

Appendix F: Glossary

This Glossary does not address terms otherwise explained in the other appendices, but rather terms from the footnotes themselves that might be unfamiliar to many readers.

A fortiori. Latin for “from the stronger [argument]”; refers to a conclusion that is to be drawn as even more certain than one that has already been accepted.

Acronym. A word formed from the initial letter or letters of a series of other words, like MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital).

Anarthrous. Lacking a definite article.

Apocrypha. A collection of just over a dozen books or fragments of books written in the period between the Old and New Testaments and found in the Old Testaments of either the Vulgate or the Septuagint. Portions of the Apocrypha are therefore part of the canon of various branches of Christianity, most notably Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy. See D&C 91.

Archaism. An old-fashioned way of saying something.

Circumlocution. An evasion in speech, so as to avoid saying something directly.

Conative. Having to do with striving or trying.

Diminutive. Indicating either small size or the state or quality of being familiarly known; for instance, “Bobby” is a diminutive form of “Robert.”

Dysphemism. The opposite of euphemism; the substitution of a disagreeable or offensive expression for one that is not disagreeable on its face.

Eisegesis. The opposite of exegesis (which see). Instead of examining a text to determine what it means, eisegesis involves determining in advance what one *wants* the text to mean, then creating an interpretation of the words that fit that meaning.

Elliptical. Of or relating to the omission of one or more words that can be obviously understood and supplied by the reader.

Enallage. Greek for “interchange”; this word refers to the rhetorical interchange of one grammatical form for another, such as switching between the singular and plural for rhetorical effect.

Etymology. The study of the historical origins of words.

Euphemism. The substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant.

Exegesis. The critical analysis of a text.

Gemara. See Talmud.

Gnosticism. A religious movement in the Near East from the early part of the Christian era emphasizing esoteric spiritual knowledge and mysticism. Some varieties of Gnosticism were heretical forms of Christianity. The Nag Hammadi library consists of Gnostic writings.

Hapax legomenon. Greek for “once said,” this term refers to a word that appears only once in a given corpus of literature.

Hendiadys. Greek for “one through two”; the expression of an idea by two nouns connected by “and” in lieu of a noun and an adjective.

Hyperbole. Exaggeration for rhetorical effect.

Iconography. A visual representation relating to a subject.

Inclusio. A repeated phrase or concept that forms a set of literary book-ends to a passage.

Litotes. A rhetorical understatement in which the affirmative is expressed by the negative of the contrary (as in “he is not a bad writer”).

Metathesis. The accidental transposition of sounds within a word.

Metonymy. A figure of speech in which the name of one thing is used for that of another of which it is a part or with which it is associated, as in “wheels” for “car.”

Mishnah. See Talmud.

Pericope. A short passage, section, or paragraph in a writing, particularly a passage appointed for public reading as part of a church’s liturgy according to a fixed schedule.

Pleonasm. The use of more words than necessary to convey the sense, as in “the man he said...”

Pseudepigrapha. Greek for “false-writings.” Ancient Jewish or Christian writings excluded from the canon. The name comes from their ascription to ancient worthies such as Moses.

Semitism. An idiom or expression characteristic of Hebrew, Aramaic or some other Semitic language.

Substantive. An adjective, participle or other word functioning syntactically as a noun.

Talmud. A large collection of extra-Biblical Jewish writings from the first centuries of the Christian era. The Talmud consists of the Mishnah, binding precepts of the elders, and the Gemara, commentary on the Mishnah.

Tanakh. The scriptures of the Jews, corresponding to the Christian Old Testament.

Targum. An Aramaic paraphrase of the Hebrew Bible.

Transliterate. To represent or spell words in one language in the characters of another language.