

Picking Words with Care: Hypercorrection in the Language of Trimalchio

1. *Sed Augustus quoque in epistulis ad C. Caesarem scriptis emendat quod is ‘calidam’ dicere quam ‘caldam’ malit, non quia id non sit Latinum, sed quia sit odiosum et, ut ipse Graeco verbo significavit, περίεργον. (Quintilian, Institutio Oratoria 1.6.19)*

“Augustus also, in his letter to Gaius Caesar, corrects him for saying *calidam* rather than *caldam*, not on the ground that it is not Latin, but as being repulsive, and, in his own Greek word, *periergon* (superfluous).” (trans. Donald Russell)

2. *CIL IV 3878 [balneum, -i → BALNEUS]*



NEUSACRIPPAE TAT. LI TSOIL

Descripsimus. — *Edidi Röm. Mitth.* 1888 p. 146 n. 10; Sogliano *N. d. sc.* 1887 p. 39 n. 27 in hunc modum:

BALNEVS · AGRIPPAE · V · · · · · TAT · · · · · LI · · · · · T · · · · · OIV · · · · ·
· · · · · NO T A · · · · ·

- CIL IV 1516 [lutum, -i → LUTUS]*

HIC · EGO · NV^{nc} fVTVII · FORMOSA FORMA · PVELLA · LAVDATA A · MVLTIS · SET LVTVS INTVS · EERAT^{sic}

- CIL IV 3129 [cadaver (n.) → CADAVER (m.)]*

CADAVER^{sic} MORTVS

3. Freedmen Vulgarisms:

- a. *caelum, -i → caelus* (39.5)
- b. *fericulum, -i → fericulus* (39.6)
- c. *candelabrum, -i → candelabrus* (75.19)
- d. *fatum, -i → fatus* (78.3)

4. *Dama itaque primus cum pataracina poposcisset, “Diei” inquit “nihil est. Dum versas te, nox fit. Itaque nihil est melius, quam de cubiculo recta in triclinium ire. Et mundum frigus habuimus. Vix me balneus calfecit. Tamen calda potio vestiarius est. Staminatas duxi, et plane matus sum. Vinus mihi in cerebrum abiit. (Petr, 41.10-12)*

“Dama began first after calling for a large glass: ‘Day is nothing. Night is on you before you can turn round. Then there is nothing better than going straight out of bed to dinner. It was genuinely cold. A bath could scarcely warm me. But a hot drink is a good clothier. I have taken some stiff drinks and I am clearly stupid drunk. The wine has gone to my head.’”

5. *quotienscumque dicit 'Carpe,' eodem verbo et vocat et imperat (Petr. 36.8)*

“Everytime he says ‘Carpe [Carver/carve!],’ with the same word he summons and commands.”

6. *“amici,” inquit “nondum mihi suave erat in triclinium venire, sed ne diutius absentivos morae vobis essem, omnem voluptatem mihi negavi (Petr. 33.1)*

“‘Friends,’ he says, ‘it was not convenient for me to come into the *triclinium*,’ but lest I was a cause of delay for you in my absence, I denied myself every pleasure”

7. **Peacock eggs:**

Trimalchio: *pavonis ova...concepti sunt... sorbilia sunt (33.5)*

Encolpius: *pavonina ova (33.5)*

8. **Trimalchio’s Hypercorrections:**

a. *margarita, -ae* → *margaritum (63.3)*

b. *seplasia, -ae* → *sepladium (76.6)*

c. *statua, -ae* → *statuncula [n. pl. acc.] (50.6)*

9. **Appendix Probi, -ea/eus** → **-ia/ius [y]**

vinea non vinia (Appendix Probi)

Sp: *viña*

Ptg: *vinha*

Fr: *vigne*

It: *vigna*

10. *CIL* IV 2119 [*alea* → **ALIA**]

VICI NVNERIAE

INALIA · ꝛ DCCCLV

FIDE BONA

CIL IV 4299 [*Herculaneo* → **HERCULANIO**]

4KAVLIVNERIAE FLOPVS
XIXK SENT HERCULANIO VICT

CIL X 825 [*marmoreas* → **MARMORIAS**]

TAVRO · STATILIO	p. C. 45
TI · PLATILIO · AELIAN · COS	sic
L · STATIVS · FAVSTVS · PRO	
SIGNO · QVOD · E LEGE · FORTVNAE	
5 AVGVSTAE MINISTORVM · PONERE	sic
DEBEBAT · REFERENTE · Q POMPEIO · AMETHYSTO	
QVAESTORE · BASIS · DVAS · <u>MARMORIAS</u> · DECREVERUNT	sic
PRO SIGNO	PONIRET
	sic

11. Vulgarism [*ea/eus*] → [*ia/ius*]

- caunae* → *caunia* (44.13)
- miscellanea* → *muscellania* (50.5)

12. Hypercorrection [*ia/ius*] → [*ea/eus*]

- doleus non dolium* (*Appendix Probi*)
- Encolpius: *Corinthius* (31.9, 50.1)
- Trimalchio: *Corintheus* (50.2, 4, 5)
- Trimalchio: *solium* → *coleum* (51.5)

13. Syntax:

- Hypercorrect genitive: *vinearum largiter* (71.7)
- Vulgarism: *Sed memini Safinium* [acc. object instead of gen.] (44.6)
- Hypercorrect subjunctive: *dum mater amplexaret corpus filii sui* (68.3)
- Hypercorrect subjunctive: *etiamsi illos malus fatus oppresserit* (71.7)

14. *The Social Stratification of English in New York City, William Labov*

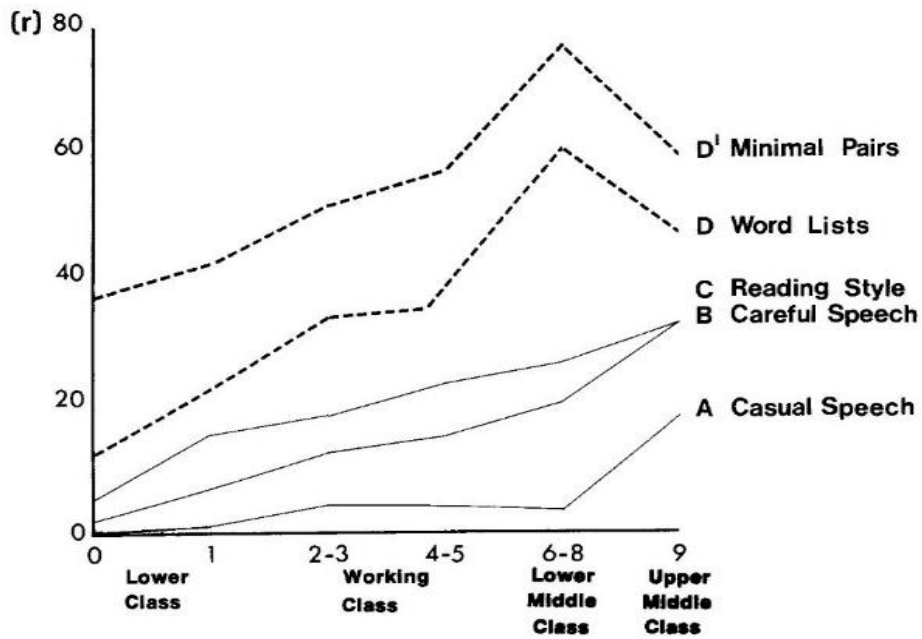


FIGURE 10
*Simplified style stratification of (r):
Six class groups*

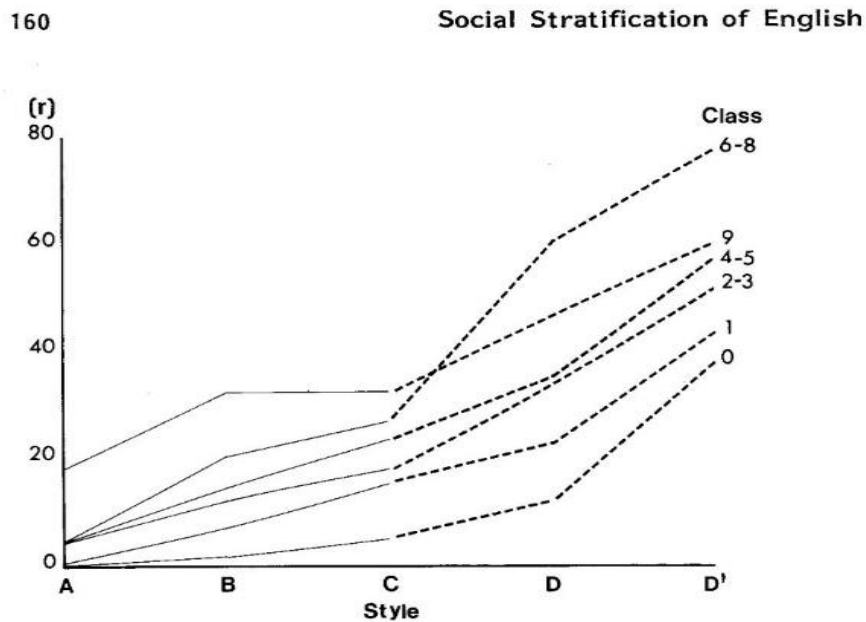


FIGURE 11
*Redefined class stratification of (r):
Six class groups*

15. *Uno cursu centies sestertium corrotundavi. Statim redemi fundos omnes, qui patroni mei fuerant. Aedifico domum, venalicia coemo iumenta; quicquid tangebam, crescebat tanquam favus. Postquam coepi plus habere quam tota patria mea habet, manum de tabula: sustuli me de negotiatione et coepi liberos faenerare.* (76.8-10)

“In one voyage, I carved out around ten million sesterces. I immediately bought back all my old master’s estates. I build a house, I invest in slaves and haulage. Whatever I touched grew like a honeycomb. Once I had more than the whole country, then down tools! I retired from business and began advancing loans to freedmen.” (trans. J. P. Sullivan)

16. *Omnium autem rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agri cultura melius, nihil uberius, nihil dulcius, nihil homine libero dignius* (Cicero, *De Officiis* 1,151)

“However, of all things from which something is obtained, nothing is better than agriculture, nothing more fertile, nothing more worthy of a free man.”

17. *Quomodo Maecenas vixerit notius est, quam ut narrari nunc debeat, quomodo ambulaverit, quam delicatus fuerit, quam cupierit videri, quam vitia sua latere noluerit. Quid ergo? Non oratio eius aequae soluta est quam ipse discinctus? Non tam insignita illius verba sunt quam cultus, quam comitatus, quam domus, quam uxor?”*

(Seneca, *Epistulae Morales*, 141.4)

“How Maecenas lived is too well known for present comment. We know how he walked, how effeminate he was, and how he desired to display himself; also, how unwilling he was that his vices should escape notice. What, then? Does not the looseness of his speech match his ungirt attire? Are his habits, his attendants, his house, his wife, any less clearly marked than his words?” (trans. Richard Gummere)

Selected Bibliography

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