

Words denoting pea (*Pisum sativum*) in constructed languages

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Introduction and Aim

It is no wonder that the words denoting pea (*Pisum sativum* L.), one of the most ancient crops, are present in both extinct and living languages of the Old World, especially in Europe, Asia Minor, Near East and Central and northeast Asia. In many cases, the words denoting pea retained their original form and meaning, despite a millennia-long period between proto-languages and their modern descendants (1).

The term *constructed language* refers to the one not evolving naturally but being consciously invented for a specific purpose. The most numerous among these are auxiliary languages, made with a primary goal of enhancing the communication between people not sharing a common native language. Their development reached its peak in the mid-20th century with Esperanto. In addition to auxiliary languages, there are other sorts of constructed languages. Among them are artistic and alternative languages. The former comprise fictional languages that are used in literature while the latter represent languages that could have existed if historical events had been different. This research was aimed at collecting the words denoting pea in major constructed languages.

Materials and Methods

The words denoting pea were collected from all available printed and electronic dictionaries of major constructed languages and other related relevant resources. The origin of these words was investigated and assessed after they were grouped.

Results, Discussion and Conclusions

The words denoting pea in a large majority of the auxiliary languages (Table 1), such as the Esperanto *pizo* or the Volapuk *pisal*, are based upon the Latin *pisum*, retaining its meaning. Some auxiliary languages such as Modern Indo-European or Slovianski aim at developing languages that would closely resemble one of the real proto-languages, in their case Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Slavic: by that reason, the words denoting pea in these two, *kiker* and *groh*, closely resemble the Proto-Indo-European **kek-* and the Proto-Slavic **gorxu*.

Table 1 Words denoting pea in some constructed languages.

Division	Genre	Language	Word	Division	Language	Word
Artistic	Alternative	Brithenig	<i>pis</i>	Auxiliary	Interlingua	<i>piso</i>
		Novogradian	<i>grdsina</i>		Lingua Franca Nova	
		Wenedyk	<i>pies</i>		Modern Indo-European	<i>kiker</i>
	Fictional	Querya	<i>orivaine</i>		Novial	<i>pise</i>
Esperanto		<i>pizo</i>	Occidental (InterUngue)		<i>pise</i>	
Auxiliary		Glosa	<i>pisum</i>		Slovianski	<i>groh</i>
		Idiom Neutral	<i>pis</i>		Universalgot	<i>piso</i>
		Ido	<i>pizo</i>		Volapuk	<i>pisal</i>

The alternative artistic languages such as Brithenig and Wenedyk represent a scientifically based construction of two hypothetical Romance languages, where Latin influenced Insular Celtic in the former and West Slavic influenced the latter. Therefore, the Brithenig *pis* is similar to the real Welsh

pysen, while the Wenedyk *pies* is a hypothetical Polish-like derivation of the Latin *pisum*. Novegradian is a supposed North Slavic language, with *grdSina* as a local term denoting pea. The word denoting pea in Quenya, an Elvish language invented by J. R. R. Tolkien, is *orivaine* (2), consisting of *ore* (*seed* or *grain*) and *vaine* (*sheath* or *pod*).

The words denoting pea in the most widely spoken constructed languages, together with very few other crops, simply witness the significance of pea in our everyday lives.

References

1. Mikic, A. 2009. *Pisum Genetics* 41: 29-33.
2. Mikic, A. and Stoddard F.L. 2009. *Grain Legumes* 51: 34.