ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGES

Artificial language (conlang)

for a certain purpose, usually when this purpose is hard to achieve by using a natural language.

Such language can be based on an existing vocabulary or can create a new vocabulary.

ARTIFICIAL/CONSTRUCTED LANGUAGES

- Two types:
  - *A priori*—built from scratch
  - *A posteriori*—based on natural languages
- Richard Kennaway's list has 312 named—but there are many more

AN ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGE IS DIVIDED INTO

1) auxiliary,
2) ritual,
3) engineered,
4) artistic languages

Auxiliary languages (auxlangs)

Language meant for communication between people from different nations who do not share a common first language.

- Esperanto
- Europanto
- Ido
- Interlingua
- Ro
- Volapük

WHAT'S THE POINT?

- International communication—a common language (Esperanto, Glosa)
- Fictional worlds (Klingon, Elvish)
- Linguistic experimentation (Loglan)
  - Alternative languages (Brithenig)
  - Personal languages (Animalic)
  - Joke languages (Pig Latin, Ubbi Dubbi)
- Social or political purposes (Láadan)

ESPERANTO

- 1887: Introduced by Dr. L.L. Zamenhof
- No concentrated area where it's spoken, but speakers are everywhere—between 100,000 and 2,000,000
- Does not replace other languages—acts as a second common language between people.
- Can supposedly be learned in much less time than other languages.
- Is politically unbiased.
- "Dr. Zamenhof did not really make an artificial language, but a sort of synthesis of our principal modern languages. He chose for the vocabulary of his language the most international roots" (Privat 10).
  - *Telefono, telegrafo, teatre, arto, muziko, onklo, sukcesi, marklo*
    - all very Latin and Germanic

ESPERANTO PHONETICS

- A, "f<u>a</u>ther"
- B
- C, "bi<u>ts</u>"
- Ĉ, "<u>ch</u>urch"
- D
- E, "g<u>e</u>t"
- F
- G, "<u>g</u>o"
- Ĝ, "<u>j</u>et"
- H, "lo<u>ch</u>"
- Ĥ
- I, "mach<u>i</u>ne"
- J, "<u>y</u>es"
- Ĵ, "mea<u>s</u>ure"

- K
- L
- M
- N
- O, "g<u>o</u>"
- P
- R, "bu<u>rr</u>ito"
- S, "<u>s</u>aid"
- Ŝ, "<u>sh</u>ed"
- T
- U, "b<u>oo</u>t"
- Ŭ, "<u>w</u>ater"
- V
- Z

ESPERANTO GRAMMAR

- Every letter has only one sound and is always pronounced.
- Accent is always on the next-to-last syllable.
- Vowels are never diphthongized.
- Parts of speech are formed by adding endings to words:
  - "o"
  - "a"
  - "j"
  - "n"

ESPERANTO GRAMMAR

☐ No inflectional verb endings for cases

Infinitive	Present	Past	Future	Imperative	Conditional
To see	Sees	Saw	Will see	See!	Would see
-i	**-as**	**-is**	**-os**	**-u**	**-us**
Vidi	Vidas	Vidis	Vidos	Vidu	vidus

WHY LEARN ESPERANTO?

- Esperanto is phonetic.
- Esperanto has simplified grammar.
- Esperanto simplifies building your vocabulary.
- Esperanto lets you invent your own vocabulary.
- Esperanto has a recognizable vocabulary.

Ritual language

☐ Language that is cultivated for religious reasons by people who speak another language in their daily life

Engineered languages (engelangs)

- Constructed languages devised to test or prove some hypotheses about how languages work or might work.

There are at least three subcategories:

- philosophical languages,
- logical languages (sometimes abbreviated as *loglangs*),
- experimental languages.
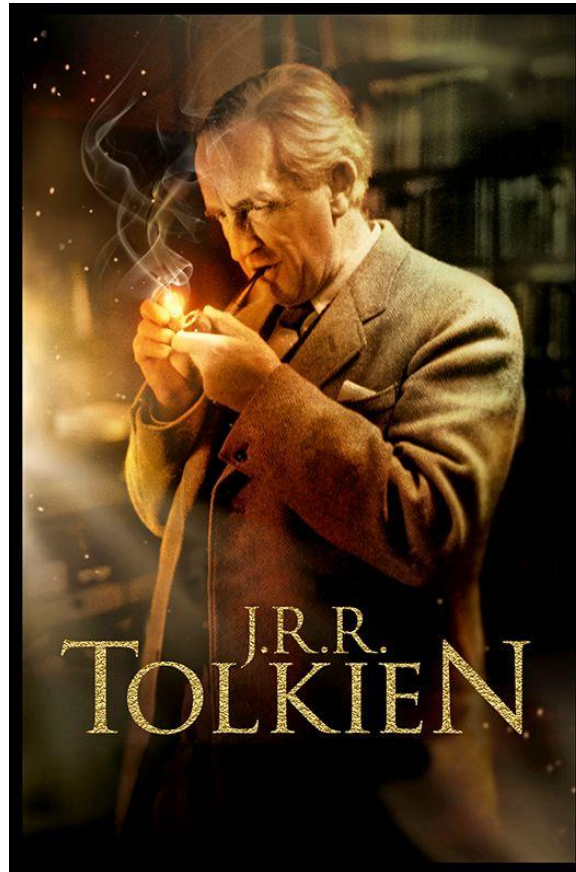
Artistic languages (artlangs)

- devised to create aesthetic pleasure or humorous effect, *just for fun*; usually secret languages and mystical languages are classified as artlangs.
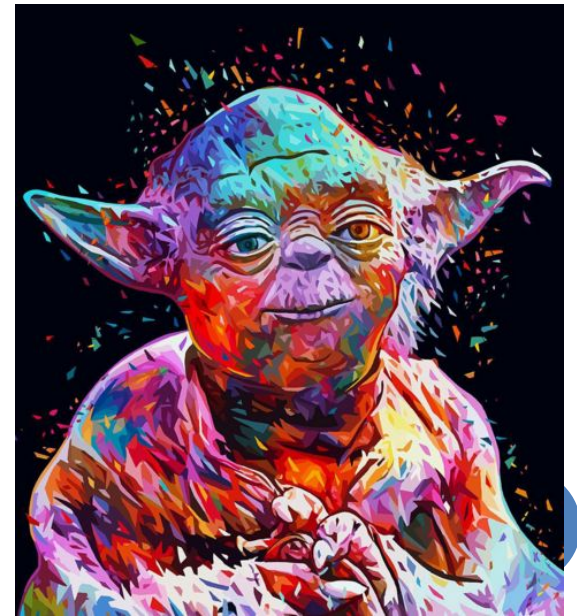
Artistic languages, constructed for literary enjoyment or aesthetic reasons without any claim of usefulness, begin to appear in Early Modern literature, but they only seem to gain notability as serious projects beginning in the 20th century

- **J. R. R. Tolkien** developed a family of related fictional languages and discussed artistic languages publicly, giving a lecture entitled "*A Secret Vice*" in 1931 at a congress.

- *Star Wars,*
- *Lord of the Rings (Elvish),*
- *Game of Thrones (Dothraki language and Valyrian languages)* and
- *Avatar (Na'vi).*

ELVISH

Quenya and Sindarin

a) Quenya

b) Dothraky

c) Na'vi