huge, fierce, shaggy, clumsy bear. In heraldry the bear was a symbol of power, but in medieval times it symbolised evil and lust.

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "fool" or "blunderfoot". It is applicable to males over the age of 15 and may be mildly abusive or affectionate, depending on the situation and the modifier it is used with. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is thus either formal or friendly and informal i.e. usually when used in the first person singular, or (in)formal and abusive when used in the third person singular towards or about strangers. The term is conventional, although not used very often, and is acceptable in middle to upper class circles.

- dummer/blöder/alter Bär = silly old fool
- mein Hausbär/Zottelbär/Schnuckelbär/Teddybär/Brummbär = my love bug/honey/darling/baby/Teddy bear. Term of endearment used by parents to their children and by wives and girlfriends to their husbands and lovers respectively.

**IDIOMS**

- ein ungeleckter Bär = boor, cretin; unpolished, uneducated, uncivilised man
- Du Bär! = You idiot! (boorish person)
iii) **Büffel** = "buffalo".

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "fool" or "idiot". It is applicable to males above the age of 15. It is usually used amongst friends in which case the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and affectionately critical. When the term is used amongst strangers it can be insulting but not vulgar. The term may refer to a person's intelligence as well as to his ill-breeding or his physical strength and mental determination. In the two latter cases the term is laudatory and not pejorative. The term is not used very often and because of its rarity it was difficult to establish it which social classes its use was confined.

- dummer/blöder/alter Büffel = silly old fool/idiot
- alter Büffel = old codger, old man, old timer
- Büffel = ruffian, churl

iv) **Fuchs** = "fox". The term "old fox" still means the same today as it did in the fourteenth century: a clever, cunning, crafty, sly, old man. In Aesop's Fables the fox is the trickster e.g. the fable about the fox and the
crow. Reynard, another fabulous fox, in the role of a penitent, makes his confession while carrying a fat chicken in a sack on his back. (Rowland 1974:77). The fox was also commonly depicted dressed as a preacher, preaching to gullible birds, all the time thinking about which bird would be his next meal. The expression "sour grapes" which is still regularly used today, although never associated with the fox, stems from the Aesopian fable, where the fox was unable to reach a bunch of grapes, and subsequently claimed that he did not want them, because they were probably sour anyway. He feigned his refusal because he knew he could not have the grapes. This indicates his cleverness and hence the expression "as sly/crafty as a fox".

IDIOMS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "sly fox" or "a crafty fellow". It is applicable to sly and crafty males above the age of 15. Generally the term refers to a man's superior intelligence, but at the same time the addressee need not necessarily be saying something complimentary about the addressee. The term is usually used in a critical sense. The relationship between the addressee and the addressee may thus be informal and hostile, informal and friendly, or formal and hostile or friendly when he or she is talking to or about a stranger. The term is old fashioned but is still in current use. Its use appears to
be confined to middle and upper class circles. The term is often used on its own without a modifier.

- das ist eine Füchsin = she is a vixen, loose woman, slut (applicable to females above the age of 15. The term used in this sense, is usually abusive but not vulgar).
- das ist ein Fuchsbaflg = crafty, deceitful lout/sleeze
- er ist ein Fuchs = he is an unreliable person. (The origin of this expression lies behind the belief that red-haired people were unreliable and sly/reckless).
- er ist ein Pfennigfuchser = tight fisted, miser
- der Fuchs weiss mehr als ein Loch = he always knows a way out, he knows how many beans make five

Hirsch = "stag".

IDIOMS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "fellow", "stag" or "chap". The term is applied to males older than 15, but not older than 40. It may be used in a complimentary or abusive sense, depending on the situation at hand and on the modifier which the term is used with. When the term is used in a complimentary sense it is usually used amongst friends and the relationship between the addressee and the addresser is informal and friendly, but when the term is used by strangers it is often in the abusive sense and hence the relationship becomes formal and abusive. The
term is not heard very often and is confined to upper class circles.

- ein flotter Hirsch = an Apollo, a handsome, well-dressed, fellow
- ein finsterner Hirsch = a shady character

(i) Igel = "hedgehog".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "pig" or "swine". It is applied to males over the age of 15, but is not used to refer to elderly men. As the term is strongly abusive, the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is hostile and informal. The term is never used on its own. It is used by most people to express sheer disgust.

- Sauigel! = swine!, dirty pig!, filthy bastard!

(vii) Löwe = "lion". Reference to the lion in proverbs has fallen largely into disuse. As a British national emblem, the lion was particularly popular in the age of imperialism, and all the qualities it might symbolise, such as sagacity, ferocity, and magnanimity, were brought into play." (Rowland 1974:123) The lion used to symbolise endurance, prudence, clemency, pride, wrath, watchfulness and invincibility (Rowland 1074:121) but today only one expression remains in use.
Figuratively the term is translatable as "giant". It is applicable to males over the age of 15 but not older than 40. The term refers to the physical size and strength of a man. Use of the term is neither affectionate nor abusive, but simply a statement of fact. The term is not used very often and its use would probably be confined to middle and upper class circles.

- das ist ein Löwe = he is a giant, the size of an ox

viii) _Luchs_ = "lynx"

**IDIOMS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "hawk". Use of the term refers to a man above the age of 15, who is wide awake and "on the ball" or alert. This ties up with the historical tradition surrounding the lynx. From earliest times it has stood for acute vision. Because of its sharp sight, the lynx symbolised the vigilance of Christ. The term is not abusive. It is heard occasionally amidst upper class circles.

- das ist ein Luchs = he is sharp/alert/on the ball
- er/sie hat Luchsäuge = he/she is eagle-eyed/argus-eyed
  (applicable to males and females of any age as long as they have extremely sharp vision).
Nilpfard = "hippo".

EPITHETS

The term is translatable as "hippo" or "blunderfoot". It is applicable to males over the age of 15 and refers to their physical tardiness and clumsiness. The term is usually used abusively to describe a fat man but when it is used between friends to refer directly or indirectly to an old man, the relationship between the addressee and the addressee is informal and affectionate. The term is not used very often and it was not possible to establish in which circles it is used most commonly. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- ein altes Nilpfard = an old man. (Term of endearment applicable to an elderly man).
- dummes/blödes/altes Nilpfard = stupid fool, fat idiot

Reh = "deer"

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "mouse". The term is applicable to timid girls or women up to the age of 30. The term is not abusive and the relationship which exists between the addressee and the addressee is informal and affectionate, or affectionately critical. The term may be applied to slightly built girls and women up to the age of
30, but it is not often used in this sense. Most of the expressions using "Reh" however, are in the form of similies and are not discussed in this project.

- dummes Reh = silly girl
- sie ist ein dünnes/dürres/mageres Reh = she is as thin as a beanstalk/rake

xi) Rhinozeros = "rhinoceros"

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "fool" or "idiot". The term is applied to males over the age of 15 and the relationship existing between the addressee and the addressee is usually formal and hostile, as the term is most commonly used by strangers. It expresses stupidity and is thus abusive but not vulgar. It is not used very often and is confined to middle and upper class circles.

- dummes/Blödes/altes Rhinozeros = stupid old fool/idiot

xii) Schlange = "snake". The snake has been a phallic symbol as well as a symbol of evil and temptation e.g. the serpent in the Garden of Eden. The latter symbolism has survived in idioms until today.

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "witch", "bitch".
"hag" or "shrew". The term is applicable to females over the age of 15 and it refers to nasty, malicious, inconsiderate women. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is always hostile and informal or formal, depending on whether the addressee is a stranger or not. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier. It is conventional and commonly used in lower to middle class circles. It is abusive.

- blöde/alte/giftige Schlange = stupid, old, sharp-tongued witch/shrew/hag
- blöde/dumme/alte Klapperschlange = dithering old cow/hag

xiii) Tiger = "tiger".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "tiger" or "tigress". It may be used in an abusive sense, to describe a temperamental male or female over the age of 15. In this case the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is hostile and informal, or formal if the term is used to describe a stranger. If the term is used in an affectionate sense, by parents to their children or by males or females to their respective partners, the relationship is informal and affectionate. The term is conventional and used in all social strata. It may be used on its own or in conjunction with a modifier.
"hag" or "shrew". The term is applicable to females over the age of 15 and it refers to nasty, malicious, inconsiderate women. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is always hostile and informal or formal, depending on whether the addressee is a stranger or not. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier. It is conventional and commonly used in lower to middle class circles. It is abusive.

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Figuratively the term is translatable as "darling", "honey", "chick", "bird" or "brick". It is applicable to females up to the age of 25. The term expresses affection and would not be used by strangers. Therefore the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly. The term is conventional, but not heard often. It would not be used in lower class circles. It is used in conjunction with a modifier.

- Du kleine Biene/ kleines Bienchen = you sweet little darling, honey
- sie ist eine Biene = she's an angel
- sie ist eine flotte Biene = she's a clever, pretty girl
- sie ist eine nette Biene = she's a doll, a pleasant girl
- sie ist eine freche Biene = she's a cheeky little brat
  (applicable to little girls up to the age of 10. The term
is affectionately critical).

ii) Fliege = "fly"

EPITHETS

Figuratively, the term is translatable as "chick", "bird" or "girl". The term is applicable to girls and women up to the age of 25. Used idiosyncratically, the term may be applied to little girls up to the age of 10 as a term of affection (usually by parents). The term would not be used by strangers and hence the relationship between the addressee is informal and friendly. The term is conventional but not used often. It is not heard in lower class circles. The term is always used with a modifier.

- eine leichte Fliege = a giddy goat, happy-go-lucky, sweet but careless and frivolous.

iii) Floh = "flea"

EPITHETS

Figuratively, the term is translatable as "brat". It is applicable as a term of affection to young children up to the age of 10. The term is usually used by parents. The relationship between the addressee is informal and friendly. The term expresses affectionate criticism, or even slight anger. The term is conventional
but not heard often. It is always used with a modifier.

- Du kleiner Floh! = You little brat!
- ein Strassenfloh = a bum, street-walker (this term is applicable to males over the age of 15. It is abusive in that it often refers to men who have lost their jobs, who roam the streets at night and who keep bad company. The term is mainly used by teenagers.)

iv) Käfer = "beetle"

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "darling", "angel" or "love". It is applicable to children up to the age of 10. The term is usually applied by parents and the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly the term is conventional, but is not used very often. The term may also be applied by husbands and lovers to their wives and girlfriends as a term of affection. It is heard in middle and upper class circles, and is always used with a modifier.

- Käferlein = little angel/honey/darling/angel/love
- Herzenskäfer = darling, angel
- Goldkäfer = darling/precious
- sie ist ein netter/frecher/flotter/reizender/süsser
Käfer = she is a pleasant/cheeky/clever/pretty girl
- er ist ein Käfer = he is a grouser, fault-finder
(applicable to men above the age of 15).

vi) **Laus** = "louse"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "darling" or "angel". It is a term of affection used by parents to their children up to the age of 10. The relationship is therefore informal and affectionate. The term is conventional but not used very often. Its use is confined to middle and upper class circles. The term is always used with a modifier.

- **kleine, süsse Laus** = little sweetheart/angel/baby
- **freche Laus** = cheeky (but cute) little girl
- **Lausbub, Lausebengel, Lauser** = little brat, rascal
- **er ist keine Laus wert** = he isn't worth a dime

**vi) Motte** = "moth"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "sweetie", "angel" or "darling". It is applicable to little girls up to the age of 10 and is usually used by parents to express affection. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly. The term could also be applied to an older girl or woman up to the age of 40. In
v) **Laus** = "louse"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "darling" or "angel". It is a term of affection used by parents to their children up to the age of 10. The relationship is therefore informal and affectionate. The term is conventional but not used very often. Its use is confined to middle and upper class circles. The term is always used with a modifier.

- kleine, süße Laus = little sweetheart/angel/baby
- freche Laus = cheeky (but cute) little girl
- Lausbub, Lausebengel, Lauser = little brat, rascal
- er ist keine Laus wert = he isn't worth a dime

vi) **Motte** = "moth"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "sweetie", "angel" or "darling". It is applicable to little girls up to the age of 10 and is usually used by parents to express affection. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly. The term could also be applied to an older girl or woman up to the age of 40. In
this case it could be translated as "madcap" and the relationship would be informal and affectionately critical. The term is conventional but not used very often. Its usage is limited to middle and upper class circles. It is normally used in conjunction with a modifier.

- Du süsse, kleine Motte = You little brat/sweetie/angel
- das ist vielleicht eine Motte = he/she is a complete nit (applicable to males and females over the age of 15. The term is affectionately critical, but not abusive).

vii) **Ratte** = "rat"

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "sweetie" or "darling". The term is usually applied by parents to their little girls up to the age of 10 as a term of affection. The relationship is informal and friendly. The term is conventional but not used very often. It is always used with a modifier. The term is used in middle to upper class circles.

- Du kleine, süsse Ratte = You sweet little darling/angel