

motherhood in different languages

motherhood in different languages is a fascinating topic that bridges cultures, history, and human connection. This article explores how the concept of motherhood is expressed around the world, delving into the words, customs, and beliefs that shape our understanding of mothers across linguistic boundaries. Readers will discover the diversity of maternal terminology, the cultural values attached to motherhood, and how language shapes perceptions of this fundamental human role. From familiar European languages to less commonly spoken tongues, we will examine translation nuances, symbolic meanings, and the impact of language on societal views about mothers. Whether you are passionate about linguistics, cultural studies, or simply intrigued by the universal experience of parenting, this comprehensive guide offers rich insights into motherhood in different languages. Read on to explore the vocabulary, traditions, idioms, and global perspectives that celebrate and define mothers worldwide.

- Understanding Motherhood Across Cultures
- The Word “Mother” in Major World Languages
- Symbolic and Cultural Significance of Motherhood Terms
- Motherhood in Lesser-Known and Endangered Languages
- Idioms, Proverbs, and Expressions About Mothers
- The Influence of Language on Perceptions of Motherhood
- Motherhood Terminology in Multilingual Families
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Understanding Motherhood Across Cultures

Motherhood is a universal experience, yet each culture expresses it through unique language, customs, and traditions. Across the globe, motherhood is revered, celebrated, and sometimes challenged, with linguistic diversity reflecting these perspectives. By examining how different societies talk about mothers, we gain insight into their values, familial structures, and the emotional weight carried by maternal figures. The words chosen to describe mothers often carry layers of meaning anchored in history, spirituality, and society. This section provides an overview of how motherhood is embraced and articulated in diverse

regions, setting the stage for a deeper exploration of its linguistic expressions.

The Word “Mother” in Major World Languages

European Languages

European languages share similarities and differences in how they refer to mothers. The root words are often ancient, tracing back to Proto-Indo-European origins. For example, “mother” in English, “mère” in French, “madre” in Spanish and Italian, “Mutter” in German, and “matka” in Polish demonstrate both phonetic resemblance and unique cultural nuances. These terms are foundational in everyday speech, literature, and expressions of affection.

- English: Mother, Mom, Mum
- French: Mère, Maman
- Spanish: Madre, Mamá
- Italian: Madre, Mamma
- German: Mutter, Mama
- Russian: Мать (Mat'), Мама

Asian Languages

Asian languages present a rich tapestry of maternal terminology, influenced by religion, tradition, and social hierarchy. In Mandarin Chinese, “妈妈” (māma) is widely used, while in Hindi, “माँ” (maa) or “माता” (mata) are common. Japanese speakers say “はは” (haha), and in Korean, “어머니” (eomeoni) is the formal term. These words not only indicate biological mothers but also respect, care, and familial ties.

- Mandarin Chinese: 妈妈 (māma)
- Hindi: माँ (maa), माता (mata)
- Japanese: はは (haha), おかあさん (okaasan)
- Korean: 어머니 (eomeoni), 어mma (eomma)

- Thai: แม่ (mae)

African Languages

Africa's linguistic diversity offers a variety of terms for "mother," each embedded in local culture and ancestry. In Swahili, "mama" is used, while Zulu speakers say "umama." Yoruba language uses "iya," and Amharic, spoken in Ethiopia, uses "አባ ልጅ" (enatu). These words often extend beyond biology, encompassing caregiving and community roles.

- Swahili: Mama
- Zulu: Umama
- Yoruba: Iya
- Amharic: አባ ልጅ (enatu)
- Arabic (North Africa): أم (umm)

Symbolic and Cultural Significance of Motherhood Terms

Historical Roots and Evolution

The words for "mother" in different languages often originate from ancient roots, reflecting the central role of maternal figures in human history. Proto-Indo-European languages contributed to the widespread "ma-" sound found across Europe and Asia. Over centuries, these terms evolved with culture, migration, and societal changes, sometimes shifting in meaning or gaining affectionate variants. Understanding the etymology of "mother" across languages reveals both linguistic connections and cultural divergence.

Motherhood as a Symbol in Language

Motherhood often symbolizes nurturing, sacrifice, and creation. Languages use mother-related terms to convey comfort ("mother tongue"), national pride ("motherland"), and even wisdom ("mother wit"). The symbolic power of these words reflects how deeply societies value mothers, both as individuals and as metaphors for origin, safety, and guidance. Cultural ceremonies, stories, and songs frequently honor mothers through language, reinforcing their significance.

- Mother as the origin of life
- Mother as the protector of tradition
- Mother as a symbol of wisdom and care
- Motherhood and nationhood (“mother country”)
- Mother as a spiritual or mythological figure

Motherhood in Lesser-Known and Endangered Languages

Preserving Maternal Terminology

Lesser-known and endangered languages carry unique terms for motherhood, sometimes distinct from global norms. For example, in Maori, “whaea” means mother, while in Inuktitut, “ᐃᑭᕈᓴᖅ” (aniraujuk) is used. These words are crucial for cultural identity and continuity. Language preservation efforts often focus on teaching maternal terminology to younger generations, recognizing that losing these words can mean losing part of a community’s heritage.

Challenges and Revitalization

Many endangered languages face the risk of losing maternal vocabulary due to globalization and language shift. Linguists and cultural advocates work to document, teach, and celebrate these terms, keeping the essence of motherhood alive in oral traditions and written records. Revitalization projects highlight the importance of mothers not only as family anchors but also as pillars of linguistic resilience.

Idioms, Proverbs, and Expressions About Mothers

Common Idioms Across Languages

Motherhood inspires countless idioms and proverbs worldwide, often reflecting love, wisdom, or hardship. In English, “like mother, like daughter” and “mother knows best” are prevalent. Spanish speakers say, “Madre no hay más que una” (You only have one mother), while Chinese idioms like “    ” (mother’s

love is as deep as the sea) capture the depth of maternal affection.

Proverbs Celebrating Mothers

Proverbs about mothers often emphasize respect, gratitude, and the irreplaceable role of mothers in society. These expressions are passed down through generations, shaping attitudes and values. They serve as teaching tools and sources of comfort in everyday life.

- “A mother’s love is endless.” (English)
- “God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers.” (Yiddish)
- “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” (English)
- “Madre, solo hay una.” (Spanish)
- “母 愛 深 似 海 ” (Chinese: Mother’s love is as deep as the sea.)

The Influence of Language on Perceptions of Motherhood

Language Shapes Social Roles

Different languages assign mothers varying levels of respect, authority, and responsibility. Linguistic choices—formal versus informal terms, honorifics, and affectionate nicknames—reflect societal expectations. In cultures where maternal terms are used with reverence, mothers may hold elevated social status, while casual or diminutive forms can indicate familiarity. The way children and communities address mothers influences perceptions of family hierarchy and maternal influence.

Impact on Gender Roles and Family Dynamics

Language also affects gender roles and the division of family duties. Some societies use distinct words for biological mothers, stepmothers, and grandmothers, highlighting nuanced relationships. The vocabulary chosen for motherhood can either reinforce or challenge traditional roles, influencing how mothers are seen in the context of work, education, and leadership.

Motherhood Terminology in Multilingual Families

Code-Switching and Blending

In multilingual families, children often blend or switch between maternal terms from different languages. For example, a child may call their mother “Mama” at home and “Mom” at school. This code-switching reflects cultural adaptability and the dynamic nature of language. It also strengthens familial bonds by honoring multiple heritages.

Challenges and Opportunities

Multilingual families face decisions about which maternal term to use, balancing tradition, practicality, and identity. Parents may encourage the use of ancestral language to preserve heritage, while children gravitate toward the dominant language of their environment. These choices affect language transmission, cultural pride, and the evolution of motherhood terminology.

- Maintaining heritage through maternal language
- Adapting terms for different contexts
- Strengthening family ties with language diversity
- Fostering bilingual or multilingual identity
- Navigating emotional and cultural meanings

Conclusion

Motherhood in different languages reveals the richness of human experience, connecting people through words, stories, and traditions. The diversity of maternal terminology reflects each culture’s respect, values, and emotional bonds. By exploring motherhood across linguistic boundaries, we understand not only the universal love for mothers but also the unique ways societies express and celebrate this vital role. The words we use carry history, symbolism, and power, shaping how we view and honor mothers in every corner of the world.

Q: What are some common words for “mother” in different languages?

A: Common words for “mother” include “Mother” (English), “Mère” (French), “Madre” (Spanish and Italian), “Mutter” (German), “妈妈” (māma) in Mandarin Chinese, “ماما” (mama) in Arabic, and “Mama” in Swahili.

Q: How do different cultures celebrate motherhood linguistically?

A: Cultures celebrate motherhood with honorific terms, affectionate nicknames, idioms, proverbs, and songs. Language often reflects respect, gratitude, and reverence for mothers through these expressions.

Q: Are there endangered languages with unique terms for mothers?

A: Yes, endangered languages like Maori (“whaea”), Inuktitut (“aniraujuk”), and many Indigenous languages have distinct words for mothers, which are crucial for cultural identity and preservation.

Q: Why do many languages have similar “ma” sounds for mother?

A: Many languages have “ma” sounds for mother due to ancient linguistic roots, ease of pronunciation for infants, and shared Proto-Indo-European origins.

Q: How does language influence perceptions of motherhood?

A: Language shapes perceptions by assigning mothers roles, status, and respect through specific terms, honorifics, and expressions, influencing family hierarchy and societal views.

Q: What are some proverbs about mothers worldwide?

A: Proverbs include “A mother’s love is endless” (English), “Madre, solo hay una” (Spanish), “妈妈只有一个” (Chinese), and “God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers” (Yiddish).

Q: How do multilingual families choose maternal terms?

A: Multilingual families may blend or switch terms, balancing tradition, practicality, and identity. Choices are influenced by heritage, environment, and family dynamics.

Q: What significance do maternal terms hold in cultural rituals?

A: Maternal terms play vital roles in rituals, ceremonies, songs, and stories, symbolizing origin, nurturing, and continuity within cultures.

Q: Can maternal terminology impact gender roles?

A: Yes, the vocabulary used for mothers can reinforce or challenge traditional gender roles, affecting perceptions of women's responsibilities and authority in family and society.

Q: How does the concept of motherhood differ across languages?

A: The concept of motherhood differs in meaning, symbolism, and social expectations depending on language, reflecting each culture's unique values and traditions surrounding maternal roles.

Motherhood In Different Languages

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Motherhood in Different Languages: A Global Perspective on a Universal Experience

Motherhood. The word itself conjures images, feelings, and experiences as diverse as the women who embody it. But how is this fundamental human experience expressed across the globe? This post delves into the fascinating world of how different languages capture the essence of motherhood, exploring the nuances, cultural implications, and rich vocabulary surrounding this powerful role. We'll journey across continents, examining the words, phrases, and even the underlying cultural connotations that shape our understanding of what it means to be a mother. Prepare to be enriched by the linguistic tapestry woven around this universal theme.

H2: The Power of Language in Shaping Perception of Motherhood

The way a language expresses motherhood often reflects its cultural values and societal structures. In some cultures, the emphasis might be on the nurturing aspect, while in others, the focus might be on the societal role or the strength and resilience associated with motherhood. Examining these linguistic variations offers a deeper understanding of how societies view and value mothers. For instance, a language that emphasizes the protective aspect of motherhood might use metaphors related to shielding or guarding, while a language valuing the nurturing aspect might utilize imagery of warmth and sustenance. This subtle difference in linguistic expression reflects vastly different cultural perspectives.

H3: Exploring Motherhood Terms in Diverse Linguistic Families

Let's explore some examples across different language families:

Indo-European Languages:

English: "Mother" is straightforward and widely understood. However, terms like "mom," "mum," "mama," and "mommy" reflect informal affection and varying regional dialects.

Spanish: "Madre" is the formal term, but affectionate terms like "mamá" and "mami" are commonly used, mirroring the English variations.

French: "Mère" is the formal word, with "maman" being the more familiar and affectionate equivalent.

German: "Mutter" is the formal term, while "Mama" is used informally.

Sino-Tibetan Languages:

Mandarin Chinese: 妈妈 (māma) is the most common term, phonetically similar to many Western terms, highlighting the universality of the sound babies make while associating with their mothers. Other terms might emphasize respect or familial hierarchy.

Cantonese: 妈咪 (māmi) sounds similar to the Mandarin term, further highlighting a shared phonetic expression across vastly different cultures.

Afro-Asiatic Languages:

Arabic: أم (Umm) literally means "mother" but is often used as a prefix to a child's name (e.g., Umm Ali) signifying a maternal role extending beyond a simple title. This reveals the significance of motherhood's enduring influence within the culture.

Austronesian Languages:

Tagalog (Philippines): "Ina" is the most common term for mother, carrying a sense of respect and importance within the family structure. Affectionate terms also exist, reflecting the nuances of familial relationships.

H3: Beyond Single Words: Phrases and Idioms Reflecting Cultural Nuances

Beyond single words, phrases and idioms reveal deeper cultural perceptions of motherhood. Some cultures might have sayings emphasizing a mother's unwavering love, sacrifice, or wisdom. Others might highlight the societal responsibilities associated with the role. For example, a proverb in one culture might emphasize a mother's nurturing role, while another might focus on her role as a provider or protector. These subtle differences paint a rich picture of how different societies perceive and value motherhood. Analyzing these expressions offers a rich window into cultural values.

H2: The Evolution of Language and Motherhood

The words we use for mother have evolved over time, reflecting changes in social norms and cultural values. Examining etymological roots can reveal fascinating insights into the historical perception of motherhood within a given society. For instance, some terms might originate from words related to nurturing or protection, reflecting the dominant societal values at the time. Others might reflect religious or mythological influences. This historical analysis provides a valuable context for understanding the modern usage of these terms.

H2: Understanding the Impact of Globalisation on the Language of Motherhood

Globalization has led to a blending of cultures and languages. This has impacted how motherhood is expressed, with the adoption of terms from other languages or the emergence of new hybrid terms reflecting cross-cultural influences. This dynamic exchange further enriches the tapestry of how motherhood is expressed linguistically around the world.

Conclusion

Exploring motherhood across different languages offers a compelling journey into the heart of human experience. It reveals the universality of maternal love while highlighting the diverse ways cultures perceive and express this fundamental bond. The richness of vocabulary and the nuances of cultural connotations make this a topic worthy of continued exploration. By examining how different societies articulate this crucial aspect of human life, we gain a profound appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the human experience.

FAQs

1. Are there languages where the word for "mother" is also used to describe a female deity or figure of great power? Yes, many cultures associate motherhood with divine figures or powerful female archetypes, leading to overlapping terminology.
2. How does the social status of women influence the language used to describe motherhood? The social standing of women within a society often directly correlates to the respect and reverence reflected in the language used to describe their maternal roles.
3. Are there any languages that don't have a specific word for "mother"? While highly uncommon, some languages may rely on more descriptive phrases or kinship terms to express the concept of motherhood instead of a singular, dedicated word.
4. How does the concept of motherhood change across different generations within the same culture? The language and cultural understanding of motherhood evolve over time, reflecting generational shifts in values and societal expectations.
5. Can analyzing the language of motherhood provide insights into gender roles and family structures within a culture? Absolutely! The language used around motherhood frequently reflects broader societal structures and gender roles, offering valuable insights into family dynamics and cultural norms.

motherhood in different languages: Mother Tongue Tied Malwina Gudowska, 2024-06-20
'Brilliantly illustrates how multilingual mothers are disproportionately tasked with preserving linguistic heritage on one hand and preparing children for public society on the other - all while finding a language for their own new maternal identity' Eliane Glaser, author of *Motherhood: A Manifesto* It is estimated that more than half of the world's population communicates in more than one language and over a third of the population in the United Kingdom is multilingual. And yet life in multiple languages is rarely discussed publicly, myths and misconceptions prevail and the pressure to keep heritage languages alive has become a private conflict for millions. Linguistic diversity is more prevalent than ever, but so is linguistic inequality. Linguist Malwina Gudowska, herself trilingual, sheds light on the ways in which we navigate language, its power to shape and reshape lives, and the ripple effects felt far beyond any one home or any one language. It takes one generation for a family language to be lost. One generation - like mother to child. *Mother Tongue Tied* explores the emotional weight of raising multilingual children while grappling with your own identity and notions of home. At what cost does a mother save a language? Or does she let it slip away and, with it, a part of herself her children may never know.

motherhood in different languages: Encyclopedia of Motherhood Andrea O'Reilly, 2010-04-06 In the last decade, the topic of motherhood has emerged as a distinct and established field of scholarly inquiry. A cursory review of motherhood research reveals that hundreds of scholarly articles have been published on almost every motherhood theme imaginable. The *Encyclopedia of Motherhood* is a collection of approximately 700 articles in a three-volume, A-to-Z set exploring major topics related to motherhood, from geographical, historical and cultural entries to anthropological and psychological contributions. In human society, few institutions are as important as motherhood, and this unique encyclopedia captures the interdisciplinary foundation of the subject in one convenient reference. The *Encyclopedia* is a comprehensive resource designed to provide an understanding of the complexities of motherhood for academic and public libraries, and

is written by academics and institutional experts in the social and behavioural sciences.

motherhood in different languages: *Imagining Motherhood in the Twenty-First Century* Valerie Heffernan, Gay Wilgus, 2020-12-17 Images, representations and constructions of mothers have historically shaped and continue to shape the way we imagine the institution of motherhood and the experience of mothering. The various contributions included in this volume consider the diversity of maternal images and narratives that circulate in literature, the arts and popular culture and analyse how they reflect on and influence the cultural meaning of motherhood in the contemporary era. Mindful of the fact that the images of motherhood that we see in popular media, on television, and in literature are not mere background noise to our daily lives, the various chapters explore how they influence our understanding of what it means to be a mother, affect our expectations of motherhood and of mothers, frame our experience of mothering, and even inform our reproductive decisions. Including insights from media studies, cultural studies, literary studies, and the performing and visual arts, this book explores how engaging with diverse representations of mothers and mothering contributes to a broader and deeper interdisciplinary understanding of how motherhood is constructed in our time. The chapters in this book were originally published as a special issue of the journal *Women: A Cultural Review*.

motherhood in different languages: *Voices of Women Writers* Elena Anna Spagnuolo, 2023-10-10 This book investigates the practice of writing and self - translating phenomenon of self-translation within the context of mobility, through the analysis of a corpus of narratives written by authors who were born in Italy and then moved to English-speaking countries. Emphasizing writing and self-translating As practices, which exists in conjunction with a process of redefinition of identity, the book illustrates how these authors use language to negotiate and voice their identity in (trans)migratory contexts.

motherhood in different languages: *Essentially a Mother* Jennifer Hendricks, 2023-05-02 *Essentially a Mother* argues that the law of pregnancy and motherhood has been overrun by sexist ideology. Courts have held that a pregnant woman's nine months of gestation hardly count in her claim to parent the child she bears and that a man's brief moment of ejaculation matters more than a woman's labor. Armed with such dubious arguments, courts have stripped women of the right to abortion, treated surrogate mothers as mere vessels, and handed biological fathers—even those who became fathers through rape—automatic rights over women and their children. In this incisive and groundbreaking book, Jennifer Hendricks argues that feminists must overthrow the skewed value system that subordinates women, devalues caregiving, and denies too many the right to parent.

motherhood in different languages: *A Transactional Analysis of Motherhood and Disturbances in the Maternal* Emma Haynes, 2024-11-08 Grounded in research and clinical experience and with plenty of case examples, this book provides a relational Transactional Analysis diagnosis and treatment strategy to give immediate relief for maternal mental illness. Maternal mental illness is common, painful, poorly understood, misdiagnosed and often unspoken. For many years this condition has been known as postnatal depression. Yet it is so much more than this with countless women experiencing a multitude of different types of distress in pregnancy and for many years post birth. This book covers not only those conditions commonly known but also explores other factors such as Artificial Reproductive Techniques, miscarriage, termination for fetal abnormality, birth trauma, and infertility and how to treat them. It highlights the true breadth, depth and costs of the maternal journey and emphasises the struggles all parents can experience, no matter where in the world they live. Written in a clear and concise style, this book will be valuable reading for TA psychotherapists and students, and anyone wanting to enlarge their knowledge of motherhood and parenting.

motherhood in different languages: *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood* Sharon Hays, 1996-01-01 Working mothers today confront not only conflicting demands on their time and energy but also conflicting ideas about how they are to behave: they must be nurturing and unselfish while engaged in child rearing but competitive and ambitious at work. As more and more women enter the workplace, it would seem reasonable for society to make mothering a simpler and more

efficient task. Instead, Sharon Hays points out in this original and provocative book, an ideology of intensive mothering has developed that only exacerbates the tensions working mothers face. Drawing on ideas about mothering since the Middle Ages, on contemporary childrearing manuals, and on in-depth interviews with mothers from a range of social classes, Hays traces the evolution of the ideology of intensive mothering—an ideology that holds the individual mother primarily responsible for child rearing and dictates that the process is to be child-centered, expert-guided, emotionally absorbing, labor-intensive, and financially expensive. Hays argues that these ideas about appropriate mothering stem from a fundamental ambivalence about a system based solely on the competitive pursuit of individual interests. In attempting to deal with our deep uneasiness about self-interest, we have imposed unrealistic and unremunerated obligations and commitments on mothering, making it into an opposing force, a primary field on which this cultural ambivalence is played out.

motherhood in different languages: Janani - Mothers, Daughters, Motherhood Rinki Bhattacharya, 2006

motherhood in different languages: Migrant Mothers in the Digital Age Leah Williams Veazey, 2021-05-03 This book explores the experiences of migrant mothers through the lens of the online communities they have created and participate in. Examining the ways in which migrant mothers build relationships with each other through these online communities and find ways to make a place for themselves and their families in a new country, it highlights the often overlooked labour that goes into sustaining these groups and facilitating these new relationships and spaces of trust. Through the concept of 'digital community mothering,' the author draws links to Black feminist scholarship that has shed light on the kinds of mothering that exist beyond the mother-child dyad. Providing new insights into the experiences of women who mother 'away from home' in this contemporary digital age, this volume explores the concepts of imagined maternal communities, personal maternal narratives, and migrant maternal imaginaries, highlighting the ways in which migrant mothers imagine themselves within local, national, and diasporic maternal communities. As such, it will appeal to scholars and students with interests in migration and diaspora studies, contemporary motherhood and the sociology of the family, and modern forms of online sociality. Winner of The Australian Sociological Association Raewyn Connell Prize for best first book published in Australian sociology, 2020-2021.

motherhood in different languages: Black Motherhood(s) Contours, Contexts and Considerations Karen. T. Craddock, 2015-10-01 This book considers Black Motherhood through multiple and global lenses to engage the reader in an expanded reflection and to prompt further discourse on the intersection of race and gender within the construct of motherhood among Black women. With an aim to extend traditional treatments of Black motherhood that are often centered on a subordinated and struggling perspective, these essays address some of the hegemonic reality while also exploring nuance in experiences, less explored areas of subjugation, as well as pathways of resistance and resilience in spite of it. Largely focusing within domains such as narrative, identity, spirituality and sexuality, the book deftly explores black motherhood by incorporating varied arenas for discussion including: literary analysis, expressive arts, historical fiction, the African Diaspora, reproductive health, religion and social ecology.

motherhood in different languages: Motherhood Memoirs: Mothers Creating/Writing Lives Justine Dymond, 2013-07-01 The authors in this collection examine and critique motherhood memoir, alongside the texts of their own lives, while seeking to transform mothering practice—highlighting revolutionary praxis within books, or, when none is available, creating new visions for social change. Many essays interrogate the tensions of maternal narrative—the negotiation of the historical location of writer and readers, narrative and linguistic constraints, and the slippery ground of memory—as well as the borders constructed between the “objective” scholar and the reader who engages with and identifies with texts through her intellect and her emotional being.

motherhood in different languages: A History of African Motherhood Rhiannon Stephens, 2015-08-06 This history of African motherhood over the longue durée demonstrates that it was,

ideologically and practically, central to social, economic, cultural and political life. The book explores how people in the North Nyanzan societies of Uganda used an ideology of motherhood to shape their communities. More than biology, motherhood created essential social and political connections that cut across patrilineal and cultural-linguistic divides. The importance of motherhood as an ideology and a social institution meant that in chiefdoms and kingdoms queen mothers were powerful officials who legitimated the power of kings. This was the case in Buganda, the many kingdoms of Busoga, and the polities of Bugwere. By taking a long-term perspective from c.700 to 1900 CE and using an interdisciplinary approach - drawing on historical linguistics, comparative ethnography, and oral traditions and literature, as well as archival sources - this book shows the durability, mutability and complexity of ideologies of motherhood in this region.

motherhood in different languages: Principles of Knowledge Representation and Reasoning A. G. Cohn, Fausto Giunchiglia, Bart Selman, 2000

motherhood in different languages: Untying the Mother Tongue Antonio Castore, Federico Dal Bo, 2023-09-04 Untying the Mother Tongue explores what it might mean today to speak of someone's attachment to a particular, primary language. Traditional conceptions of mother tongue are often seen as an expression of the ideology of a European nation-state. Yet, current celebrations of multilingualism reflect the recent demands of global capitalism, raising other challenges. The contributions from international scholars on literature, philosophy, and culture, analyze and problematize the concept of 'mother tongue', rethinking affective and cognitive attachments to language while deconstructing its metaphysical, capitalist, and colonialist presuppositions.

motherhood in different languages: The Somali Within Brioni Simone, 2017-07-05 The recent histories of Italy and Somalia are closely linked. Italy colonized Somalia from the end of the 19th century to 1941, and held the territory by UN mandate from 1950 to 1960. Italy is also among the destination countries of the Somali diaspora, which increased in 1991 after civil war. Nonetheless, this colonial and postcolonial cultural encounter has often been neglected. Critically evaluating Gilles Deleuze and F x Guattari's concept of minor literature as well as drawing on postcolonial literary studies, The Somali Within analyses the processes of linguistic and cultural translation and self-translation, the political engagement with race, gender, class and religious discrimination, and the complex strategies of belonging and unbelonging at work in the literary works in Italian by authors of Somali origins. Brioni proposes that the minor Somali Italian connection might offer a major insight into the transnational dimension of contemporary Italian literature and Somali culture.

motherhood in different languages: Being a Mother in a Strange Land Shu-Yi Huang, 2019-05-21 This text provides an alternative narrative to the humble and often exclusively male voices of first generation Chinese migrants. Despite Chinese migrants having migrated to the Netherlands since 1911, particularly after World War Two, and female migrants outnumbering male migrants, their everyday life and transnational motherhood experiences have remained largely unknown. Based on the narratives of 38 Chinese migrant women from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China, this book brings women, their lives and opinions to the center of Dutch migration history.

motherhood in different languages: The Routledge Companion to Motherhood Lynn O'Brien Hallstein, Andrea O'Reilly, Melinda Vandenberg, 2019-11-04 Interdisciplinary and intersectional in emphasis, the Routledge Companion to Motherhood brings together essays on current intellectual themes, issues, and debates, while also creating a foundation for future scholarship and study as the field of Motherhood Studies continues to develop globally. This Routledge Companion is the first extensive collection on the wide-ranging topics, themes, issues, and debates that ground the intellectual work being done on motherhood. Global in scope and including a range of disciplinary perspectives, including anthropology, literature, communication studies, sociology, women's and gender studies, history, and economics, this volume introduces the foundational topics and ideas in motherhood, delineates the diversity and complexity of mothering, and also stimulates dialogue among scholars and students approaching from divergent backgrounds and intellectual perspectives. This will become a foundational text for academics in Women's and

Gender Studies and interdisciplinary researchers interested in this important, complex and rapidly growing topic. Scholars of psychology, sociology or public policy, and activists in both university and workplace settings interested in motherhood and mothering will find it an invaluable guide.

motherhood in different languages: *American Motherhood* Della Thompson Lutes, 1905

motherhood in different languages: *The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language* John Ogilvie, 1883

motherhood in different languages: Motherhood in India Maithreyi Krishnaraj, 2012-04-27

This book presents an overview of the varied experiences and representations of motherhood in India from ancient to modern times. The thrust of the arguments made by the various contributors is that the centrality of motherhood as an ideology in a woman's life is manufactured. This is demonstrated by analysing various institutional structures of society – language, religion, media, law and technology. The articles in this book are chronologically arranged, tracing the different stages that motherhood as a concept has traversed in India – from goddess worship to nationalism, to being a vehicle of reproduction of the sexual division of labour and the inheritance of property via the male-line. Underlying these stages are the dialectics between them that have been facilitated by agents such as the state – the ultimate controller of a woman's reproductive powers. The feminist critique of 'essentialising' the role of a woman has been employed to deconstruct and humanise the experiences and lives of mothers. This anthology therefore attempts to initiate a meaningful and 'sensitive' engagement with issues pertaining to a woman's autonomy over her body and her role also as a mother.

motherhood in different languages: Mother Tongues Barbara Johnson, 2003-11-30 Charles Baudelaire, Walter Benjamin, and Sylvia Plath make up the odd trio on which this book is based. It is in the surprising and revealing links between them--links pertaining to troublesome mothers, elusive foreign languages, and professional disappointments--that Barbara Johnson maps the coordinates of her larger claims about the ideal of oneness in every area of life, and about the damage done by this ideal. The existence of sexual difference precludes an original or ultimate one who would represent all of mankind; the plurality of languages makes it impossible to think that one doesn't live in translation; and the plurality of the sexes means that every human being came from a woman's body, and some will reproduce this feat, while others won't. In her most personal and deeply considered book about difference, Johnson asks: Is the mother the guardian of a oneness we have never had? The relations that link mothers, bodies, words, and laws serve as the guiding puzzles as she searches for an answer.

motherhood in different languages: Feminism and Motherhood in Western Europe, 1890-1970 A. Allen, 2005-06-30 According to Allen, motherhood and citizenship are terms that are closely linked and have been redefined over the past century due to changes in women's status, feminist movements, and political developments. Mother-child relationships were greatly affected by political decisions during the early 1900s, and the maternal role has been transformed over the years. To understand the dilemmas faced by women concerning motherhood and work, for example, Allen argues that the problem must be examined in terms of its demographic and political development through history. Allen highlights the feminist movements in Western Europe - primarily Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands, and explores the implications of the maternal role for women's aspirations to the rights of citizenship. Among the topics Allen explores the history of the maternal role, psychoanalysis and theories on the mother-child relationship, changes in family law from 1890-1914, the economic status of mothers, and reproductive responsibility.

motherhood in different languages: The New Mother's Survival Guide Elizabeth Wright, 1997-09-01 Practical, upbeat, humorous—yet realistic—help for new mothers Elizabeth Wright became aware of the need for this book shortly after giving birth to her first child. Faced with the reality of having a baby in her home, she started frantically reading through the standard works on childraising. She was surprised to learn that while these books provide a wealth of information on a baby's development and growth, they do precious little to help the new mother cope with her new life. "Obviously," she writes, "the people who wrote these books had never been in the trenches—at

home taking care of Baby. I needed to know what to do when my baby curled up like a pillbug in her car seat and screamed herself maroon. I needed a book written by a mother who had not yet achieved complete amnesia about childbirth and the first year of motherhood." The New Mother's Survival Guide will be a beacon and a friend for all new mothers who are looking for valuable information based on real-life experience.

motherhood in different languages: Household Perspectives on Minority Language Maintenance and Loss Isabel Velázquez, 2018-12-05 This book provides an in-depth examination of minority language maintenance and loss within a group of first-generation Spanish-speaking families in the early-21st century, post-industrial, hyper-globalized US Midwest, an area that has a recent history of Latino settlement and has a low ethnolinguistic vitality for Spanish. It looks specifically at language 'in the small spaces', that is, everyday interactions within households and families, and gives a detailed account of the gendered nature of linguistic transmission in immigrant households, as well as offering insights into the sociolinguistic aspects of language contact dynamics. Starting with the question of why speakers choose to use and transmit their family language in communities with few opportunities to use it, this book presents the reader with a theoretical model of language maintenance in low vitality settings. It incorporates mothers' voices and perspectives on mothering, their families' well-being, and their role in cultural/linguistic transmission and compares the self-perceptions, motivations, attitudes and language acquisition histories of members of two generations within the same household. It will appeal to researchers and educators interested in bilingualism, language maintenance and family language dynamics as well as to those working in the areas of education, immigration and sociology.

motherhood in different languages: A Complete Dictionary of the English and German Languages Containing All the Words in General Use Nicolaus Napoleon Wilhelm Meissner, 1856

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motherhood in different languages: Class and Other Identities Lex Heerma van Voss, Marcel van der Linden, 2002 With the onset of a more conservative political climate in the 1980s, social and especially labour history saw a decline in the popularity that they had enjoyed throughout the 1960s and 1970s. This led to much debate on its future and function within the historical discipline as a whole. Some critics declared it dead altogether. Others have proposed a change of direction and a more or less exclusive focus on images and texts. The most constructive proposals have suggested that labour history in the past concentrated too much on class and that other identities of working people should be taken into account to a larger extent than they had been previously, such as gender, religion, and ethnicity. Although class as a social category is still as valid as it has been before, the questions now to be asked are to what extent non-class identities shape working people's lives and mentalities and how these are linked with the class system. In this volume some of the leading European historians of labour and the working classes address these questions. Two non-European scholars comment on their findings from an Indian, resp. American, point of view. The volume is rounded off by a most useful bibliography of recent studies in European labour history, class, gender, religion, and ethnicity.

motherhood in different languages: Motherhood in Antiquity Dana Cooper, Claire Phelan, 2017-03-07 This edited collection examines concepts and realities of motherhood in the ancient world. The collection uses essays on the Roman Empire, Mesoamerica, the Philippines, Egypt, and India to emphasize the concept of motherhood as a worldwide phenomenon and experience. While covering a wide geographical range, the editors arranged the collection thematically to explore themes including the relationship between the mother, particularly ruling mothers, and children and the mother in real life and legend. Some essays explore related issues, such as adaptation and child custody after divorce in ancient Egypt and the mother in religious culture of late antiquity and the ancient Buddhist Indian world. The contributors utilize a variety of methodologies and approaches including textual analysis and archaeological analysis in addition to traditional historical methodology.

motherhood in different languages: The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia , 1906

motherhood in different languages: Language in Immigrant America Dominika Baran, 2017-10-12 Exploring the complex relationship between language and immigration in the United States, this timely book challenges mainstream, historically established assumptions about American citizenship and identity. Set within both a historical and a current political context, this book covers hotly debated topics such as language and ethnicity, the relationship between non-native English and American identity, perceptions and stereotypes related to foreign accents, code-switching, hybrid language forms such as Spanglish, language and the family, and the future of language in America. Work from the fields of linguistics, education policy, history, sociology, and politics are brought together to provide an accessible overview of the key issues. Through specific examples and case studies, immigrant America is presented as a diverse, multilingual, and multidimensional space in which identities are often hybridized and always multifaceted.

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motherhood in different languages: Mother Trouble Miranda J. Brady, 2024-10-01 Mother Trouble traces white maternal angst in popular culture across a span of more than fifty years, from the iconic Rosemary's Baby to anti-vaxx mom memes and HGTV shows. The book narrows in on popular media to think about white maternal angst as a manifestation of feminism's unrealized possibilities and continued omissions since the second wave. It interrogates intersecting systems of power which make mothers and their children the most impoverished people in the world and urges a greater appreciation in academic and popular thinking of the work that mothers do. The book calls for an analytical expansion beyond gender to better address the erasure of reproductive labour, and especially that performed by migrants and people of colour. It illustrates the continued marginalization of racialized mothers and the disproportionate amount of labour performed by all mothers in a society where their work is devalued. Ultimately, Mother Trouble reveals how the unease around white motherhood in the media has become a proxy for the troubles faced by all mothers.

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motherhood in different languages: Mother Knows Susan Burmeister-Brown, Linda B. Swanson-Davies, 2004-04-20 Ann Beattie, Joyce Carol Oates, Richard Bausch, and twenty-one other celebrated American writers contribute to this moving anthology of fiction, compiled by the editors of the Glimmer Train literary quarterly. In the ten-plus years since Susan Burmeister-Brown and Linda B. Swanson-Davies founded Glimmer Train, they have introduced an astonishing array of talented and innovative authors to a growing readership hungry for inspiring fiction. The stunning stories in this anthology -- many of which have never appeared anywhere except in Glimmer Train Stories -- explore one of the most complex emotional and psychological ties of all: motherhood, and its many facets. The writers in Mother Knows include established authors as well as up-and-coming talents like Junot Díaz and award-winning writers like Robin Bradford, Nancy Reisman, Lee Martin, and Doug Crandell. Their stories demonstrate that motherhood is more than toilet training and tantrum control, as they portray the full, fierce, joyous, and frightening range of experience that marks this state of being. Mother Knows is a thoughtful and powerful exploration of the most

mysterious bond in life.

motherhood in different languages: Dictionary of the English and German Languages for Home and School Felix Flügel, 1901

motherhood in different languages: Maternal Fictions Indrani Karmakar, 2022-05-19 This book constitutes a feminist literary analysis of motherhood as presented in selected Indian women's fictions across a diverse range of geographical, linguistic, class and caste contexts. Situated at the crossroads of motherhood studies and literary studies, this book offers a rigorous examination of the prosody and politics of motherhood in this corpus. In its five thematically focused chapters, the book scrutinises in depth such key concerns as maternal ambivalence; maternal agency and caste; mother-daughter relationships; motherhood and diaspora; and non-biological motherhood. It attempts to understand the literary ramifications of these issues in order to identify the ways in which fiction writers reconceive of the notion of motherhood and maternal identities from and against multiple perspectives. Another pressing concern is whether these Indian women writers' visions furnish readers with any different understandings of motherhood as compared to dominant Western feminist discourses. Maternal Fictions advances feminist literary criticism in the specific area of Indian women's writing and the overarching areas of motherhood and literature by acting as a launchpad into a complex constellation of ideas concerning motherhood. The fictional universe is at once ambivalent, diverse, contingent, grounded in a specific location, and yet well placed to converse with discourses emanating from other times and places.

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