



A NEWSLETTER FROM JENNY BHATT
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WE ARE ALL TRANSLATORS

FOCUSING ON THE ART & CRAFT OF LITERARY
TRANSLATION & THE TRANSLATING LIFE.

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Dear Reader,

Recently, I read a glossary of migration-related words. Mostly, they're in English but, as English has borrowed from so many other languages, there are several non-English words too. It's been put together by Leopold Froehlich at [Lapham's Quarterly](#).

It struck me that, although India has such a long history of migration, I don't really know a lot of migration-related words in Gujarati that I could put together a similar glossary. In fact, the part of India that my family hails from—the Saurashtra peninsula in West Gujarat—has been a fascinating petri-dish of cultures, ethnicities, races, languages, and customs from ancient times.



This may well be my own shortcoming and one I intend to rectify shortly.

But it got me wondering about other such groups of words that I've either taken for granted or simply don't know about in the non-English languages I work with. I'm sure we've all got such gaps in our vocabularies, no matter how many languages we may know. And if the gap exists in our language, then it probably exists in our awareness and communication too, right?

Here are some interesting links:

[READ: How the World's Languages Evolved Over Time; Morten H. Christiansen and Nick Chater on the Solidification of Linguistic Conventions \(Lit Hub\)](#)

READ: Nine Books That Came to Fame Slowly; Translation allowed these works to become popular all over again in English by Farah Abdessamad (The Atlantic)

WATCH: Which Translation of Homer's Odyssey Should You Read? by Benjamin McEvoy (note: actually gets into other good stuff too like: what makes a good translation?)

ATTEND: Mother Tongues: Between Translation; Sat, May 7, 3-5pm EST

ATTEND: Translating Multilingualism: Judith Woodsworth and Ros Schwartz in conversation; Wed, Apr 27, 2022 03:00 PM GMT

Over to you. Tell me about a particular group of words, like this migration glossary above, in a non-English language that you find fascinating or would like to learn more about. Please let me know via the social media links or in reply to this newsletter. I'll share it on.

Until next week.

Warmly,

[Jenny Bhatt](#)

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