

Pun With Language: The Role of the Pun Throughout the History of the World

The screenshot shows the EssayPro website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EssayPro logo, links for 'How To Order', 'Reviews', 'About Us', and 'Write My Essay', and user options for 'DBA: EPRO', 'Log In', and 'Sign Up'. The main banner features a student sleeping at a desk with a pen holder. The text on the banner reads: 'WRITING SERVICE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE', 'You - Send us your homework', 'We - Do it all for you', and 'Grab your original paper for just \$10 per page with a free plagiarism report included'. A 'Write My Essay!' button is present. A 'Calculate the price' widget is overlaid on the right, showing options for 'Writing', 'Rewriting', and 'Editing', with 'Writing' selected. It also shows 'Essay (any type)', 'College', '2 weeks', '1 page / 275 words', and 'Double spaces' selected, resulting in a price of '\$11.4' and a 'Write My Paper' button. At the bottom of the banner, it says 'NO MORE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS...' and '100% PLAGIARISM-FREE ESSAYS. ANY TOPIC OR DIFFICULTY CAN BE HANDLED!'.

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“In his protest days, Gandhi walked everywhere. From the North of India to the South, Gandhi traveled it all, all without shoes. And he didn’t brush his teeth, either, so his breath was pretty bad. Since he walked so far and did not eat much in the way of food, he got very thin and physically weak. All in all, he was a super-calloused, fragile mystic, vexed with halitosis!”

Have you heard jokes such as this before? Jokes that cause you to groan sooner than [laugh](#), and to hurl random objects at the utterer? Perhaps you heard them at a party somewhere, or when you were with a friend. Or even in the workplace. Such jokes are everywhere, causing even the most good-humored person to groan in [agony](#) at the cheesiness of it all. Puns, the mainstream culture labels them, because to hear them is ‘pun’ishment. But how did the concept of punmanship come about? And, more importantly, why do so many people take it upon themselves to tell these ‘shaggy dog stories’ despite such negative reinforcement (i.e. groans, thrown pillows, comments such

as “You are so not [funny!](#)”, etc...)? The answers may surprise you.

An acquaintance of mine once said that "A pun is a lower form of humor, just like a bun is a lower form of bread." I think this sums up nicely the general conception of puns in modern times. Instead of patting ourselves on the back for a pun well done, we footnote the glorious tidbit of humor with the ever-insidious, “No pun intended.” But good punmanship has not always found itself on the permanent hate list of joke aficionados.

As far back as Ancient Greece, and probably before, puns were made. The most famous pun from this time is the classic translation of Jesus’ statement to Peter: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church." To an English speaking audience, this would not seem out of the ordinary at all, just another passage from the Bible without a pun in sight. But when one considers the language of one of the original translations of the Bible, Greek, the circumstances become much clearer. In Greek, the name Peter translates as ‘Petros,’ while the term rock translates as ‘petra.’ So, when those words are translated into Greek within the full context of the sentence, the sentence itself reads: “Thou art Petros and upon this petra I will build my church.

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