loyalty and sagacity, they used it mainly to express abuse. Diogenes, the Greek cynic from the third century took his name from the dog because of his rejection by society. In Greece the dog was associated with sexual offences and looked upon with disgust, as was its habit of fornicating in public. From medieval times up until Goethe’s “Faust”, the Devil was embodied in a dog, i.e. God written backwards (Leach 1964:27). Even today the dog is often accredited sinister powers as there is hardly a country that does not associate the howling of a dog with impending death or bad luck. (dog jumping over a coffin) (Rowland 1974:61). The wicked man returning to his evil ways was likened to the proverbial dog returning to his vomit, whereas the fabulous dog with the bone which stood looking at its reflection in the stream, was the fool who lost what little he had through greed and discontent. During the Renaissance the dog denoted loyalty and love, but this symbolism seems to have died a natural death. The dog even featured in one of the Seven Deadly Sins: that of Envy which was a monk riding on a dog and carrying a sparrow hawk (Rowland 1974:204). The term “she’s a dog” meant an ugly woman and was still used after World War II. A dirty lecher or flatterer can still be called “an old dog”, and a philanderer can still be called a “cur”. In German people have been compared to dogs since the Middle High German era.
EPITHETS

"Hund" is translatable as "dog", "idiot", "pig" or "bastard". The term is exclusively applicable to males over the age of 15. Normally the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and hostile, but when the term is used between strangers it becomes formal and hostile. Although the term is one of the most commonly used swear words in German, it can be used to express affection e.g. when it is used by a man about a person whom he likes: "Der Hund hat es mal wieder geschafft!". In this sense the term can be translated as "guy" or "fellow". Usually however, the term expresses abuse, disgust and hatred. It is a very conventional term, often vulgar and used in low to middle class circles. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- bōder/dummer/alter/widerlicher/geiziger Hund = stupid/old/disgusting/greedy idiot/bastard
- Schweinehund, Sauhund, Lausehund, Dreck(s)hund = bastard

IDIOMS

- armer Hund = poor wretch/sod/devil
  (applicable between male friends. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly. The term is sympathetically affectionate).
- junger Hund = beginner, greenhorn
  (This term may be used cynically, in an informal, friendly
or hostile relationship, but it is not strongly abusive).

- krummer Hund = cheat, scoundrel, shark
- Spürhund = spy, snooper
- Höllenhund = evil-doer, villain, lout
- Windhund = inconsistent, unreliable person (expression originates from the greyhound's disloyalty and unreliability as a watchdog); a man who wants to be all things to all men.
- Hundsott = bastard, despicable cur (vulgar usage)
- grosskotziger Hund = brag, braggart, all talk
- Hündesohn = son of a bitch
- wilder Hund = madcap, full of beans, chirpy person
  (The term usually implies that a close relationship exists and is critically affectionate).
- bissiger Hund = ill-tempered man, ogre

Hündin = "bitch"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "bitch" or "slut". The term is only applied to describe promiscuous, nasty, ill-tempered females above the age of 15. It may be used on its own or in conjunction with various modifiers. A bitch is a "pet gone wrong" (Whaley and Antonelli 1983:225). The relationship which exists between the addresser and the addressee is hostile and informal. It is conventional (although relatively rare), vulgar, abusive
and not acceptable in upper class circles. The term is also used to describe a woman with a sharp, vile tongue.

EPITHETS
- blöde/dumme/gemeine Hündin = you stupid, mean bitch/cow

iii) Katze = "cat". In ancient Egypt the cat was sacred. It was accredited magical powers because of its ability to see in the dark and because of its mysterious aloofness. In Egypt the cat was a symbol of the moon, in Greece it became a symbol of the goddess of the underworld, Hecate. In the Christian world, heretics were accused of worshipping the Devil in the form of a cat. In Germany folk etymology linked the word "ketzer" with "Kater" and in Middle High German "ketzenie" means "sorcery" and "heresy". Although the cat was predominantly associated with the occult, secular writers saw the cat as a symbol of freedom, but today the cat's symbolic qualities are more mundane. They have been retained in French with respect to the lecherous feline e.g. "Laisser aller le chat au fromage".

IDIOMS
Figuratively the term may be translated as "cat", "bitch", "vixen", "cow", or "girl". It may be applied to women or girls over the age of 15. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee can be informal and hostile or informal and affectionate, depending on the
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Eine Katze = a shrewd, bitchy, nasty bitch/vixen
Falsche Katze = two-faced, insincere woman
Fesche Katze = a good sort, (pleasant, appealing young girl not older than 25)
Schmeichelkatze = flatterer
Schmusekatze = love-bug

Kater = "tomcat".

Idioms

Figuratively the term is translatable as "fellow" or "chap". The term is used to refer to male friends above the age of 15. The term is neither laudatory nor strongly abusive and presupposes an informal friendly (or sometimes even a slightly hostile) relationship between the addresser and the addressee, depending on the modifier it is used with. It may be used in an affectionate or critical sense, but is never strongly abusive. It is used in middle to upper class circles.

- Verliebter Kater = a man who has lost his heart, fallen hopelessly in love (not pejorative).
- Satter/zufriedener Kater = man who has over-indulged in
food (slightly critical)
- glatter Kater = as slippery as an eel, a sly/wily fox.
  (slightly pejorative)
- schlauer Kater = clever, shrewd, hardboiled man

Kätzchen = "kitten".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "kitten", "pet", "angel". The term is used as a term of affection for little girls below the age of 10, girlfriends, over the age of 15 or young wives. The relationship between the male addresser and the female addressee would be informal, and affectionate, in the case of a parent to his little girl, or informal and intimate in the case of lovers or husbands. The term is conventional. It is used in all social strata and is often used in conjunction with modifiers. Unless the term is used by a client to his prostitute or call girl, in which case it is affectionately vulgar, the term has no resemblance to the English term "sex kitten".

- süßes/kleines Kätzchen = sweet little angel/honey/pet

iv) Kröte = "toad". Figuratively it is translatable as "kitten", "sweetie", "darling" etc. The term is applied by parents to their children below the age of 10. It may also be used
by friends of the family, and by brothers and sisters. The relationship existing between the addressee is informal and friendly. The term is commonly used and expresses affection. It is acceptable in all social strata. When used in conjunction with modifiers such as "süße" or "kleine" or "freche" the term conforms to what was said above. But used idiomatically, it can also designate a young girl with a sharp tongue, or a wicked, malicious woman ("vixen"). Numerous superstitions concerning the bad, evil, deceitful, impudent nature of a toad are associated with expressions referring to such malicious women.

Epithets

Figuratively the term is translatable as "mouse", "kitten", "lamb", "sweetie" etc. The term is applied to little girls below the age of 10, and also to girlfriends and young wives not older than 30. It is usually applied in conjunction with various modifiers. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is informal and intimate or both. The term is conventional, affectionate and acceptable in all social strata. Regional variations are: Mausi, Mausle, Mäusle, (common in southern Germany), Mäuschen, Mäuslein, Mäusken, Mausli (common in Switzerland).
kleine/süße/liebe Maus = sweet/little angel/darling/mouse

vi) Vögelchen = "little bird".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "kitten", "lamb", "sweetie" etc. It is a term of affection used only for little girls below the age of 10. The relationship between the addressee and the addresseee would be informal and friendly i.e. a harmonious parent/daughter relationship. The term is conventional but not used often. It is known and used mainly in middle to upper class circles.

süßes/kleines/liebes Vögelchen = sweet/little darling.

b. Farm Animals

i) Ente = "duck".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "cow" or "bag". The term can be applied to any girl or woman over the age of 15. It can be applied by males and females. The relationship existing between the addressee and the addressee is informal and hostile, but formal and hostile when used by strangers. The term is conventional and commonly used, always in conjunction with a modifier. It is abusive and not readily used in upper class circles.

- dumme/blöde/alte Ente = stupid/old cow/bag
- lahme Ente = slowcoach, as dull as duckweed

ii) Gans = "goose".

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is also translatable as "goose" or as "cow" or "bag". The term can be applied to any inconsiderate girl or woman over the age of 15. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is hostile and informal, but formal when used by strangers. The term is usually used by strangers or people who do not like one another. It is conventional, abusive and not acceptable in upper class circles. The epithets are always used in conjunction with modifiers.

dumme/blöde/alte Gans = silly/old goose/cow/bag

**IDIOMS**

- Gänse = chicks, birds, young girls (not abusive but slang and used mainly by teenagers or adult men in an informal relationship).
- Gänselfliese = ninny, silly girl, (affectionately critical)
- Gänsefüssschendame = euphemism for prostitute or whore
- Gänsekopf = numbskull, clot, (affectionately critical and applied to males over the age of 15. Not used very often).
- sie ist eine Gans unter Schwänen = she is a nobody,
merely a number (critical but not abusive)

iii) Hahn = "cock". According to Grimms deutsches Wörterbuch (1954-1960), in Baird (1981:215) a "Hahn" "...designates the human male who distinguishes himself, like the cock, for his sexual prowess". Furthermore Grimm states "An Worten ist er mönch, an thaten ist er hahn" (he talks like a monk, but acts like a cock). The phallic symbolism associated with the "Hahn" still exists in a vulgar form today as it still denotes a marriage swindler, a man looking for a rich wife. It also means a young boyfriend (slang usage) and a bully. One of the Seven Deadly Sins, that of Wrath, depicts a woman riding a boar and carrying a cock.

EPITHETS

The term is figuratively translatable as "fellow", "pal", "idiot". It is applied to boys and men over the age of 15. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is almost always informal and hostile (but it may be friendly when used in the first person). The term would not be used between complete strangers. It is conventional and usually used in conjunction with a modifier, and is more commonly used in the form of an idiom. Use of the term always implies abuse or criticism and it is not used by the lower class.

- dummer/biöder/alter Hahn = stupid old fool/idiot
IDIOMS

Idioms using Hahn are always critical if not abusive about the addressee.

- er ist ein Kampfhahn = he is a fire-eater, stormy petrel, fighter, bully (reference to cocks fighting)
- er ist ein Streithahn = he is a fire-eater, stormy petrel, trouble causer
- er ist ein Unhahn = he is a lout, unpleasant fellow
- er ist ein stolzer Hahn = he is too big for his boots, big headed, proud as a peacock, above himself

Gockel = "cock". The term is common in southern Germany. It is only applicable to males above the age of 15. The term always expresses criticism and refers to a contemptuous, arrogant braggart (reference to the haughty behaviour of a cock). It means a person full of airs and graces.

- er ist ein struppiger Gockel = unkempt person, ragamuffin
- er ist ein aufgeputzter Gockel = dressed to the nines
- er ist ein Klappergreis von Gockel = a dithering old codger (applicable to men over 60, but not strongly abusive).
Henne = "hen".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "hen", "bag", "bitch" or "cow". The term is applicable to any nagging girl or woman over the age of 15. It is applicable in an informal but hostile type of relationship. The term is conventional and is still in regular use. It is usually employed in conjunction with modifiers as opposed to being used on its own. The term can only be used in an abusive sense and is rarely used in upper class circles.

- dumme/blöde/alte Henne = silly hen, nagging old hag

Huhn = "chicken".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "girl", "hen" or "idiot". The term is applied to females between the ages of 10 - 25. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly, perhaps even intimate e.g. a husband or lover could say to his wife or girlfriend "Was ist denn los mein kleines Huhn (Hühnchen)?". Here the term would express affection, but usually it expresses an affectionately critical attitude and not an abusive one. The term is conventional but not used readily by everybody.
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- blödes/dummes/altes Huhn = silly/stupid old hen/idiot

IDIOMS
- ein garstiges Huhn = a nasty, spiteful, ill-tempered woman, a bitch, shrew, vixen
- ein armes Huhn = a poor soul/sod devil
- ein leichtsinniges Huhn = happy-go-lucky girl
- ein verrücktes Huhn = as mad as a March hare, as mad as a hatter
- ein faules Huhn = bone idle girl or woman
- ein Hühnerdieb = petty thief (applicable to males above the age of 10)
- ein schmächtiges Huhn = a cock-sparrow (applicable to a slightly built female above the age of 15. The term is neither affectionate nor abusive, it is simply a statement of fact).
- ein mageres Huhn = a girl or woman who is as thin as a beanstalk/rake/skeleton

Kük en = "chick".

EPITHETS
Figuratively the term is translatable as "tiny tot" "angel" or "sweetie". The term is usually applied to little girls under the age of 5, but it may be used by husbands and lovers to express affection to their respective women. Hence the relationship would be
informal, close or even intimate. The term is conventional, it expresses affection but is often subject to idiosyncratic usage, e.g. "mein liebstes Küken" or "mein herzens Küken". The term may be used for girls up to the age of about 20, implying that they are silly or immature (wet behind the ears). It is usually used with a modifier.
- dummes Küken = silly teenager/girl
- süßes, kleines Küken = sweet little angel

iv) Kuh = "cow".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "cow" or "bag". The terms associated with cows are always applied to women and girls over the age of 15. The cow was the medieval symbol of gentleness and fecundity but is used today to imply female stupidity or nastiness. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is always hostile and informal, unless the term is used by strangers e.g. one driver cursing another driver, in which case the relationship is formal. The term is conventional and very commonly used, especially in the lower to middle classes, to express abuse. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.
- dumme/blöde/alte Kuh = stupid/silly/old cow/bag/bitch
IDIOM

- sie ist eine dürre Kuh = she is as thin as a beanstalk/rake/skeleton

Bulle = "bull".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "ox", "chap" or "idiot". The term is applied to a stout, hefty male over the age of 15. The term refers more to a man’s large physique than to his character, but sometimes it is used to refer to his limited intelligence. In the former case, the relationship between the addresser and the addressee would be informal and friendly (unless the term is used by a stranger), but in the latter case it would be informal or hostile (unless the term is used by a stranger). The modifiers indicate whether the term is intended to be used abusively or endearingly. The term may be affectionate, abusive (when it refers to the sexual virility of a man) or even slang (when it refers to a traffic cop), depending on the situation. It is conventionally used by teenagers and to a lesser degree by adult men. The term is used in all levels of society.

- ein Bulle = big hefty, corpulent chap; (also a German cop)
- dummer/blöder/alter Bulle = big fat idiot/numbskull/clot
IDIOMS

- Dorfbulle = a bad lot, foul-mouthed person (term of abuse for the most vulgar man of the village)
- Gemeindebulle = bureaucrat (pejorative)
- Bullenbeisser = aggressive brute, bully, blusterer

Ochse = "ox". Traditionally the ox has stood for endurance, patience, strength and wealth. In the writings of the early Christian fathers it was a symbol of Christ, of prophets and saints slain for their faith, and of those who laboured silently for the benefit of others. The ox even used to symbolise the Jews because it bore the yoke.

EPITHETS

"Idiot" or "ox" would be suitable equivalents for "Ochse". The term is applied to describe a clumsy, dull, docile, stupid male over the age of 15. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee would be mildly hostile and informal (but formal when used by strangers) but not downright abusive. The term is commonly used by most people, but usually in conjunction with a modifier.

dummer/blöder/alter Ochse = silly old ox/idiot/sod
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