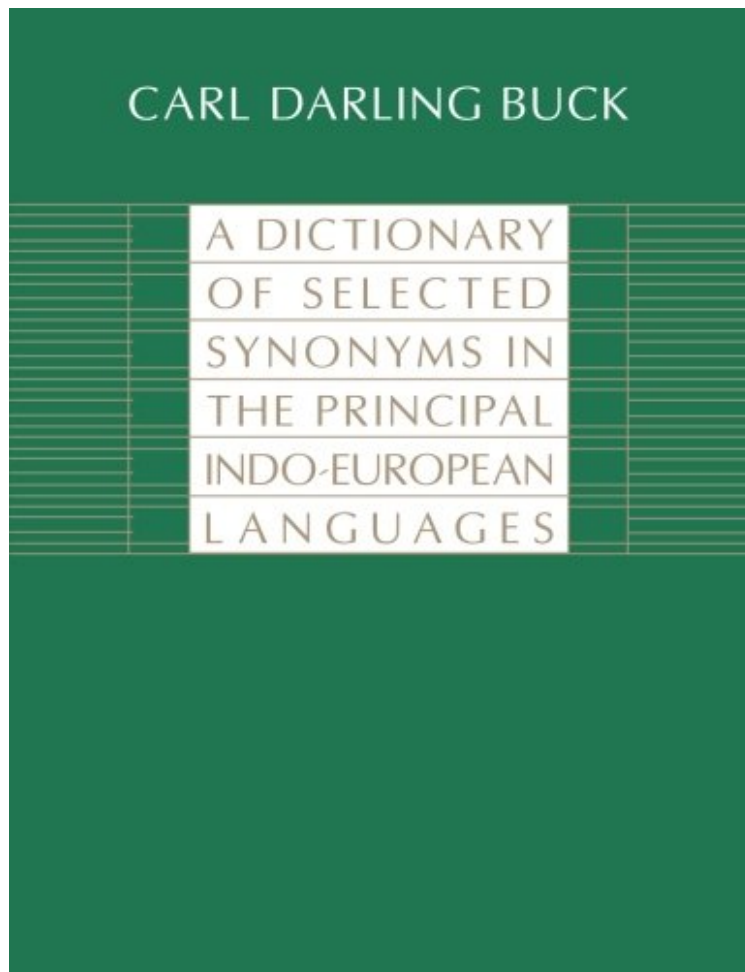


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A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages: A Contribution to the History of Ideas

Carl Darling Buck

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Carl Darling Buck : A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages: A Contribution to the History of Ideas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages: A Contribution to the History of Ideas:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mainly for people who find languages fun, rather than scholarsBy AthanasiusAre you the sort of person who likes reading etymologies in dictionaries? Do you enjoy it when an etymology points you to a similar word in French or Latin or German, and you suddenly make a connection to a

broader meaning or concept? When this book came out, I'm sure it was quite important if not groundbreaking. Now, as other reviews have noted, the scholarship is dated. Experts will be aware of the shortcomings and might still be able to use it as a reference. But for "word nerds," it's a fun book with a broad scope. If you're an amateur etymologist who just wonders why some words in different languages seem similar, but others aren't, this book can be an entertaining reference. It can also give some intriguing insights into the way languages group meanings and the way larger underlying concepts fit together. When you realize that a word in English is derived from root X, but the German word is from root Y with a different meaning, and the Spanish word is from root Z with yet another meaning, it often brings into relief subtle differences between how the supposedly "equivalent" words are used in the various languages. Modern words often carry very old connotations along with them, and this book can help illuminate them. There has been some talk in the past few decades even in broader culture (not just in linguistics) about underlying metaphors and bigger concepts that help to create the structure of language. From a historical standpoint, this book is a terrific overview that can support and illuminate that idea.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Carl Darling Buck was getting old, and took time ...By Customer
Carl Darling Buck was getting old, and took time out towards the end of his unbelievable career to put together this absolutely original book. You have to see it to believe it. There are interesting facts on every single page, and you will find yourself referring to it constantly.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic Handbook
By D. Sivad
Buck's Dictionary of Selected Synonyms in the Principal Indo-European Languages was once an unwieldy tome. This 1988 paperback edition provides the same authoritative reference tool in a compact and convenient format --and at a very reasonable price.

Originally published in 1949 and appearing now for the first time in a paperbound edition, Buck's Dictionary remains an indispensable tool for diachronic analysis of the Indo-European languages. Arranged according to the meaning of words, the work contains more than 1,000 groupings of synonyms from the principal Indo-European languages. Buck first tabulates the words describing a particular concept and then discusses their etymological and semantic history, tracing changes in meaning of the root words as well as presenting cases indicating which of the older forms have been replaced by expressions of colloquial or foreign origin.