notes are from the Feinberg Collection (Library of Congress). See especially the section on "Words," vol. 5, pp. 1621–1709, and the section on "Oratory," vol. 6, pp. 2221–2244.

———. *Prose Works 1892*, ed. Floyd Stovall. 2 vols. New York: New York University Press, 1964.

"A Backward Glance O'er Travel'd Roads," pp. 711–732.

Also *November Boughs* (1888). Also in *Leaves of Grass: Comprehensive Reader's Edition*, ed. Harold W. Blodgett and Sculley Bradley. New York: New York University Press, 1965, pp. 561–574. Also in Francis Murphy, ed. *Walt Whitman: A Critical Anthology*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1970, pp. 107–122.

"Democratic Vistas," pp. 361–426.

Whitman's comments on the poet and literature are much more extensive than those on language (pp. 411–413); yet they provide further understanding of his view of language. Whitman feels that the coming genius of American poetic expression would be a result of the use of the American idiom and of slang.

"Preface, 1855, to First Issue of *Leaves of Grass*," pp. 434–458. Also in *Leaves of Grass: Comprehensive Reader's Edition*, ed. Harold W. Blodgett and Sculley Bradley. New York: New York University Press, 1965, pp. 709–729. Whitman in a very brief comment (pp. 456–457) lavishly praises English; it has a wide range of expression and is the best language to express the inexpressible.

"Preface, 1872, to 'As a Strong Bird on Pinions Free,'" pp. 458–463. Also in *Leaves of Grass: Comprehensive Reader's Edition*, ed. Harold W. Blodgett and Sculley Bradley. New York: New York University Press, 1965, pp. 739–744. In this and the following entry, Whitman comments more on the poet and literature than on language, but such comments aid in understanding his theory of language.

"Preface, 1876, to the *Centennial Edition*," pp. 464–474. Also in *Leaves of Grass*:

Comprehensive Reader's Edition, ed. Harold W. Blodgett and Sculley Bradley. New York: New York University Press, 1965, pp. 744-754.

"Slang in America," pp. 572-577. Also *North American Review* (November 1885). Also *November Boughs* (1888). Also in *Rivulets of Prose: Critical Essays by Walt Whitman*, ed. Carolyn Wells and Alfred T. Goldsmith. New York: Greenberg, 1928. Also in Francis Murphy, ed., *Walt Whitman: A Critical Anthology*. Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1970, pp. 102-107. Giving examples, Whitman defines slang and discusses its development. Slang is illustrative of the fermentation process of language. Since slang is a very important part of language, philologists should give it more attention than they have.

"Unfulfill'd Wants—The Arkansas River," pp. 217-218. Whitman makes the brief comment that "One wants new words in writing about these plains, and all the inland American West—the terms, *far*, *large*, *vast*, etc., are insufficient."

———. *The Uncollected Poetry and Prose of Walt Whitman*, ed. Emory Holloway. Garden City, N.Y. & Toronto: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1921. Vol. I: lxiii-lxxxiii, lxxxv, lxxxviii, xci, 104. Vol. II: 65, 96-97.

## Part II. Whitman and Language: Secondary Sources

Abrams, Robert E. "Space, Image, and Language in *Leaves of Grass*," *American Transcendental Quarterly*, 41 (1979), 75-83. Abrams begins by discussing some examples of "peculiar and unconventional expression in the *Leaves of Grass*" in order "to suggest that three basic principles tend to govern Whitmanesque style."

Adams, Charles M. "Whitman's Use of 'Grass,'" *American Notes and Queries*, 6 (February 1947), 167-168. Adams makes a query about Whitman's use of "grass." Did Whitman in some places in *Leaves of Grass* use "the word as a piece of printer's slang, that is, to mean 'a person who does casual work around the shop' or 'the work such a person does.'"?

Allen, Gay Wilson. "Literary Technique," *Walt Whitman Handbook*. Chicago: Packard, 1946, pp. 375-441. See also Allen, "Literary Technique in *Leaves of Grass*," *The New Walt Whitman Handbook*. New York: New York University Press, 1975. Allen has made only minor changes in the part of language, pp. 242-248. Allen comments on Whitman's theory and practice of language. Whitman was a poet trying to relate words and the experiences these words stand for. Since words themselves are inadequate, a person must search for the meaning behind them. Whitman, therefore, didn't believe in the magic of words, but in the importance of the relationship between words and what they stand for. A person must contain the meaning of the words he uses.

———. "The Problem of Metaphor in Translating Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*," *English Studies Today: Second Series*, ed. G. A. Bonnard. Lectures and Papers Read at the Fourth Conference of the International Association of University Professors of English, August 1959, at Lausanne and Berne. Berne: Francke Verlag, 1961, pp. 269-280.

Allen, Gay Wilson and Charles T. Davis, eds. "Introduction," *Walt Whitman's Poems: Selections with Critical Aids*. New York: New York University Press, 1955, pp. 1-51. This is a very good introduction to Whitman and pp. 36-51 are especially informative about Whitman and language. Whitman recorded the distinctive features of America in his diction, and he also tried to suggest America's function as a melting-pot. He was attracted by technical terms, colloquial and dialectal phrases, and slang. Allen and Davis feel that his language is fresh because "it grows out of a new attitude toward experience." Moreover, "it acquires range and richness from the poet's ready acceptance of vocabularies that come from a variety of tongues, skills, and disciplines."

Allen, Ralph. "Whitman Speaks For Himself," *Walt Whitman Foundation Bulletin*, 8 (April 1955), 35-42. Allen gives 48 excerpts from Whitman's poetry to illustrate his magnificent diction.

Amyot, Gerald F. "Walt Whitman's Language Experiment," *Walt Whitman Review*, 20 (September 1974), 97-103. Amyot agrees with the position that he believes recent critics of Whitman are taking—"that Whitman was indeed a conscious linguistic craftsman, a writer who thoroughly acquainted himself with words, their meanings, and their relationships." Furthermore, Whitman felt that there was a strong relationship between language and life and that language came from concrete reality. He wanted, through his "language experiment," to find and use the words that would express the America he saw emerging.

Asselineau, Roger. *L'Évolution de Walt Whitman: après la première Édition des Feuilles d'Herbes*. Paris: [Librairie Marcel] Didier, 1954, pp. 372-388. Translated as "Whitman's Fundamental Aesthetics" in Gay Wilson Allen, ed. *Walt Whitman Abroad: Critical Essays From Germany, France, Scandinavia, Russia, Italy, Spain and Latin America, Israel, Japan, and India*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955, pp. 90-109.

———. "Part II: The Progress of His Art," *The Evolution of Walt Whitman: The Creation of a Book*, trans. Roger Asselineau and Burton L. Cooper. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 1962. Vol. II of Asselineau's *L'Évolution de Walt Whitman*, pp. 225-238. Whitman at first wished to innovate boldly, but he gradually returned to traditional poetic techniques. With successive editions, he used more traditional words that are dull and colorless, and his poetic language evolved more in the direction of abstraction than convention; he used Americanisms, neologisms and technical terms less frequently. Besides discussing Whitman's use of words, Asselineau also discusses Whitman's theory of language and his method of composing poetry.

———. "Translating Whitman into French," *Long-Islander*, 29 May 1969, Whitman Sesquicentennial Edition, 1-2.

Bailey, John [Cann]. "Whitman's Language and Metre," *Walt Whitman*. English Men of Letters. New York: MacMillan, 1926, pp. 82-129. Bailey's discussion concerns Whitman's metre more than his language.

Batchelor, Sally Ann. "Whitman's Yawp and How He Yawped It," *Walt Whitman Review*, 18 (September 1972), 97-101. Most of this article is an explication of Section 52 of "Song of Myself." At the end Batchelor expands slightly upon "yawp."

- Bauerle, Richard F. "Whitman's Index to His Scrapbook: A 'Map' of His 'Language World,'" *Walt Whitman Review*, 26 (December 1980), 158–162, 165, 166. Bauerle studies the lists of words pasted inside the front cover and on the front end paper of Whitman's Scrapbook. He concludes that they are "a listing of topics and fields of knowledge about which Whitman wished to know more."
- Beaver, Joseph. *Walt Whitman—Poet of Science*. New York: King's Crown Press, 1951. Brief comments on language throughout. Although Beaver discusses primarily Whitman's knowledge of various sciences and the weaving of this knowledge into his poetry, he indicates some of Whitman's scientific terminology.
- Bernbrock, John E. "Walt Whitman and Anglo-Saxonism." Ph.D. Dissertation. North Carolina, 1961. DAI 22 (1962): 2789–2790. In the two introductory chapters, Bernbrock presents a narrative description of relevant documents related to Whitman's own study of language and various early language projects. The MS notes and word lists give insight into Whitman's linguistic approach to poetry and his methods of composition. Bernbrock also discusses a language textbook that Whitman was familiar with and that was the work of popular contemporary 19th-century linguists. In his two main chapters, Bernbrock explains how Whitman's diction and prosody were influenced by his interest in the Anglo-Saxon background of our race—Anglo-Saxon institutions, language, and literature.
- . "Whitman's Language Study: Work in Progress," *Walt Whitman Review*, 6 (December 1960), 69–72. Bernbrock discusses Whitman's use of a textbook on language.
- Birss, John Howard. "Nicknames of the States; a Note on Walt Whitman," *American Speech* (June 1932), 389. Birss lists the nicknames of inhabitants of various states from a newspaper clipping that Whitman kept in his "Words" file.
- Blasing, Mutlu Konuk. "Whitman's 'Lilacs' and the Grammars of Time," *PMLA*, 97 (January 1982), 31–39.
- Briggs, Arthur E. "New Poetry and Old Techniques" and "Whitman's Poetic Techniques," *Walt Whitman: Thinker and Artist*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1952, pp. 300–316 and 317–339. Briggs's comments are primarily on Whitman's prosody.
- Burke, Kenneth. "Policy Made Personal: Whitman's Verse and Prose—Salient Traits," *Leaves of Grass: One Hundred Years After*, ed. Milton Hindus. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1966, pp. 74–108. With reference to *Democratic Vistas*, Burke explains Whitman's political philosophy in general and then the way that that policy expresses itself in *Leaves of Grass*. Burke uses words and phrases quoted from Whitman in his discussion. Many of the terms explained are common ones, but Burke discusses the various meanings Whitman gave them. He concludes with an explication of "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd."
- Byers, Thomas B. "Believing Too Much in Words: W. S. Merwin and the Whitman Heritage," *The Missouri Review*, 3 (1980), 75–89. Most of Byers's comments concerning Whitman and language are on pp. 82–87.

Campbell, Killis. "The Evolution of Whitman as Artist," *American Literature*, 6 (November 1934), 254–263. Campbell briefly comments on Whitman's revisions of passages dealing with sex; Whitman dropped some of the more indelicate phrases.

———. "Miscellaneous Notes on Whitman." *Studies in English* (University of Texas), 14 (July 1934), 116–122. Campbell discusses briefly Whitman's use of the figure metanoia, literary echoes, coinages and other rare words, and textual errors in *Leaves of Grass*. He also includes bibliographical notes.

Canby, Henry Seidel. "I Hear America Singing," *Walt Whitman, An American: A Study in Biography*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943, pp. 306–324. Canby's comments on Whitman and language are very brief and very general. Canby feels that the diction of *Leaves of Grass* is "in a state of becoming, experimental not finished."

Catel, Jean. *Rythme et langage dans le Ire édition des "Leaves of Grass" (1855)*. Paris: Rieder, 1930. Conclusion translated by Roger Asselineau in Gay Wilson Allen, ed. *Walt Whitman Abroad: Critical Essays from Germany, France, Scandinavia, Russia, Italy, Spain and Latin America, Israel, Japan, and India*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955, pp. 88–89. Catel emphasizes rhetoric; he studies matters such as diction and phrasing both in materials written before 1855 and the poems of the first edition.

———. *Walt Whitman: la naissance du poète*. "Bibliothèque de littérature comparée." Paris: Rieder, 1929. Chapter II and Conclusion translated by Roger Asselineau in Gay Wilson Allen, ed. *Walt Whitman Abroad: Critical Essays from Germany, France, Scandinavia, Russia, Italy, Spain and Latin America, Israel, Japan, and India*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955, pp. 76–87.

Chase, Richard. *Walt Whitman Reconsidered*. New York: William Sloane Associates, 1955, pp. 90–98. Chase's discussion of Whitman and language is somewhat brief and general. Chase feels that, for Whitman, words were spontaneous, creative agents. When Whitman put a word in a poem, he set it in motion, off on a career of discovery and creation.

Cherry, Charles L. "Whitman and Language: An Instance of Semantic Paradox," *Walt Whitman Review*, 14 (June 1968), 56–58. Cherry discusses Whitman's use of the word "electric."

Coffeen, Robert G. "Naming Techniques in Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*: A Study in the Problems of Power." Ph.D. Dissertation. North Carolina, 1969. DAI 30 (1970): 3903A.

Cohen, Martin Steven. "Every Child May Joy to Hear [Literary Appreciation]." Ph.D. Dissertation. State University of New York at Buffalo, 1975. DAI 36 (1975): 1495A. Cohen discusses several works, including "Song of Myself," in which the author intermingles the language of many folks to gain a special connection with the audience.

Colum, Padraic. "The Poetry of Walt Whitman," *The New Republic*, 19 (June 14, 1919), 213–215. Colum presents a passage on language that was deleted from "As I Sat Alone by Blue Ontario's Shore."

- Cooke, Mrs. Alice Lovelace. "Whitman's Indebtedness to the Scientific Thought of His Day," *Studies in English* (University of Texas), 14 (July 1934), 89-115. Cooke discusses Whitman's use of science in a few of his poems, and in doing so she indicates some of his scientific terminology.
- Coy, Rebecca. "A Study of Whitman's Diction," *Studies in English* (University of Texas), 16 (1936), 115-124. Whitman added to the common stock of words by using borrowings from foreign languages, colloquial American speech, Americanisms, technical and commercial terms, and pedantic and archaic words. For each of these ways, Coy gives useful classifications and statistics. She concludes, "he produced, not the great representative American speech of which he dreamed, but only a Whitmanesque dialect which will remain forever personal and inimitable."
- Daggett, Gwynne Harris. "Whitman's Poetic Theory." Dissertation. North Carolina, 1941. [No reference in DAI.] In this discussion of Whitman's poetic theory, Daggett also comments on Whitman and his theory of language. Between 1855 and 1860, Whitman entertained the theory that words and their implications might be as powerful as nature, or more so, and he thought of them as having "natural life: the ability to grow and reproduce ideas." However, he realized how inadequate they are since they are artificial and hence limited. The glory and magic of the original vanishes when words are applied to the object or idea. The spell of nature is broken by applying the words; the originals possess a quality that defies recording. Whitman came to believe that it may be possible to escape the limitations of poetic expression by being emancipated from dependence upon the medium of language, and he supposed that men might some day be able to communicate without words, perhaps intuitively.
- Daiches, David. "Walt Whitman: Impressionistic Prophet," *Leaves of Grass: One Hundred Years After*, ed. Milton Hindus. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1955, pp. 109-122.
- De Selincourt, Basil. "Style," *Walt Whitman: A Critical Study*. London: Martin Secker, 1914, pp. 134-164. De Selincourt discusses mainly Whitman's syntax. His comments on Whitman's language and words are brief and general. Whitman's method and use of language placed emphasis on the unfinished, on the objects themselves and not upon what happened to the objects. He gave words an atmosphere.
- Dressman, Michael R. "Goodrich's *Geography* and Whitman's Place Names," *Walt Whitman Review*, 26 (June 1980), 64-67. Dressman believes that "a comparison of certain manuscript notes in Whitman's own hand with certain of the passages in Goodrich's *Geography* indicates that Whitman used the book to assemble information about the various states and their characteristic geographic features and resources."
- . "Names Are Magic': Walt Whitman's Laws of Geographic Nomenclature," *Names*, 26 (1978), 68-79.
- . "Walt Whitman's Plans for the Perfect Dictionary," *Studies in the American Renaissance* 1979, ed. Joel Myerson. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1979, pp. 457-474. Much of the material discussed is contained in Vol. 3 of Whitman's



- Daybooks and Notebooks*. Dressman discusses Whitman's idea for and efforts toward a "Perfect English Dictionary."
- . "Walt Whitman's Study of the English Language." Ph. D. Dissertation. North Carolina, 1974. DAI 36 (July 1975): 338A.
- . "Whitman, Chaucer, and French Words," *Walt Whitman Review*, 23 (June 1977), 77–82. Dressman thinks Whitman's "primary concern with Chaucer was in regard to that poet's place in the development of English, particularly Chaucer's part in enriching English with borrowings from French." He briefly discusses Whitman's annotations on two Chaucer essays and concludes "Whitman saw himself as a kind of latter-day Chaucer."
- DuBois, Arthur E. "Keeping Whitman's Tally," *Modern Language Notes* 67 (June 1952), 414–417. Whitman uses "tally" to describe the result of intuition.
- Dugdale, Clarence. "Whitman's Knowledge of Astronomy," *Studies in English* (University of Texas), 16 (July 1936), 124–137. Dugdale indicates some of Whitman's astronomical terminology.
- Dutton, Geoffrey. "The Poetry," *Walt Whitman*. Writers and Critics, 012. London: Oliver and Boyd, 1961, pp. 56–97.
- Eby, Edwin Harold. *A Concordance of Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass and Selected Prose Writings*. 5 pts. in 2 vols. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1949–1954. Also a one-volume edition by New York: Greenwood Press, 1969.
- Faner, Robert. "Diction," *Walt Whitman and Opera*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1951, pp. 115–125. Faner lists the musical vocabulary of *Leaves of Grass*.
- Feidelson, Charles. *Symbolism and American Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953, pp. 16–28 and 235–240.
- Finkel, William L. "Whitman and the Calendar," *Word Study* 25 (February 1950), 3–4.
- Foerster, Norman. "Whitman," *Nature in American Literature*. New York: MacMillan, 1923, pp. 176–220. Foerster discusses mainly Whitman's use of nature, but he also indicates some of the specific birds, insects, animals, trees, and flowers found in Whitman's writings.
- Forrey, Robert. "Whitman's 'Real Grammar': A Structuralist Approach," *Walt Whitman Review*, 27 (March 1981), 14–24.
- Francis, K. H. "Walt Whitman's French," *Modern Language Review*, 51 (October 1956), 493–506. Francis briefly discusses Whitman's use of French, his reason for using French, and his knowledge of French literature.
- Frank, Waldo. "Walt Whitman," *The Rediscovery of Man: A Memoir and a Methodology of Modern Life*. New York: George Braziller, 1958, pp. 363–368. Frank discusses Whitman as a primitive mythmaker.
- Fridholm, Roland. "Pindaros fran Paumanok," *Ord och Bild*, 43 (1934). Translated by Evie Allison Allen in Gay Wilson Allen's *Walt Whitman Abroad*, pp. 437–443.



Fridholm suggests that Whitman coined a word or borrowed one from another language when he felt that he had exhausted the possibilities of the English vocabulary. He supports his suggestion with examples.

Furness, Clifton Joseph, ed. *Walt Whitman's Workshop: A Collection of Unpublished Manuscripts*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1928, pp. 3–24, 35, 124–126, 221–222. Furness discusses characteristics of Whitman's writings that are presented in this book. He feels that Whitman achieved his power with words more by getting new implications from them, than by using fresh vocabulary, for often a common word had special significance for him. He also discusses Whitman's comments on "adhesiveness."

Fussell, Edwin. "The Birth of Death in Whitman," *Lucifer in Harness: American Meter, Metaphor, and Diction*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973, pp. 123–124. After a quick overview of the progress of Whitman's use of language, Fussell discusses "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" and concludes that Whitman is the American poet who finally "dies" to the tradition and poetic diction of British poetry.

Griffin, James D. "The Pregnant Muse: Language and Birth in 'A Song of the Rolling Earth,'" *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, 1 (June 1983), 1–8. Griffin studies the language of the poem in detail.

Gross, Harvey. *Sound and Form in Modern Poetry: A Study of Prosody from Thomas Hardy to Robert Lowell*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1964, pp. 83–88.

Harrison, Phillipa. "'Eidólons': An Entrance Song," *Walt Whitman Review* 17 (June 1981), 35–45. Harrison discusses the dictionary's and Whitman's meaning of "eidólons." She also discusses some of the other diction, which usually is very abstract and not effective. His use of French is affected, she feels.

Harvey, Nancy Lenz. "Whitman's Use of 'Arms' in *Leaves of Grass*," *Walt Whitman Review*, 18 (December 1972), 136–138. Whitman uses "arms" to refer to a part of the body and to military devices.

Hesford, Walter. "The Efficacy of the Word, the Futility of Words: Whitman's 'Reconciliation' and Melville's 'Magnanimity Baffled.'" *Walt Whitman Review*, 27 (December 1981), 150–155.

Hindus, Milton. "The Centenary of *Leaves of Grass*," *Leaves of Grass: One Hundred Years After*, ed. Milton Hindus. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1955, pp. 3–21.

———. "Notes Toward the Definition of a Typical Poetic Line in Whitman," *Walt Whitman Review*, 9 (December 1963), 75–81.

Hollis, C. Carroll. *Language and Style in Leaves of Grass*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983. Hollis discusses Whitman in terms of the oratorical tradition in mid-nineteenth-century America. With its careful application of recent speech act theory to the understanding of Whitman's poetic structure up to the 1860s, and with its exploration of how various characteristic oratorical and

journalistic techniques formed the basis of Whitman's poetic language, Hollis's book is the most thorough examination to date of Whitman's style. Hollis includes statistical analysis demonstrating dramatic decreases after 1860 in Whitman's use of finite verb elements and dramatic increases after 1860 in his use of Romance-Latin based words, all indicating a radical shift in Whitman's conception of poetry, as Whitman retreated into a more conventional poetic diction.

- . "Names in *Leaves of Grass*," *Names*, 5 (September 1957), 129–156. Hollis gives information concerning Whitman's use of names, as well as insights into his general theory of language. Whitman felt strongly that the names for places and people should come out of the experiences of America and that names keeping Americans tied to the Old World should be avoided. He wanted to correct any inappropriate names.
- . "Whitman and The American Idiom," *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 43 (December 1957), 408–420. Hollis's discussion of the various items found in Whitman's "Words" file is useful in understanding Whitman's theory of language. Hollis puts together several slips from this file to form "The American Idiom."
- . "Whitman and William Swinton: A Co-operative Friendship," *American Literature*, 30 (January 1959), 425–449. Hollis discusses the collaboration of William Swinton and Walt Whitman in writing *Rambles Among Words*, and he lists the passages in the book that he, Charles Feinberg, and Gay Wilson Allen agree were written by Whitman even though only Swinton's name is given as author.
- . "Whitman on 'Periphrastic' Literature . . . Speculations on an Unpublished MS Fragment," *Fresco*, 10 (Winter-Spring, 1960), 5–13. Hollis first dates the MS fragment and then he speculates as to what information it provides about Whitman. He also discusses "carlacue" and "sweet sap tickles" that appear in the 1855 edition of "Song of Myself," but not later.
- . "Whitman's Word-Game," *Walt Whitman Newsletter*, 4 (March 1958), 74–76. Hollis discusses Whitman's interest in the word-game "animal, vegetable, mineral."
- Howard, Leon. "Walt Whitman and the American Language," *American Speech*, 5 (August 1930), 441–451. Howard briefly summarizes Whitman's writings on the American language. He analyzes Whitman's comments on language as found in *An American Primer*. He emphasizes Whitman's remarks on place names as well as the inclusiveness and freedom of his usage.
- Hugot, François. "Poets to Come," *American Dialog* 5 (Spring–Summer 1969), 27–28.
- Hungerford, Edward. "Walt Whitman and His Chart of Bumps," *American Literature*, 2 (January 1931), 350–384. Hungerford discusses the influence of phrenology upon Whitman's poetry—both ideas and diction. He also gives Fowler's phrenological analysis of Whitman.
- Hynes, Samuel. "Whitman, Pound and the Prose Tradition," *The Presence of Walt Whitman: Selected Papers From the English Institute*, ed. R. W. B. Lewis. New

- York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 110–136, esp. 132–135. Most of the article is about Pound.
- Jahr, Helga. "Verbs and Adjectives in 'On the Beach at Night' and 'Biblical References in 'Passage to India' and 'Years of the Modern,'" *Studies in Walt Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass,'* ed. Harry R. Warfel. Written by students at Philipps-Universität. Gainesville, Florida: Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1954, pp. 32–34 and 56–59.
- Jarrell, Randall. "Some Lines from Whitman," *Poetry and the Age*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1953, pp. 112–132. He gives examples to support the statement that "Whitman was no sweeping rhetorician, but a poet of the greatest and oddest delicacy and originality and sensitivity, so far as words are concerned." However, Jarrell doesn't discuss the examples, but simply lists them. He does comment on some of the characteristics of Whitman's syntax.
- Johnston, Kenneth G. and John O. Rees, Jr. "Whitman and the Foo-Foos: An Experiment in Language," *Walt Whitman Review* 17 (March 1971), 3–10. Johnston and Rees discuss the meaning of this slang term "foo-foos" which was in current usage on the New York stage about 1855 and which was used in the play *A Glance at New York* and then in *Leaves of Grass*.
- Kennedy, William Sloane. "Growth of *Leaves of Grass* as Work of Art (Excisions, Additions, Verbal Changes)," *The Fight of a Book for the World: A Companion Volume to Leaves of Grass*. West Yarmouth, Mass.: Stonecraft Press, 1926, pp. 153–169. Kennedy discusses and illustrates Whitman's verbal alterations which include the correction of grammatical errors, the verbal creations that look like errors but aren't, the reduction of catalogs, and the emendations that tone down statements.
- . "Style of *Leaves of Grass*," *Reminiscences of Walt Whitman, with extracts from his letters and remarks on his writings*. London: Alexander Gardner, 1896, pp. 149–190. There is little on Whitman's theory of or use of language, although Kennedy does list technical, idiomatic, and slang terms from early poems.
- Killingsworth, Myrth Jimmie. "Another Source for Whitman's Use of 'Electric,'" *Walt Whitman Review*, 23 (September 1977), 129–132. Killingsworth responds to comments made by Cynthia Sulfridge in "Meaning in Whitman's Use of 'Electric.'" Killingsworth believes that, at least in "I Sing the Body Electric," Whitman's use of "electric" comes from "the concept of 'sexual electricity'" used by medical writers of sex education literature in the 1850s and 1860s.
- Lenhart, Charmenz S. "Walt Whitman and Music in *Leaves of Grass*," *Musical Influence on American Poetry*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1956, pp. 161–209. Lenhart discusses primarily the parallels between Whitman's poetry and music with little on his use of or theory of language. He concludes that Whitman wavered between the vocabularies of instrumental and vocal music, but uses vocal references when he was most impassioned. The musical terms he used often indicated what he was doing in his verse.
- Lowenfels, Walter. "A Poet is as Old as His Language: A Whitman Note," *ETC.: A Review of General Semantics*, 25 (December 1968), 495–497.

- Ludovici, Paolo. "The Craftsmanship of Timelessness: A Linguistic Investigation of *Leaves of Grass*," *Studi Americani* (Rome), 23/24 (1978), 87-110.
- Mabbott, Thomas Ollive. "Review of Comprehensive *Leaves of Grass*, edited by Blodgett and Bradley," *Walt Whitman Review*, 11 (June 1965), 55-56. Mabbott complains that many of the explanatory notes for words are inadequate; the notes are either too meager or incorrect.
- . "Walt Whitman's Use of 'Libertad,'" *Notes and Queries*, 174 (May 21, 1938), 367-368. Mabbott discusses "libertad," which appeared on the Liberty Cap. A type of usual silver coinage of the Mexican Republic, this coinage was legal tender in the United States until February 21, 1857.
- Magill, Lewis Malcolm. "A Study of Whitman's Diction." M.A. thesis. University of Illinois, 1943. [No reference in DAI.] Magill illustrates and provides reasons for Whitman's use of words from foreign countries, American occupations, the frontier, the Civil War, journalism and mysticism.
- Major, Clarence. "Close to the Ground," *American Dialog*, 5 (Spring-Summer 1969), 35.
- Malbone, Raymond G. "Organic Language in 'Patrolling Barnegat,'" *Walt Whitman Review*, 13 (December 1967), 125-127. Among other things, Malbone summarizes *An American Primer*.
- Martí, José. "The Poet Walt Whitman—April 17, 1887," *La Nación* (Buenos Aires). Translated by Arnold Chapman in Gay Wilson Allen, ed. *Walt Whitman Abroad: Critical Essays from Germany, France, Scandinavia, Russia, Italy, Spain and Latin America, Israel, Japan, and India*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1955, pp. 201-213. Martí's comments on Whitman's language are very brief and very general in this reaction to Whitman's Lincoln Lecture in New York on April 17, 1887.
- Marx, Leo. "The Vernacular Tradition in American Literature: Walt Whitman and Mark Twain," *Die neueren Sprachen*, Beiheft III (1958), 46-57. Marx briefly discusses the links between Whitman's use of the vernacular, Twain's style, and the political assumptions underlying the work of both men, but he is most concerned with the latter.
- Matthiessen, F. O. "Only a Language Experiment," *American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941, pp. 517-625. Matthiessen discusses, especially in "Words! book-words! What are you?," pp. 517-532, Whitman and his theory and use of language. It is impossible to summarize briefly all the information contained in Matthiessen's work.
- Mencken, H. L. *The American Language: An Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1936, pp. 73-75. Supplement 1, 1945, pp. 123-126 and throughout. Supplement 2, 1948, throughout. Mencken's brief comments illustrate a few of Whitman's innovations.

Metzer, Charles R. *Thoreau and Whitman: A Study of Their Aesthetics*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1961, pp. 57–82. Metzer feels that Whitman asserts that the meaning of words at one instance in language is fixed by the author's familiarity with language and the things suggesting language and that he makes this assertion because he realizes the nebulousness of the meaning of words out of context. Therefore, Whitman was concerned with language and with the facts of life; he used words as things and wanted to vivify the facts with words.

Miles, Josephine. *Style and Proportion: The Language of Prose and Poetry*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967, p. 151. Miles summarizes her study of Whitman's vocabulary that occurs in selected passages from his poetry: she indicates the number of adjectives, nouns, verbs, and connectives that he uses.

Miller, James E., Jr. "Language and Wit," *Walt Whitman*. Twayne's United States Authors Series, 20. New Haven, Conn.: College and University Press, 1962, pp. 136–144.

———. "Whitman and Thomas," *The Presence of Walt Whitman: Selected Papers From the English Institute*, ed. R. W. B. Lewis. New York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 137–163, esp. 142–144. Most of the article is about Thomas.

Mills, Barriss. "Whitman's Poetic Theory," *Emerson Society Quarterly*, 55 (Spring 1969), 42–47. Mills's discussion concerns primarily Whitman's poetic theory, but it is also useful as a study of Whitman and language. Whitman seemed to be moving toward a radical definition of a poem ("the printed form of words" and "the 'essence' of experience which the printed poem tries, unsuccessfully, to express"). He sought "new relations of the poet to his poems, to experience and to his readers"; he finds all finished poems incomplete and unsatisfactory. Whitman fully realized the difficulty of expressing and explaining experience with words, artificial devices.

Mirsky, D. S. "Walt Whitman: Poet of American Democracy," *Dialectics*, 1(1937), 11–29. Whitman's diction is new, not because it is colloquial, but because Whitman uses it to deal with new subjects.

Morley, Christopher. "Walt's French," *Saturday Review of Literature*, 14 (July 11, 1936), 121. Morley lists ten French words and Whitman's suggested pronunciation.

Peltola, Niilo. "Walt Whitman," *The Compound Epithet and Its Use in American Poetry from Bradstreet Through Whitman*. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia, 1956, pp. 140–160, 263–273. By using compound epithets, Whitman helped free the diction of American poetry from conventional, ornamental, nonfunctional compounds.

Pound, Ezra. *ABC of Reading*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1943, p. 181.

Pound, Louise. "Two Curious Words," *American Speech*, 30 (May 1955), 95–96.

Pound discusses the etymology of "carlacue" and concludes that this form was known in Whitman's region and was not a manipulation of a standard word.

———. "Walt Whitman and the Classics," *Southwest Review*, 10 (January 1925), 75–82. Pound discusses Whitman's linguistic borrowings from Greek and Latin.

- . “Walt Whitman and the French Language,” *American Speech*, 1 (May 1926), 421–430. Pound doesn’t attempt to be complete in citation of examples, but she does enter almost all the French words Whitman introduced into his writings, and she comments on the ones he knew and liked best. He especially liked French agent nouns or personal nouns, but he seldom used French verbs. She groups his French words under military words and place words, social words, and literary and miscellaneous words.
- . “Walt Whitman and Italian Music,” *American Mercury*, 6 (September 1925), 58–62. Although Pound is concerned mostly with the influence of Italian music on Whitman’s poetry, she does list the terms he borrowed from Italian music. She feels that his Italian terms usually seem more political and are less far-fetched than his French terms.
- . “Walt Whitman’s Neologisms,” *American Mercury*, 4 (February 1925), 199–201. Whitman created many abstract nouns, but few adjectival, adverbial, and verbal words. He also shortened or manipulated native words or loan words. She concludes, “In vocabulary . . . except for his peculiar reliance upon foreign loan-words, he better illustrates the taste of the Twentieth Century than that of the Nineteenth.”
- Rajasekharaiah, T. R. *The Roots of Whitman’s Grass*. New Jersey: Associated University Press, 1970, pp. 35, 45–52, 73, 111–112, 172, 238–239, 406–407. Rajasekharaiah comments briefly on Whitman’s use of Sanskrit words and habit of borrowing words and phrases, as well as his paradoxical style and catalog method.
- Read, Allen Walker. “Walt Whitman’s Attraction to Indian Place Names,” *Literary Onomastics Studies*, 7 (1980), 189–204. Read provides numerous examples of Whitman using Indian place names, but gives special attention to *Paumanok* and *Manhattan*.
- Resnick, Nathan. “Whitman’s Experiments With Language,” *Walt Whitman Newsletter*, 2 (March–June 1956), 5. Resnick comments very briefly on Whitman’s sources of neologisms.
- Rosenthal, Peggy Z. “1. Ceremony in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. 2. Toward The Beyond: A Study of Whitman’s Diction in His Early Writing. 3. The Rhetoric of Women’s Lib.” Ph.D. Dissertation. Rutgers University, 1971. DAI 32 (1971): 3267A.
- . “‘Dialation’ in Whitman’s Early Writing,” *Walt Whitman Review*, 20 (March 1974), 3–15. In Section 2 after a general look at Whitman’s use of “measuring terms, containing-terms, and encircling terms,” Rosenthal concludes that these terms help him to distinguish between the material and non-material worlds.
- . “The Language of Measurement in Whitman’s Early Writing,” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, 15 (Fall 1973), 461–470. Rosenthal studies Whitman’s use of words she calls “measuring terms,” words that indicate quantitative comparison, the word “number” and actual numbers, and the word “prove,” a word Whitman frequently uses in a quantitative context. She limits her study to his writing through 1855.

- Rourke, Constance. *American Humor: A Study of the National Character*. New York: Doubleday, 1953, pp. 137–145 and throughout.
- Schyberg, Frederik. *Walt Whitman*, trans. Evie Allison Allen. New York: Columbia University Press, 1951, pp. 104–112, 133, and throughout. The comments on Whitman and language are brief and general. Schyberg does cite examples from “Song of Myself” of coined expressions, home-made substantives, anglicized French, arbitrary use of foreign words, Spanish and Americanisms.
- Shephard, Esther. *Walt Whitman’s Pose*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1938, pp. 161–271. There are comments about Whitman’s use of language throughout these pages, but most of the comments appear on pp. 161–164, 175–185, 213, 243, and 269–270, and the comments are brief.
- Smith, Fred Manning. “Whitman’s Poet-Prophet and Carlyle’s Hero,” *PMLA*, 55 (December 1940), 1146–1164. Smith lists some of Whitman’s favorite words and phrases that were also used by Carlyle.
- Smith, Thomas. *Whitman’s Leaves of Grass. Style and Subject-Matter with special references to Democratic Vistas*. Lonigsberg i. Pr.: Druck von Korg und Manneck, 1914. Very brief comments throughout the book. Smith comments briefly on rare, foreign, and coined words in Whitman’s poetry.
- Southard, Sherry G. “Whitman and Language: His ‘Democratic’ Words.” Ph.D. Dissertation. Purdue University, 1972. DAI 33 (March 1973): 5143A. Whitman proclaimed America in words from all stages of language, all languages, all levels of language, and all areas (all professions and fields) and especially in words that described and expressed America and Americans. A study of his diction reveals that Whitman was much more knowledgeable about words and language than critics have generally supposed. He employed obsolete words frequently. He didn’t use foreign words extensively, except those from French. Nonetheless, whenever he did use an obsolete word or a foreign term, he generally used it accurately and effectively. Furthermore, he illustrated his considerable knowledge of the language through his widespread use of learned words.
- Stein, Marian. “‘Comrade’ or ‘Camerado’ in *Leaves of Grass*,” *Walt Whitman Review*, 13 (December 1967), 123–125. Stein discusses Whitman’s use of these words and possible origins.
- Stern, Madeleine B. *Heads and Headliners: The Phrenological Fowlers*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971, pp. 99–123. Stern’s book deals primarily with the Fowler brothers; however, in the chapter concerning Whitman’s relationship with the Fowlers, she discusses very briefly the influence of phrenology on Whitman’s themes and language.
- Sulfridge, Cynthia. “Meaning in Whitman’s Use of ‘Electric,’” *Walt Whitman Review*, 19 (December 1973), 151–153. For Whitman, the adjective “electric” means having the forcefulness or power of the quintessential life experiences and is used for describing various objects and experiences.
- Sutton, Walter. “The Analysis of Free Verse Form, Illustrated by a Reading of Whitman,” *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 18 (1959), 241–257.

- Swayne, Mattie. "Whitman's Catalogue Rhetoric." *Studies in English* (University of Texas), 21 (July 1941), 162-178.
- Ware, Lois. "Poetic Conventions in *Leaves of Grass*," *Studies in Philology*, 26 (January 1929), 47-57.
- Warren, James Perrin. "Dating Whitman's Language Studies," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*, 1 (September 1983), 1-7. Warren presents evidence that indicates Whitman's language studies took place before 1856.
- . "The 'Real Grammar': Deverbal Style in "Song of Myself,"" *American Literature* 56 (March 1984), 1-16. Warren first explains what Whitman meant by "Real Grammar"; then he discusses Whitman's use of deverbal nouns in "Song of Myself."
- . "Walt Whitman's Language and Style." Ph.D. Dissertation. Yale University, 1982. DAI 43 (June 1983): 3914A-3915A. Warren studies *Leaves of Grass* as a "language experiment" and explores the historical background of Whitman's organic theory of language: Humboldt, Schleicher, Christian Bunsen, Maxmilian Schele de Vere. He then examines *Rambles Among Words* and offers a vision of Whitman's language where "the synchronic 'ensemble' of the English language reveals the diachronic 'vista' of its future development." Warren also analyzes the many grammatical eccentricities and variations found in the early editions of *Leaves*.
- Wells, Henry W. "Matter and Spirit," *The American Way of Poetry*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1943, pp. 29-43. Wells's comments on Whitman and language are brief and general; however, he does discuss the combination of the objective and subjective in Whitman's poems.
- White, William. "Walt Whitman, 'Western Nicknames': An Unpublished Note," *American Speech*, 36 (December 1961), 296-298. White lists some Western nicknames in an unpublished note by Whitman and compares them with the ones found in Whitman's "Slang in America."
- Wright, James A. "Whitman's Delicacy," *The Presence of Walt Whitman: Selected Papers From the English Institute*, ed. R. W. B. Lewis. New York: Columbia University Press, 1962, pp. 164-188. Although Wright discusses Whitman's use of language primarily on pp. 174-178, he covers other matters such as form that are helpful in understanding Whitman and language.

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