

# Metaphors and Metonymies in Ethnic Studies

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In our everyday life, we use metaphors without realizing it. This is abundantly and clearly illustrated in the 1980's ground-breaking book, *Metaphors We Live By*, written by the linguist George Lakoff and the philosopher Mark Johnson. This is also true in diverse academic fields. Metaphors and metonymies are traditionally believed to be linguistic expressions which are used figuratively. The difference between metaphors and metonymies is that in the former there is a similarity between the literal and the figurative meaning whereas in the latter it is not similarity but association. The similarity can be either physical or functional. The expressions *academic field* or *head of the department* for instance, are functional metaphors. The academia is considered as a place where plants can grow. The expression *head of the department* is also compared to the body's head because it is the one which leads the body and makes decision. The expression, *a branch of Ethnic Studies* is a physical metaphor because it refers to a part of a whole like the way a branch is to a tree.

The association expressed by metonymies can be that of cause and effect, possessor and possession, whole and part, container and content, producer and product, origin and object, etc.

Thus expressions such as *blind area*, *sad story*, *happy ending* are metonymies. The adjectives used are anthropomorphic. They describe the effects on humans (cause and effect). Other examples of metonymic expressions are *The White House invited the Kremlin* (container and content), *Washington sent a letter of protest to Beijing* (part and whole), *he was wearing a panama and smoking a havana* (origin and product); *she was reading Shakespeare and consulting Webster* (producer and product).

Although the figurative use of linguistic expressions is familiar to any language speaker, few are aware of *conceptual metaphors*, concepts used to express other concepts. For instance knowledge and understanding are understood as vision; human activities such as talking, planning, governing, as traveling; states as places, etc.

These metaphors belong to the unconscious mind and are mechanical like rules which govern the sound system (segmental and suprasegmental rules such as stress and tone assignment and rules), morphological rules and some syntactic rules. This has to do with evolutionary biology. The human species can't survive and function if it has to use 'free will' in all situations.

It also has to do with the nature and the function of the human mind. Unlike super computers, the human mind doesn't have enough space to store data, it has serious constraints on memory and can't retrieve data the way computers do and more importantly for it to understand abstract, complex and new concepts it has to use familiar concrete concepts.

It is thus for this reason that many linguistic expressions are assigned multiple meanings and functions, known in linguistics as polysemy which in some cases causes ambiguity: multiple meanings. There is clearly an asymmetry between linguistic signs (sounds, morphemes and words) and the real world they refer to. Linguistic signs are finite, very much restricted, whereas the real world is infinite. The task of the mind is therefore to be able to use its limited means to talk about the infinite world.

Below are listed metaphoric or metonymic linguistic expressions or concepts used in Ethnic Studies and some other social studies disciplines. Some terms are named after specific individuals, places or events (metonymies) whereas others define, describe, explain or compare (metaphors).

**abolitionists** : an anti-slavery movement. The most known abolitionists were Frederick Douglas, Sojourney Truth and Harriet Tubman also known as the black Moses.

**affirmative action** also referred to as positive discrimination is a government's policy which was designed to help past discriminations based on race, ethnicity, and gender thus enabling equal treatment under the law. It is seen by many people, however, as reverse discrimination.

**Afrocentrism** : looking at the world with African eyes. The idea that Africans view and understand the world differently and that therefore they have unique approaches to physical and metaphysical phenomena they encounter.

**alienation** : to feel like a foreigner in your own land.

**amalgamation** : the creation of a new social group through the intermarriage between the dominant group and the subordinate group.

**Amnesty Law** or known as **IRCA (Immigration Reform and Naturalization Act)** refers to the 1986 Congressional Act which gave permanent residence status to undocumented aliens who came to the US before February 1, 1982.

**anarchism** : a political philosophy which rejects any kind of government and supports its elimination because leaders interfere with people's individual liberties.

**ante-bellum South** : the South before the Civil War. Ante bellum is latin and means before the war.

**anthropocentrism** : judging other species using human standards

**anthropomorphism** : giving human features to objects or other species.

**apartheid** : a system of racial segregation practiced in South Africa. It comes from Afrikaans, a dialect of Dutch spoken in South Africa.

**apocalypse** : destruction of a people or the world. From the Bible's Book of Revelation.

**Armageddon** : any foreseen apocalyptic catastrophe. From the Bible's Book of Revelation.

**assassination** : the murder of an important person because of political motives. This term comes from the Arabic word Hashshashin , an 8th-14th militant Muslim sect.

**authoritarian regime** : a government which has complete control on all institutions where individual liberties are not respected. The expression is used to refer to fascist regimes.

**autocracy** : a type of government in which one individual holds power as a dictator, despot or tyrant. It is different from other dictatorial regimes such as authoritarianism or totalitarianism because in these two the power is held by a group such as a political party or a military force.

**autonomy** : a certain degree of self-government granted to a territory.

**balkanization** : fragmentation of a region into smaller parts due to in-fighting because of ethnicity, race, religion or other causes. The term comes from the Balkan wars.

**banana republic** : a poor third world country ruled by a military dictator. A term coined by the humorist O. Henry about Caribbean dictators put in power by CIA. The banana is used because it is what they supposedly export to the outside world.

**bantustan** : reservation for Blacks in South Africa during the apartheid regime. They were also referred as homelands. The suffix -stan is from Persian and means home as in Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc.

**barrio** : a low-class neighborhood for Hispanics. It is similar to the ghetto. In Spanish it means district or neighborhood.

**Bible Belt** : refers to states in the South and the Midwest where there is a large number of fundamentalist Christians.

**bipolar occupation structure** : lack of middle class from a specific social group thus occupying only the higher and the lower end paying jobs. Space metaphor from North Pole and South Pole.

**Black Athena** : This a title of book by Martin Bernal whose full title is Black Athena : the Afro-Asiatic roots of Classical Civilization. Like other Afrocentric writers such as Cheick Anta Diop, Ivan Jan Sertima, Molefi Asante, Maulana Karenga, the author shows that the Greek philosophers and scientists' ideas were stolen from Egypt.

**black consciousness movement** : a movement created in South Africa in 1960's by students led by Steve Biko to fight for the rights of blacks who were discriminated by the ruling apartheid regime.

**black power** : a civil right movement born in the 1960's to fight for the rights of black people in the US.

**blue collar workers**: working class who do manual work. This term entered the language metonymically. In Europe and the US the working class people wore blue uniforms.

**boat people** : South-Eastern Asian refugees such as Vietnamese, Hmong, Mien who came to the US after the Vietnamese war. They are called boat people because many of them were rescued from the high seas.

**Boycott** : refusal to buy, sell or work for somebody or company. This type of protest started with the Irish Land Wars. The word comes from the name of Captain Charles Boycott, an estate agent of an absentee landlord. He was socially ostracized when he raised rent and the tenants refused to deal with him in any way.

**bracero program** : a guest worker program which started in the 1940's when American males were abroad fighting in World War II and ended in 1964 was an agreement signed between the Mexican and the US governments to bring Mexicans to help in certain areas especially agriculture. In Spanish, it means helping hand.

**brain drain** : the immigration of the elite from developing countries due to political instability and persecution to industrialized nations which offer better working conditions and security.

**busing** : a practice by the government of forcing black children to attend white schools and white children to attend mixed schools. This was done to implement the 1954 supreme court decision Brown vs Board of Education. This divided the community among the proponents of integration and desegregation. Desegregation was seen as the right to choose where the parents can send their children whereas integration was seen as a government's interference.

**caesaropapism** : a government in which the the ruler is both the head of the government and the national church leader.

**cash crops** as opposed to food or staple crops are plants such as cotton, coffee, tea,...sold outside to obtain hard currency.

**catch-22** : a bipolar situation where it seems impossible to get out. From the novel Catch-22 by Joseph Heller.

**caucus** : a group or a subcommittee of a political party that meets to decide on the candidates or legislative policies. It is claimed to have originated from Algonquian meaning 'counsel'.

**center-periphery tension** : an uncomfortable relationship in a centralized government between the capital city and its distant territories.

**chauvinism** : exaggerated patriotism. Named after Nicolas Chauvin, a soldier under Napoleon Bonaparte who was a fanatical devotee for the Emperor.

**chicote** : a whip made of hippopotamus hide used by Belgians in Congo, Burundi and Rwanda to beat the natives during the colonial period who were unable to perform as expected in the forced labor.

**civil society** : all voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions, independent of the state, which are interested in all aspects of society's well being such as politics, education, public health, environment, economics, etc. They can be unions, philanthropic organizations, NGOs, think tanks. In some cases, they also function as lobbies.

**civil war** : in the US history civil war to the 1863-65 war between the Union forces and the Confederacy forces. In general it means any war opposing the government forces and one of its social groups

**class** : a social category based on income, education, social status, values and lifestyle.

**co-habitation** : a political situation in France when the president is forced to have a prime minister from the opposition party.

**commonwealth** : an association of sovereign nations and their former dependencies united for common goals and interests like Great Britain and its former colonies. It also means a self-governing territory affiliated with the United States such as Puerto Rico or formerly the Philippines.

**colonization** : the destruction of a conquered country's institutions (government, culture, economy, religion, education...) and the maximum exploitation of both natural and human resources for an extended period.

**colorblind society** : a society in which people are equal and public policies are decided without consideration of race or ethnicity. For instance, those who believe in

colorblind society are against affirmative action forgetting the history of institutional racism which prevents many blacks from getting employment.

**Confucianism** : Chinese philosophy based on the teaching of Confucius which are based on the respect of authority, tradition, family values and work ethic.

**consociative democracy** is a power-sharing arrangement which takes into consideration the diverse ethnic, racial, religious, linguistic, political and regional groups.

**conquistadores** : soldiers, explorers and adventurers who seized territories in the Caribbeans, the Americas and the Philippines on the benefit of Spain. The most known are Christoph Columbus and Hernan Cortez who conquered Mexico.

**corporate welfare** : giving subsidies and tax breaks to big corporations by the government.

**cotton belt** : states which produce cotton namely Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arizona and California

**coyotes** : smugglers of illegal aliens into the US.

**cronysm** : a type of government in which people are appointed to important position because of friendship and acquaintances.

**crop subsidies** : grants given to farmers by the US government and to farmers in Europe by their respective governments, to protect them against financial losses at the world market when the prices go down. The US gives subsidies for cotton, corn, rice, wheat and soybeans to farmers. It has been found out, however, that a large amount of the taxpayers' money doesn't go to poor small farmers but to agribusiness companies. These subsidies are also unfair to developing countries' farmers because they can't compete the subsidized farmers when prices are lowered.

**crusade** : metaphorically it is a determination to fight for a certain cause. It comes from Crusades, the various religious or holy wars that Christian Europe fought against the Muslims.

**Dark Continent** : a term used to refer to Africa. The meaning is both literal and figurative. It means the country of black people but also a continent which apparently nobody knows about and where people are ignorant. In the 15th century many African countries had contact with Portugal. Africa had also contributed to the world civilization in different ways. This is a vision metaphor. Vision is metaphor for knowledge whereas darkness means ignorance.

**death squad** : an armed group such as a secret police or paramilitary group which carries out clandestine assassinations of political opponents.

**Deep South** : a cultural and geographic subregion of the southeastern states of the United States bordering the Gulf of Mexico. The term is used in opposition to the Old South.

**deconstruction** : a process in which in philosophy and social sciences texts and languages shift meanings when different lenses are used. These texts can result in the plurality of meanings. The term was coined by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida.

**defensive insulation** : self-help institutions found in minorities and immigrant enclaves.

**demonization** : treating a specific social group as the source of evil. Like dehumanization, it is used as a justification to deny that group its human and civil rights or to exterminate it as in the case of the Holocaust to eliminate the Jews or in the genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda.

**double or triple jeopardy** : to belong to two or three stigmatized groups such as being black and poor (race and class) or black, woman and working class (race, gender and class)

**dehumanization** : treating a certain social group as subhuman. In the Holocaust Jews were considered as vermin and Tutsi during the 1994 genocide were cockroaches and snakes.

**diaspora** : national of different countries living abroad who still have a nostalgic connection with the homeland. Historically, it refers to the exile and exodus of Jews from their homeland.

**Dickensian** : a way of writing which describes accurately and in minute details the misery of the poor. A style which imitates Charles Dickens whose literary subjects was the plight of the poor and the working class. The French writer Emile Zola and John Steinbeck in his novel *The Grapes of Wrath* where he depicts the problems of farm workers can be labeled Dickensian as well.

**disenfranchisement** : to deny civil rights to a certain group of people. Franchise means right and comes from the word Frank, former inhabitants of France.

**domino theory** : a theory which guides US foreign policy and requires military intervention . It claims that a country in any region which becomes communist or anti-American will influence its neighbors.

**dozens** : An African American verbalplay in which the contestants try to outperform each other by insulting their mother or their sisters.

**education pipeline** : the process students go through for the undergraduate education and the selective process that is done to be admitted in professional schools. This is a conduit metaphor.

**eminent domain** : the power of the state to expropriate private property for public use. In many cases, it affects minority groups.

**Enlightenment** which is often associated with the Scientific Revolution is an 18th century philosophical movement which believed in the power of human reason and is responsible for modern political, religious and economical revolutions. It emphasized reason, science, empiricism and rationality. This movement very much influenced the Founding Fathers especially Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Some of the names that are associated with the Enlightenment are The French philosophers : Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Montesquieu, Denis Diderot, leader of the French Encyclopédistes; Isaac Newton; Immanuel Kant; John Locke; David Hume; Thomas Hobbes; Thomas Paine and Adam Smith. This is a vision metaphor which is associated with knowledge, thus the opposite of Dark Ages which was characterized by backwardness and dominated by faith, religion and irrationality.

**entitlement** : a guarantee of access to benefits because of being a member of a particular group such as the majority.

**ethnic cleansing** or ethnic purification is the forced removal of an ethnic group to a new area. The term was first used in the 1990's to refer to what happened to Muslim Bosnians in the former Yugoslavia. The 1830 Indian Removal Act in the US is definitely a case of ethnic cleansing.

**ethnocentrism** : judging other cultures using the standards of one's culture and believing that one's culture is superior to others.

**ethnocide** : destruction of a people's culture. The 1887 Allotment Act is an example. The US government destroyed the traditional community land ownership, the traditional leadership, Native American languages, customs and traditions.

**eugenics** : improvement of human hereditary traits through different methods such as selective breeding, forced sterilization, birth control, in-vitro fertilization, genetic engineering, and in some cases physical extermination of social groups deemed undesirable such as the case of handicapped, homosexuals and Gypsies during the Nazi Jewish Holocaust.

**eurocentrism** : belief that the European way is the only way. For instance, the university curriculum everywhere is European centered, not only on the subjects taught but also the content and the teaching methodology.

**ethnogenesis** : a process by which a new ethnic identity is created. For instance, Asian Americans as a new ethnic group was created through this process. They come from different linguistic, cultural, religious, national and historical backgrounds. But by being lumped together by the majority, they have accepted this new identity.

**ethnophaulism** : ethnic or racial slurs.

**executive order** : law, edict by the President of the United States. It is different from Congressional Acts (legislation by the Congress) or Supreme Court decisions.

**existentialism** : a philosophy which deals with existential questions, such as meaning of life, human freedom, individual responsibility. Although life is absurd according to this philosophy, it is an activist and humanist philosophy which asks people to keep fighting and show human solidarity. The name existentialism was given to this philosophical movement because 'existence precedes essence', a departure from former philosophical movements. Some of the main existentialists are Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, Martin Heidegger and Gabriel Marcel.

**failed state** : a non-functional government with no central power like in Somalia or Liberia and Sierra Leone during their respective civil wars.

**feminine mystique** : a debunking of the myth that women are content of getting married, rearing children and taking care of the home. It comes from Betty Friedan's 1963 book : The Feminine Mystique.

**feminization of poverty** : the realization that women outnumber other groups in living below the poverty line.

**fiesta politics** : what presidential candidates do to get Chicano support.

**filth column** : a group of people who clandestinely betray or sabotage the efforts of a larger group that it should be loyal to. Japanese Americans were put into concentration camps during World War II because they were apparently loyal to Japan instead of the United States. The expression was first used by Emilio Mola during the Spanish Civil War in which he meant the column which was loyal to him while the other four were marching to Madrid.

**fish-in** : a type of non-violent protest used by Indians of the Pacific Northwest in the 60's to fight for their fishing rights.

**the five-civilized nations** refers to the five Native American groups in the Southeast namely the Cherokee, the Choctaw, the Chickasaw, the Creek and the Seminole. Other Native American groups were labeled primitive and savages. The term 'civilized' was used to distinguish them from other groups because Europeans were impressed by because they were very much advanced in agriculture. Unfortunately, they were the first ones to be affected by the 1830's Removal Act because Europeans wanted everything they had.

**Founding Fathers** : In the US history, it refers to the signatories of the Declaration of Independence (Founders) and to the delegates of the Philadelphia Convention (Framers). The most known are George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay and George Mason. The metaphor comes from creation myths. All societies have stories which explain their country and ancestors came into being. Since the US is a patriarchal society, the founders are male as opposed to matriarchal societies where ancestors may be called founding mothers.

**freedom rides** : a series of non-violent demonstrations during the Civil Rights Movement which consisted of rides in interstate buses into the segregated southern United States.

**fundamentalist** : a religious movement which believes in the literal interpretation of sacred texts such as Christian Fundamentalists who believe in creationism and oppose evolution, believe that Jesus is the God's son, that he resurrected from the dead and will come back or Muslim Fundamentalists who believe that everything in the Koran are actual facts.

**fusion** : the creation of a new ethnicity from two separate groups such as Mexicans who are a mixture of Spaniards and indigenous Indians.

**gacaca** literally 'grass court' in Kinyarwanda is a justice system being used in Rwanda to try Interahamwe (Hutu militias) and other groups involved in the Tutsi genocide which killed over one million people in 1994. This justice system is viewed by many as trivialization of genocide since traditionally it was used to settle minor neighbors' disputes such as cows grazing in somebody's else property whereas homicides were handled by the royal court. Gacaca in Kinyarwanda means 'grass' hence 'grass'.

**genocide** : a planned systematic extermination of a group because of race, ethnicity, religion, etc such as the Jewish Holocaust, the Armenian genocide by the Turks, the Cambodian Killing Fields, and the 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda. The expression was coined by Raphael Lemkin from the Greek word genos 'race' and the Latin verb *cide* 'to kill' . The Latin verb is found in such words as deicide, fratricide, homicide, regicide and suicide.

**Gentlemen's Agreement** : agreements reached by both Japan and the United States in 1907 in order to prevent the expulsion of Japanese as what happened with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. Japan agreed not to issue new passports to Japanese wanting to immigrate to the United States and the US agreed Japanese to bring brides and other family members.

**gentrification** : renovating some houses in poor neighborhoods which allows it to appreciate in value but also in pushing poorer people out.

**gentry** : the elite group in traditional societies.

**gerontocracy** : a government ruled the elderly like in China.

**Gerrymandering** : the practice of redrawing maps for voting purposes to favor or deny one candidate or group the chances of being elected. The term comes from Elbridge Garry who was able to carve the new electoral district resulting in a tortuous form.

**ghetto** : American inner cities, poverty stricken areas. Historically it referred to an area in Venice, Italy where Jews were required to live.

**ghost dance** : a dance practiced by Great Plains' Indians which they believed would help them bring back the buffalo and their land. It was prohibited by the 1887 Allotment Act which took more land from Native Americans (90 million acres) and imposed forced assimilation on Indians. Many Indians were killed at the Wounded Knee massacres.

**G.I.** : a member of the US armed forces. Wikipedia encyclopedia claims that the term comes from Garvanized Iron after the letters GI that were stamped on the US army metal trash cans made from it.

**glass ceiling** : an invisible barrier which prevents women and people of color to keep climbing the social ladder thus preventing them from being promoted to certain positions.

**glass escalator** : the good treatment that men are beneficiary of in occupations that traditionally are for women .

**glass wall** : an invisible barrier which prevents futher horizontal mobility for women and members of minority groups such as moving in certain neighborhoods, join certain private clubs, going to elite schools, etc.

**gook syndrome** : demonizing and dehumanizing all Asians.

**grass-root organization** : an initiative which originates from the bottom of the society to find a specific social , economic or political cause. This is a metaphor from plants.

**Great Depression** : an economic downturn which started in 1929 and lasted through all of the 1930's.

**Great Society** : a set of domestic programs initiated by President Lyndon B.Johnson whose goals were to eliminate poverty and racial injustice from 1963 to 1968.

**gringo**: In Latin American, it means a white foreigner who is not Spanish or Portuguese. Most of the time it refers to Americans.

**gulag** : metaphorically it means any repressive government system. In the Soviet Union it refers to the forced labor camps. It came to be known outside of the Soviet Union because of Aleksandr Solzhenityn's 1973 book the Gulag Archipelago.

**gung-ho**: very eager/enthusiastic/exceptionally zealous from Chinese 'working+together'

**the Hamitic hypothesis** referred to now as the Hamitic myth a racist theory of the late and early 20th century which maintained that some blacks had white features and were superior to other blacks. They were therefore supposed to have a non-African origin, thus the first colonialists and invaders of Africa.

In Rwanda, this myth was used to justify the cyclical massacres of Tutsi from the struggle of independence in 1959 which culminated in the 1994 genocide. These 'invaders and aliens had to be sent by the quickest possible, the river Nyabarongo to their country of origin Egypt and Ethiopia' as stated by one of theoreticians of genocide, Leon Mugesera.

**The Harlem Renaissance** is a literary, artistic and cultural African-American movement which was born in the early beginning of the 20th century. Its purpose was to promote the African-American culture and values. These artists, writers, poets and activists all lived in Harlem. They were James Walden Johnson, Marcus Garvey, Zora Neal Hurston, Nella Larsen, Langston Hughes, Jessie Fauset, Countee Cullen Claude McKay, Arna Bontemps, Richard Bruce Nugent, Gwendolyn Bennett, Rudolph Fisher, Angelina Weld Grimke, Ann Lane Petry, Dorothy West, Walter White, Eric Walrond, Sterling Brown, Richard Wright, and Anne Spenser. The Harlem Renaissance movement influenced the Negritude movement of Leopold Sedar Senghor, Aime Cesaire and Leon Damas. The Harlem, Renaissance exalted the New Negro. Renaissance is a French word which means rebirth. It was first used to refer the period in Europe between the Middle Ages and the Enlightenment.

**Hate crime** : violent crimes motivated by feelings of enmity against an identifiable social group.

**hegemony** : the cultural, political and economical dominance of one social group over others.

**heterogenous society** : society with diverse social groups

**Hobbesian doctrine** : ‘a situation in which there unrestrained, selfish and uncivilized competition’(Wikipedia). From the British political philosopher Thomas Hobbes who expressed his political ideas in his book Leviathan.

**Holocaust** : genocide of Jews in Europe and North Africa during World War II by the Nazis.

**homogeneous society** : a society which is supposed to consist of the same social group. This is an illusion, however, because in modern nation-states societies, it is impossible to have one social group. This is possible only in egalitarian societies of hunter-gatherers or city-states.

**homophobia** : fear, hatred and prejudice toward homosexuals.

**horizontal mobility** : to be able to move any place such as better neighborhood, good restaurants, private clubs, good schools, etc.

**the Hottentot Venus** : Sartjee Baartman, a Khoisan woman from South Africa who was taken from her homeland and was paraded and exhibited in both England and France for Europeans to show her big buttocks and oversized external genitalia.

**hui kuan** : Chinese American associations which helped Chinese immigrants based on their home districts.

**ilchomose** : Koreans who came to the US as children.

**impeachment** : a process by the legislative body to remove a government official such as the president. It is analogous to French *empêchement* ‘prevention’

**imperialism** : the expansion of political and economic dominance and control to distant foreign nations either directly or through puppet regimes.

**imperial presidency** : abuse of the presidential power. The term was popularized by the historian Arthur M.Schlesinger.

**indentured servant** : a person who accepts to be under servitude for a short time for economical benefits. Many people came to the US as indentured workers either because

they could not pay for their trip, room and board upon their arrival or because their masters promised them quick immigration legal status.

**Indian mascots** : Native-American names, totems and symbols used by American sports teams.

**indigenous people** : cultural groups who have a historical continuity or association with a region before colonization or annexation such as Native Americans, Pygmies and Khoisan in Sub-Sahara Africa, the Tuaregs in the Sahara and Sahel, the Sami in Europe, the Ainu in Japan, the Aborigines in Australia, the Pacific Islanders, etc. Other terms which are used to refer to them are aborigines, native peoples, first peoples, Fourth World, first nations and autochtones.

**institutional racism** also known as structural or systemic racism is discrimination of specific social groups due to the history and the structure of the institution such as different government branches, schools, universities. This term was first used by Stokely Carmichael who later on changed his name to Kwame Toure.

**Interahamwe** : militias used by the Rwandan genocidal hutu government to exterminate the Tutsi during the 1994 genocide. In Kinyarwanda , it means ‘those who attack the same place together’.

**Intifada** : a Palestian uprising against the State of Israel, from Arabic ‘uprising’.

**issei**: first generation Japanese

**Janjaweed** : a Sudanese government militia from the Arab cattle herders responsible for massacres and displacement of farming people in Darfur. The term is believed to come from colloquial Arabic and means ‘man with a gun on the horse’.

**Jim Crow laws** : these laws refer to the treatment of Blacks in southern states which discriminated against Blacks just after Reconstruction until 1965 after the passing of the Voting Rights Act. They reversed the 1876 Civil Rights Act preventing them to exercise their civil rights. Examples of these Jim Crow laws which created for preventing Blacks to vote were the grandfather clause, the literacy test, the poll tax, felony and white primaries. The term comes from a blackface song and dance Jump Jim Crow made popular by a white comedian Dartmouth. It was inspired by a song and dance by a crippled Black man called Jim Crow.

**jook-sings** : alienated Chinese Americans who fail to carry on the cultural traditions of China and are unable to maintain contact with other Chinese Americans.

**jumping the broom** : an African-American wedding ritual practiced during slavery time to let other slaves that the couple was married since slave marriage was not recognized by any US institution.

**Kafkaesque** : a surreal situation in which a person finds himself or herself victim of an intentional distortion of reality by by a powerful and anonymous bureaucracy. This term comes from the Prague writer Franz Kafka's two books the Trial and Metamorphosis where he describes this type of situation.

**kaleidoscope metaphor** : a view that race and ethnic relations are dynamic, changing and improving for the better and a recognition also that each ethnic and racial group is contributing to the national welfare. Like the salad bowl, the mosaic and the quilt metaphors, it is also a visual metaphor and recognizes multiculturalism rather than assimilation as . Its proponents, however, criticize the other metaphors as not recognizing the dynamic nature of race and ethnic relations in the US.

**kangaroo court** : a court which doesn't respect established judicial procedures.

**Kibei** : Nisei sent back to Japan for schooling and for arranged marriage

**kleptocracy** : a government run by thieves.

**kowtow** : abject submission. From Chinese 'the gesture of bowing before the emperor'.

**Ku Klux Klan** : a white supremacist group which is anti-Blacks and anti-Jews. It started as a secret society after Reconstruction to deny former slaves their human and civil rights. The word Klux comes from Greek kuklos which means circle or assembly.

**kye** : credit system used by Korean American communities to help their members to start a business.

**kwanzaa** : An African American celebration which takes place between December 26 and January 1. It was created by Maulana Karenga and is based on seven principles, namely : *Umoja* 'unity', *Kujichagulia* 'self-reliance'. *Ujima* 'collective work'. *Ujamaa* 'cooperative economics', *Nia* 'purpose', *Kuumba* 'creativity', and *Imani* 'faith'. It comes from Swahili and means 'to start'.

**landlord** : a person who rents his house or apartments to people. This a semantic shift because it meant land owners in Europe, the aristocracy, who lent it to tenants.

**league of six nations** or the Iroquois confederacy is the union of the six Native American groups namely Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora. The present US government system of representative government and federation has been borrowed from them.

**liberation theology** : a school of theological thought which advocates political activism in the area of social justice, poverty and human rights

**lingua franca** : a language used by people from different linguistic background for communication purposes. Today, for instance, English is the lingua franca of the airline industry. In the 19th century, French was the lingua franca of diplomacy. Great Plains' Indians used sign language as their lingua franca. Pidgins are lingua francas used by immigrants from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Lingua franca means the language of Franks, it was used during the crusades or holy wars when soldiers from different European countries were fighting against the Muslims.

**lobby**: a political pressure group. From 'lobby' or 'hallyways' where British members of Parliament used to meet before or after parliamentary sessions.

**lynching** : illegal mob killing. In the US during the Jim Crow era many blacks were victims of lynching by hanging. The term comes from Lynch Law. It has been suggested that it was named after either William Lynch was the author of Lynch's Law or Colonel Charles Lynch, a magistrate and officer in Virginia who abused these Lynch laws.

**Machiavellism** : political intrigue which consists of manipulation and deceit. Any means to achieve one's political goals are acceptable. The term derives from the name of the Renaissance Italian writer and diplomat, Niccolò Machiavelli who explained this philosophy in his book Il Principe (The Prince).

**machismo** : 'prominently exhibited or excessive masculinity'. It derives from the Spanish word macho which means 'virility' or 'manly'.

**mainstream society** : the most important part of the society. In many cases, it is synonymous to the majority group. This is a river metaphor.

**majority** : the dominant group. The term thus emphasizes power not number. In South Africa, for instance, during the apartheid regime, whites even though they were a numerical minority, they were the majority.

**malinche** : a Mexican-American sell-out or traitor. Malinche was mistress, secretary and interpreter of the conquistador Juan Cortez.

**manifest destiny** : a 19th century US ideology that it had the divine right to expand from sea to shining sea which justified annexing the Southwest from Mexico, the annexation of Hawaii and Guam and the colonization of the Philippines.

**manumission** : giving freedom to a slave

**Maoism** : Mao Zedung political philosophy which is brand of Marxism-Leninism.

**marianismo** : a wife who accepts the husband's dominance

**marginalized groups** : the term has both a literal and figurative meaning. It is people because of belonging to specific social groups live on the margins, the edges, the periphery of the society, thus outside of the mainstream society. These people are ignored in the national discourse.

**Marielitos** : Cuban immigrants who were deported via Mariel Harbor.

**Marshall Plan** : a program designed to rebuild any country to recover from the infrastructure destruction due to war or any other type of crisis. Named after the secretary of state George C. Marshall to help reconstruct Europe and Japan after World War II.

**maverick** : somebody who takes an independent position from his association, especially a politician. Named after Samuel A. Maverick, a Texan rancher who didn't brand his cattle. In the Southwest, maverick means an unbranded cow.

**melting pot** : the belief that the cultures of people from different races and ethnicities blend and lose their distinctive features and form a new culture. Those who hold this belief are also for assimilation or Americanization of all immigrants. Opponents, however, believe that the dominant American culture is White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) and that adequate terms are needed to better describe the social American reality. Those that have suggested are salad bowl, kaleidoscope, mosaic and quilt.

**meritocracy** : a system which appoints, promotes and rewards people because of their skills and performance.

**middleman minorities** : minority groups who occupy middle positions in the social and and economical ladder, without being at the bottom like other marginalized groups.

**the Middle Passage** : the experience that African slaves went through from their long journey from the Goree Island to the Americas to work on the cash crops plantations (cotton, sugar cane, tobacco and coffee) of the West Indies, Brasil and the Southereastern part of the United States.

**migrant workers** are farmworkers who have to move around from state to state for planting or picking crops such as cotton, tomato, lettuce, grapes, etc. Because of this nomadic life, their children can't attend regular schools and end up also becoming migrant workers as well thus resulting in the creation of a caste system.

**millenarium movement** : a movement that prophesizes apocalypse which will be followed by collective salvation. These movements find fertile ground among oppressed people.

**minstrel** : comedy performed by whites in black faces which consisted of dance and music which perpetuated the stereotypes of blacks as baffoons, stupid, lazy and ignorant.

**minority** : subordinate group. Just like the expressions ‘founding fathers’, ‘nepotism’, ‘paternalism’ it comes from the family-state paradigm metaphor. Etymologically it comes from *minor* ‘under age’ thus depending. The majority is responsible of the welfare of the minority.

**miscegenation** : laws preventing marriage between whites and people of color. These laws were common in the US and South Africa.

**mojados** : « wetbacks » derogatory terms referring to Mexicans who enter the US illegally by supposedly swimming the Rio Grande.

**Montezuma’s Revenge** : diseases such as malaria, diarrhea that American tourists get from Mexico. Named after the last Aztec ruler, Montezuma who was defeated in 1520 by the conquistador Hernan Cortez.

**mosaic** : In the US it is an attempt to describe race and ethnic relations in this country. It is a recognition of the diversity of the American society and that these different cultural, ethnic and racial differences are what makes this country great and unique.

**mosaic theory** : argument by the government that releasing information would harm the national security.

**mulato escape hatch** : vertical social mobility in Brazil based on how lighter the skin is.

**mutilated marriages** : separations of early Chinese immigrants to the US from their wives and children whom they hoped to see because they came as sojourners but ended up by staying.

**nativist movement** : an anti-immigrant movement which advocates public policies to protect American citizens from immigrants. This movement is responsible for the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Gentlemen’s Agreement, the 1930’s Repatriation of Mexicans and the English-only initiatives.

**negationism** : denial by individuals, groups or movements of genocide and the Holocaust through trivialization, justification claiming self-defense or response to

provocation or claims of double genocide in which the victims and victimizers share equal responsibilities.

**Negro spirituals** : improvised field-songs by enslaved blacks which expressed their faith, their plight and their hope for freedom from bondage.

**nepotism** : a system of government in which people are given political positions because of parental association.

**New Deal** also known as « alphabet soup » is a set of programs created by President Roosevelt during the Great Depression to provide relief, create jobs and revive the economy. Some of these programs were the Social Security Act, the Indian Reorganization Act, the Farm Security Administration and the Home Owners' Loan.

**New Frontier programs** : John Kenney's program to boost the economy, strengthen national defense, provide international aid and boost the space program.

**Niagara movement** : an organization founded in 1905 by W.E.B Dubois, John Hope and William M.Trotter to fight for civil liberties, to end racial discrimination and to renounce Booker T. Washington policies of accommodation. It was born at the Niagara Falls.

**nisei** : second-generation Japanese

**non-violent resistance** or non-violent action is the practice of applying power to achieve social, economic or political goals through protests, strikes, boycotts, civil disobedience and other peaceful methods. It was started by Mahatma Gandhi in India to fight against the British colonialism and was used successfully by Martin Luther King during the Civil Rights marches.

**Occidentalism** : stereotypes that the Middle East and Asia has about Europe. The term was coined by Ian Buruma and Avishai Margalit.

**oil curse** : the fact that developing countries rich in natural resources such as oil, gold, diamonds, become prey to big business predators and foreign governments. Their natural resources instead of bringing them wealth bring misery.

**One-drop rule** : a rule determining racial categorization and miscegenation laws. In the United States, a person with even a tiny portion of non-white blood could not be classified as white and was forbidden from marrying a white person.

**Orientalism** : stereotypes that Western countries have about the Middle East and other Asian countries. This term was created by Edward Said.

**Orwellian** : ‘a condition, idea, situation which is inimical to the welfare of a free society’ (Wikipedia) resulting from ‘an attitude and a policy of control by propaganda, misinformation, denial of truth of the past practiced by modern repressive governments’

**paradigm shift** : a change in basic assumptions within the leading theory in any academic discipline. New way of thinking and approach. This expression was created and popularized by Thomas Kuhn by his book *The Structure of the Scientific Revolution*.

**pariah** : outcast. From Tamil ‘drummer from the low drummer caste’

**parochial** : concerned with local issues instead of national and global issues.

**paternalism** : a state’s policy of taking decisions for some social groups without consulting them as if they were children like in the case of the US government and Native Americans. This type of state’s policy is known as the family-state paradigm. The government sees itself as the *pater* ‘father’ and its subjects as its dependent children.

**partition** : dividing a country or territory by conquering nations for their political interests such as the scramble of Africa at the 1884-1885 Berlin Conference where the colonial powers, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Portugal divided Africa and carved new countries without taking into consideration natural boundaries, people’s history, culture and languages or the division of India by the British into India and Pakistan. Partition is also the goal of separatist movements and sometimes it is being proposed as the solutions in pluralist societies which have ethnic, racial or religious conflicts.

**personality cult** : adulation and deification of national leaders. This occurs mostly in authoritarian regimes.

**phenomenology** : a philosophical movement interested in finding out the features and the essence of phenomena. The main figure of this movement is Edmund Husserl.

**philistine** : somebody who is unwilling or incapable to new changes such ideas or culture. From Philistine, native or inhabitant of ancient Philistia.

**plebiscite** : a people’s decision on public policy through elections such as proposition, initiative or referendum

**police state** : a state where people lack individual freedoms and civil liberties.

**Pickaninny** : a caricature of black children seen as ugly and dirty. They were dehumanized and demonized.

**politburo** : in communist systems, the highest executive committee of the party which is above the central committee. From French Bureau Politique.

**politics of accommodation** : also known as the Atlanta Compromise was Booker T. Washington's philosophy about the cure of the plight of former slaves. He believed that Blacks needed vocational education to survive as free men but downplayed their constitutional and civil rights.

**pollyannish** : an excessively blind optimistic attitude especially in politics. From Pollyanna, a heroine in the book of Eleanor Porter.

**Ponzi scheme** : a fraudulent investment operation which consists of paying high interests to investors from money paid by subsequent investors instead of revenues from initial investments. It was named after the Italian immigrant Charles Ponzi.

**postmodernism** : a new paradigm shift characterized by relativity and subjectivity in reaction to modernism which emphasized formality, rationality, objective truth and universality.

**praetorianism** : tendency for a powerful small group such as the military or a wealthy group to take power through force or fraud. This term comes from Praetorian Guard, a bodyguard of the military commander during the Roman Empire.

**prejudice** : bias against a group of people, from prejudging.

**protectorate** : a sovereign government under the control of a more powerful state which is supposed to be its protector under the pretext that it is not ready to assume its full political and military, and diplomatic responsibilities. It is in effect a type of colonialism.

**pork barrel** : money allocated to certain constituents of a politician in return for political support. The expression comes from slave plantations where slaves were given undesirable parts of slaughtered pigs such as feet, intestines, tails.

**pundit** : a person who is knowledgeable about things and makes comments or judgments in an authoritative manner. From Hindi, somebody who is an expert on Sanskrit or Hindu law, history or culture.

**puppet government** : a government controlled by an outside power.

**push and pull factors** : factors which cause phenomena to move from one location (launching site) and be accepted in another location (landing site). For instance the push factors of immigration are most of time politics and economics and the pull factors are the availability of cheap labor and political stability in host countries.

**putschists** : people who overthrow a government illegally by force. Most of the time, it is the military.

**quilombo** : hideaway used by slaves in Brazil in the 19th century.

**quilt** : one of the metaphors which is used to describe the multicultural and multiracial America. It is a variation of the salad bowl metaphor.

**Racial profiling** : inclusion of race as a primary factor in the characterization of people considered likely to commit a particular type of crime.

**ransack** : to make a thorough search/to rob by force from Icelandic *ranna* 'house' and *saka* 'to seek'.

**La Rasa** : a term used to refer to Chicanos. In Spanish it means 'people'

**redlining** : a practice of denying or increasing costs for services such as bank loans or insurance in certain neighborhoods. The term comes from the practice by banks of marking red lines on maps for loan services.

**rainbow coalition** : a social justice organization founded by the Reverend Jesse Jackson which merged with

**rancheria** : a small American-Indian reservation. In Spanish it means a 'workers' residential area'.

**repatriation** : In American history, it means the forced mass deportation of Mexicans in the 1930's during the Great Depression. This is a euphemism since etymologically it means to help people go to the fatherland (from latin : *re-patria*). Today, it means to return refugees and soldiers after the war.

**red scare politics** : accusing political opponents or critics as unpatriotic. This is also referred to as McCarthyism. Senator McCarthy is responsible for destroying many people's lives during the 1950's accusing them of being communists or being communist sympathizers.

**red power** : coined analogically from black power, it was an American Indian group that was fighting for Native American rights in the 1960's such as fishing rights and others.

**reservation** : an American-Indian tribal land. These reservations were created after the 1830 Indian Removal Act. Eventhough there 557 recognized American Indian tribes, there are only around 300 reservations.

**restorative justice** : a theory of criminal justice which emphasizes the harm caused to the victim. It is accomplished through the cooperation which includes both the victims and the offenders.

**reversionism** : rewriting history to suit one's ideology. In genocide studies, it means justifying it showing that the victims deserved their extermination or that it was a retaliation to their provocation or a preemptive measure to protect the perpetrators' survival.

**riff-raff theory** : belief that the 1960's riots were caused by unhappy youths and that they were not caused by both economic and social problems facing African Americans. This theory is also known as the rotten-apple theory.

**robber baron** : a businessman who engages in illegal activities to amass personal fortune. In the Middle Ages, the term was used to refer to feudal lords who made themselves rich by stealing from people. In the US, this term was used in the 19th century to refer to businessmen, industrialists who used unethical business practices to amass fortune such as John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford, James Buchanan Duke, John Jacob Astor, Jay Gould, Collis P. Huntington, Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan, Mark Horkins, Leland Stanford.

**salad bowl** : the idea that the American society is like a salad tossed in a bowl. Although they are mixed, each ingredient keeps its flavor and personality. It is supposed to be the same for all the different racial and ethnic groups which are woven in the American fabric. This metaphor was created in opposition to the melting pot which is seen to be inaccurate.

**Sambo** : a caricature of slaves in minstrels and other entertainment media which showed as childlike, stupid, happy and loyal to their masters. They justified slavery.

**sanctuary movement** : US organizations which offer asylum to illegal immigrants by breaking the US immigration laws.

**sansei** : third generation of Japanese Americans

**the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis** : the belief that the language we speak reflects how we see and understand the world we live in (linguistic relativity) and also determines how we think and behave (linguistic determinism). Named after Edward Sapir, the father of American linguistics and Benjamin Lee Whorf, his student.

**second class citizen** : a person who is considered irrelevant in the society and denied his civil rights because of belonging to a specific social group.

**second shift** : extra work that women have to do outside the home to support the family.

**the signifying monkey** : a trickster character in African-American folktale in which the monkey tricks the lion into fighting the elephant in which fight the lion receives heavy blows. The monkey is punished for its ruse but is always able to survive jumping back into the trees.

**sit-in** : a peaceful protest done by sitting in an unauthorized location

**sharia** : Muslim law

**slave** : a person who is a property of another person. The word comes from Slav (Slavic people) because many Slavic people were enslaved.

**slave codes** : they were laws which reminded slaves how to behave. They were a total denial of the fundamental universal inalienable rights. Since they were a property of the slave master, they could not own or inherit anything, their marriage was not recognized by any institution, they could not have a family because fathers, mothers and children could be sold anytime to another slave owner, they were not allowed to learn how to read and write, etc. The slave was not protected by any institution. His fate depended entirely on the master including determining his life and death.

**Shoah** is a Hebrew term for the genocide of Jews during World War II and collaborators.

**social construction** : a belief that what is considered to be a reality is an illusion. Race, language and culture are considered by some scientists as a social construction. This is in contraction to those who think that they are genetical or biological.

**social cleavages** : social tension based on ethnic, racial, religious or class lines.

**Social Darwinism** : A term coined by the British sociologist Herbert Spenser who saw a parallel between biological evolution and social evolution. He is also the one who is responsible for the expression « the survival of the fittest ». Through natural selection some social groups are naturally suited to do better than others. In this view, the rift between the haves and the have-nots, discrimination, invasion of other countries, colonization and imperialism are natural. This is a world where the rule of the jungle prevails. Government intervention to help the disadvantaged is seen as a hindrance to progress.

**social stratification** : the hierarchal structure of modern nation-states, such as upper class, middle class, low class. It is opposed to traditional egalitarian societies. For instance, when Mexico was conquered by Spain, its former egalitarian society became

hierarchized into four distinct groups : the peninsulares at the top, followed by criollos, then mestizos and at the bottom Indians and blacks. The word stratification derives from strata : a geological term which refers to the different layers of earth morphology.

**scapegoating** : blaming the victim especially the minorities and immigrants as sources of all societal evils or as being responsible for their own problems.

**secularism** : a government where there is a separation of church and state.

**silent majority** : a hypothetical large number of people who choose not to express their opinions on certain issues publicly. This expression was first used by President Richard Nixon in 1969.

**stereotype** : false ideas or beliefs held against a particular group to justify discrimination and all denials of its human and civil rights. The term comes from printing. The stereotype was the image of a page which could be used to duplicate plates. The paper with the image was called *patrix* (father) and papers with duplicated images *matrix* (mother). According to David Berreby, this metaphor was popularized by Walter Lippman.

**stigmatized groups** : social groups that are discriminated against and are subjects of stereotypes. Stigma is an anatomical term which means a small spot, scar or mark on the body.

**structural adjustments** : institutional reorganization. The term is used to refer to measures imposed on borrowing countries from both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to receive loans. These measures include the downsizing of the work force, reduction of the military, currency devaluation, democracy and privatization. Other appropriate terms are institutional or systemic adjustments. These measures have been viewed by critics as an attempt to recolonize developing countries.

**suffragist** : a group of men and women who fought for the right of women to vote. In 1920, the 19th amendment was added to the US constitution to grant them the right to vote. It comes from the Latin word *suffragium* vote hence the right to vote. It is synonymous to franchise which in turn comes from Franks , free people of France.

**sun dance** : a ritual dance performed by many Native American groups.

**taco circuit** dead-end jobs for mexicans

**the talented tenth** is a term coined by W.E.B Dubois to emphasize the need for African-Americans to pursue higher education. He believed that since in all societies it is only ten percent of the population that leads the world, African-Americans should have this elite which should assume its leadership role.

**tar baby** : a term used to describe a sticky situation. Tar-Baby was a doll made of tar and turpentine in Uncle Remus' stories used to entrap Br'er Rabbit. It is also the title one of Toni Morrison's novels.

**teach-in** : a form of non-violent protest used in university to protest the Vietnam War.

**terrorist** : a person or group that uses terror to achieve political gains. A terrorist was an agent of the revolutionary tribunal during the French Reign of Terror.

**theocracy** : a system of government which has a spiritual leader on the top.

**tongs** : Chinese secret societies

**totalitarian regime** : a highly centralized government with complete control on all institutions. This term is used usually to refer to governments which have communist tendencies.

**The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** : A treaty signed between the US and Mexico on February 1, 1848 to end the 1846-48 Mexican-American war. Mexico was forced to give a half of its territory but was given 15 million dollars for monetary compensation.

**The triangle trade** also known as the Transatlantic slave trade because it involved three continents : Africa which provided human goods, Europe cash and the Americas, cash crops.

**tribal sovereignty** : the right of American Indian tribes or federal recognized Native American nations to exercise limited power within their reservation boundaries.

**trickle-down economics** also known as Reaganomics is that idea that lowering taxes for the rich and businesses will benefit the poor and the country because the benefits can be used to promote new investments and economic growth and provide jobs to the unemployed.

**trivialization** : treating genocide as any other minor crime.

**tsu** : Chinese American organization established along family lines

**Uncle Sam** : the US government from

**Uncle Tom** : a black sell-out : from the anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom Cabin (1852) by Harriet Beecher Stowe

**underground railroad** : tactics, strategies, hideouts, trails and all the networks used to smuggle slaves from the South to the North. This is a vision metaphor related to similar expressions such as underground economy, underground movement meaning something which is unknown to the mainstream society.

**utopia** : a perfect world. From Sir Thomas Moore's book Utopia. It comes from Greek and means 'no place'.

**vandalism** : deliberately mischevous and malicious destruction of property. From Vandals, a Germanic people who destroyed Gaul (present-day France) and Spain.

**Velvet revolution** : the soft overthrowing of an oppressive regime by the civil society as it was done in Eastern Europe.

**vertical integration** : an economic term which describes ownership and control of a company. In many cases the company controls both production, shipment and selling. This is in opposition to horizontal integration.

**vertical mobility** : to climb the social and economic ladder.

**veto power** : the power invested in the President or the UN Security Council to stop legislation or resolution. Veto means 'I forbid' in Latin.

**Viet Kieu** : Vietnamese living in the diaspora.

**Watergate** : an illegal break-in of Democratic Party Headquarters in the Watergate building by by President Nixon administration's agents to steal the party's documents. This scandal forced the Nixon's resignation. New terms have been coined from this expression such as Irangate, Travelgate, etc.

**welfare state** : countries like Canada and Western Europe where social security, where people's welfare in such areas as health, education, housing, working conditions are within the responsibility of the government.

**Wetback operations** : a program established in the early 1950's to deport Mexicans. The term was used because apparently thousands of Mexicans had to swim the Rio Grande to come illegally to the US.

**white-collar crimes** : 'non-violent crimes committed in commercial situations for financial gains by people of respectability and high social status'.

**white collar workers** : professional workers such as doctors, professors, engineers. The term comes from the white shirt that they wore.

**white flight** : the phenomenon of whites fleeing certain neighborhoods when blacks move in.

**White supremacist** : a person who believes that only whites have a God-given right to rule the world.

**white trash** : uneducated poor whites

**the Wild West** : a term which is used to refer to the 19th century US western expansion. It refers to the lawlessness of that period. It is a justification of the Native Americans' massacre since Whites had more sophisticated weapons.

**witch hunt** : metaphorically it is the persecution of a perceived enemy because of membership in a specific social group. The most known witch hunt in America is the McCarthy Era (1950-1954) where hundreds and hundreds of individuals were tried, imprisoned, lost jobs or became outcasts because of being accused of being communists or communist sympathizers by Senator McCarthy. The term comes from the traditional common practice from different societies of searching witches or people in possession of witchcraft and killing them by hanging or burning

**Wounded Knee Massacres** : it refers to the killings of Lakota Sioux in 1890 by the US troops because they were practicing the forbidden Ghost Dance.

**Zip Coon** : a caricature of blacks in minstrels which depicted them as stupid, lazy, superstitious

**zoning laws** : legal provisions indicating how in certain areas the land should be used and how the structural design of housing should look like. In some cases, it is used to prevent undesirable social groups from moving into the area. It comes from the word zone.

**zoot-suiters**: a term used to refer to Chicano youth in Southern California after World War II. The expression is derived from the clothes that they wore.

**Yankee** : a term which shifts meaning depending in the context. Abroad it means American. In the US, it means a New Englander. During the Civil War, it referred to any Northerner.

**yellow peril**: prejudice toward all people of Asian descent

**yonsei** : fourth generation of Japanese Americans.

**xenophobia** : literally a fear of foreigners in Greek. Now it means hostile attitudes towards immigrants as shown by nativist movements and anti-immigration laws.

The list given here is not exhaustive. These were only a sample of examples showing the importance of metaphors in our cognitive processes. These metaphors which have become part of the unconscious or have shifted meanings are not unique to language but also also found in other symbols and semiotic systems.

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