

## Bilingualism and Social Context in Pliny's Letters

Edward Nolan (based on a paper written by Edward Nolan and Jill Simmons)  
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### Code-switching in the Absence of a Latin Term

- (1) *In hac datum mihi libellum ad ἐράνοους pertinentem his litteris subieci, ut tu, domine, dispiceres quid et quatenus aut permittendum aut prohibendum putares*

I have attached to this letter a petition given to me in this (city) relating to *benefit societies*, so that you, Sir, may decide whether and to what extent these clubs are to be permitted or forbidden. (10.92).

### Critical Terms

- (2) *Hunc rogo ex consuetudine tua et legas et emendes, eo magis quod nihil ante peraeque eodem ζήλω scripsisse videor.*

'I ask that you read this and emend it according to your custom, because I seem not have written anything before now *with* quite the same *zeal*' (1.2.1).

- (3) *Non tamen omnino Marci nostri ληκόθους fugimus.*

I did not entirely avoid the *paint-pots* of our own Marcus [Cicero] (1.2.4).

- (4) *Inquam, qui iugulum perspicere non possum, omnia pertempto, omnia experior, πάντα denique λίθον κινῶ.*

I say, when I am not able to spot the jugular, I feel out everything, I try everything, and in the end *I leave no stone unturned* (1.20.15).

### "Evocative" Code-switching

- (5) *In illa autem (statua) quae est ad Πολυκλέους Herculem.*

In that statue, which is near the Hercules of Polycles (Cic. Att. 6.1.17).

- (6) *An si Demosthenes iure laetatus est, quod illum anus Attica ita noscitavit: οὗτός ἐστι Δημοσθένης, celebritate nominis mei gaudere non debeo?*

But if Demosthenes was justly happy, because an old Athenian woman recognized him thus: *this here is Demosthenes*, should I not rejoice in the fame of my own name? (9.23.5).

### Intimacy

- (7) *De re <publica> breviter ad te scribam; iam enim charta ipsa ne nos prodat pertimesco itaque posthac, si erunt mihi plura ad te scribenda, ἀλληγορίας obscurabo.*

I will write to you briefly about the commonwealth; for I fear already that the letter itself may betray us and thus hereafter, if I must write more things to you, I will obscure it with *code terms* (Cic. Att. 2.20.3).

- (8) Ἐπιστήσατε *quid facere debeamus.*

*Consider* what we ought to do (6.31.12).

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