

The Spanish word "Ayuntamiento"

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 10 Jan 2001

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Dan Parmenter — 10 Jan 2001, 15:29

From: "The Laughing Skull" <thelaughingskull at hotmail.com>

3) The word 'Ayuntamiento' in Spanish means "copulation." Seeing as how the cause lots of problems for Silk, could this mean that they're "The Fuckers?"

Okay, I'm no expert on Spanish, but I do happen to be employed as a lexicographer in the machine translation industry and since one of the projects that we've been developing is an English to Spanish translation system, I just happen to have a team of Spanish translators at my disposal (shades of Woody Allen and Marshall McLuhan, no?). I consulted them (and their dictionaries including www.diccionarios.com, which you can have a look at yourself) about the word "ayuntamiento". The "copulation" meaning is not common and two of our Spanish translators (from Peru FWIW) were unfamiliar with its use in this sense. Apparently it's formal, often seen as "ayuntamiento carnal" and so one might guess that perhaps it's like the English term "sexual congress". I think it's a bit of a stretch to assume that this is what Wolfe had in mind.

Personally, I'm still wondering if Wolfe's characters drink their mate with a bombilla (the silver strainer straw used to consume mate in Argentina).

Lex Shellac