

Word-to-World and World-to-Word in the *Renuntiatio Amoris* of Propertius

A. Austin's Taxonomy of Speech Acts (Austin 1962: 101-102.)

1. *Illocutionary Act*- has a force in saying something, such as a command, question.

Example: (I ordered) "Go to the store!"

2. *Perlocutionary Act*- achieving of effects by saying something.

Example: (I persuaded) "Going to the store would be wise."

B. Direction of Fit (Searle 1979: 3.)

Word-to-world: words spoken try to match the world.

Examples: statements, descriptions, assertions, and explanations.

World-to word: words spoken in order to create a change in the world.

Examples: requests, commands, promises, vows.

Double direction: words both describe and change world

Examples: declarations, naming, appointing.

C. Poems of Propertius

1. 2.5.27-30

scribam igitur quod non umquam tua deleat aetas,
"Cynthia, forma potens; Cynthia, **verba levis.**"
crede mihi, quamvis contemnas murmura famae,
hic tibi pallori, Cynthia, versus erit.

verna *Peiper*: verba Ω (verna printed by Heyworth)

Therefore, I will write that which your life would not ever expunge, "Cynthia, a powerful beauty, Cynthia, fickle with her words." Trust me, even though you scorn the rumblings of rumor, you will pale, Cynthia, at this verse.

* I use Heyworth 2007 for my text. Deviations are noted.

2. 2.5.11-13

non ita Carpathiae variant Aquilonibus undae,
nec dubio nubes vertitur atra Noto,
quam facile irati **verbo** mutantur amantes.

The Carpathian waves do not vary beneath the North Wind's gales, nor is a dark storm cloud turned by a shifting South Wind as easily as angry lovers are changed by a word.

3. 3.24.1-4

Falsa est ista **tuae**, mulier, fiducia **formae**,
olim oculis nimium facta superba **meis**.
noster amor tales tribuit tibi, Cynthia, laudes:
versibus insignem te pudet esse **meis**.

elegis *Schrader*: oculis Ω (elegis printed by Heyworth)

False is that confidence in your looks, woman, once made so very haughty by my eyes. Our love granted you, Cynthia, such praises. I am ashamed that you are eminent through my verses.

4. 3.24.15-20

ecce coronatae portum tetigere carinae,
traiectae Syrtes, ancora iacta mihi est.
nunc demum vasto fessi resipiscimus aestu,
vulneraque ad sanum nunc coiere mea.
Mens Bona, si qua dea es, tua me in sacraria dono!
exciderunt surdo tot mea vota Iovi.

Behold, the ship, wreathed, has reached port, the Syrtes are crossed, my anchor cast. Now finally, we have recovered, weary from wild waves, and my wounds, cured, have closed. Good Sense, if you are some goddess, I dedicate myself to your sacred stores! So many of my prayers have fallen on a deaf Jove.

5. 3.25.11-18

at te celatis aetas gravis urgeat annis
et veniat **formae** ruga sinistra **tuae**; 12
exclusa inque vicem fastus patiare superbos, 15
et quae fecisti facta queraris anus!
has tibi fatalis cecinit mea pagina diras:
eventum **formae** disce timere **tuae**!

(13-14 excised by Heyworth)

But may age be a heavy burden to you, although you have tried to hide your years, and may wrinkles appear, disastrous to your beauty. When you too are shut out, may you endure haughty contempt, and having become an old woman, may you lament what you have done. For you my page has sung these baneful curses: learn to fear what will come upon your beauty!

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