

**MORE THAN BEARING
WITNESS, THE NOTES
GATHERED HERE
GLOSS.**

**THEY COMMENT
FROM THE MARGINS,
FOLD MEANING,
AND EXCAVATE WHAT
MIGHT OTHERWISE
SEEM LIKE MERE
RECORD.**

About the series GLOSAR

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glosar (glo · sar)

[v.tran. — Portuguese verb]

A verb derived from the Greek *glōssa* (tongue) and the Latin *glossa* (obscure term or difficult word)

1. A verb appropriated by researchers to describe a reading practice that challenges the transparency of the text through marginal commentary.

2. A verb with peculiar sonority that draws the reader affectively closer.

3. To annotate

4. To comment

5. To explain

6. To critique

7. To develop in verse

8. [Colloquial] To nullify; to suppress

Related terms:

glosadore (glo · sa · dore)

[adj.n.n.]

1. One who glosses

In philology, glosar means to explain what is not self-evident — to contextualize ambiguous, slippery terms. During the Middle Ages, the practice of glossing flourished in the margins of manuscripts, in which small notes commented on and strained against the main text. In the 15th century, the glosa became poetized — a form in which poets began with another's verses to weave their own, stitching together continuity and deviation. In modernity, the term took on another facet: in legal and administrative contexts, glosar came to mean the act of annotating as a means of erasure. Perhaps for this reason, the term has become less available within contemporary critical theory. Still, given the vitality and critical force of its practice, this is a fertile moment to reinscribe glossing as an epistemological and curatorial tool.

Deslenguadas. Somos los del español deficiente. We are your linguistic nightmare, your linguistic aberration, your linguistic mestizaje, the subject of your burla. Because we speak with tongues of fire we are culturally crucified. Racially, culturally and linguistically somos huérfanos— we speak an orphan tongue. (Anzaldúa, 2007, p.80)

Glosa:

Glossing is writing with a language that refuses to settle — illegitimate, mixed, and in constant dispute. Within the GLOSAR series, terms and concepts remain in continuous friction. Some speak in English, others ask in Portuguese. Some comment in Brazilian Portuguese, others respond in Mozambican Portuguese. Fixed jargons and their perpetuation are of little interest. Glossing here means refusing the language of power. It means risking other forms of understanding — more affective, more hybrid, more impure. It means letting the margin write at the center.

Acknowledging the agency of the world in knowledge makes room for some unsettling possibilities, including a sense of the world's independent sense of humour. Such a sense of humour is not comfortable for humanists and others committed to the world as resource. Richly evocative figures exist for feminist visualizations of the world as witty agent. (Haraway, 1990, p.199)

Glosa:

Glossing is a refusal of logocentric paradigms, embracing the affective nature of thought and its capacity to connect different subjectivities. There are no neutral materialities — the world acts, responds, and ironizes. Within the GLOSAR gatherings, this agency became evident in the

garden of FBAUP, where colonialism still lingers; in the Leça da Palmeira refinery, whose toxicity still emanates; and in the air — thick and laden with infrastructural violence. Glossing, here, means accepting that not every commentary comes from a human voice: there are noises, vapors, and objects that gloss back. It means becoming attuned to a critique made of dust, sound, and displacement.

Glossing is not merely an exercise in commentary — it is a situated practice of listening, deviation, and critical fabulation. By proposing a fragmentary lexicon and a writing that emerges from the margins, this publication does not aim to settle meaning but to open breaches in epistemic certainty. The glosses gathered here echo the masterclasses by Inês Moreira (GLOSAR #01: Infrastructural Turn) and Elke Krasny (GLOSAR #02: Feminist Infrastructural Critique), and extend an invitation: to gloss with, against, from, and beyond. For every concept, like every infrastructure, can — and must — be glossed.



Glosar as
a verb.