

Hostility

The word Hostility bristles with related concepts: anger, hatred, fury, dislike; scorn; foe; conquest, triumph. So extensive are the circumambient related nouns, that one surmises early English culture must be rich in negative emotions and, on the whole, ready for a fight. The surmise is not misplaced.

The Latin word *hostis* means enemy or foe, and is familiar to settings like those involving armed camps, military standoffs or hand to hand combat. The proliferation of these collateral implications shows from what a rich fighting ready mother lode the Latin language emerges. Is this military flavor widespread in the Neo Latin or Romance languages deriving as they do from Latin? Are the Romance languages close to Latin because they reflected cultural concerns and traits which originated in ancient Latium? Or did neo-Latin cultures, which of course evolved away from ancient Roman culture, drag along with them vocabularies appropriate to their own culture centuries earlier? Did *chateau* still carry the same connotations as *castellum*?

The difficulty in the question of the relation of language to cultures is that the ancient core of the language remains the same, retains the same connotations while the language and culture evolve, leaving many terms without living referents.