

Linguistic Histories and the Word for Love

Akkadian, Arcadian, and Acadian

Linguistic Histories and the Word for “Love”

There are **three different cultures** that can sound like “Arcadian/Acadian,” and they have very different linguistic histories:

1. **Akkadian** — an ancient Semitic language of Mesopotamia.
2. **Arcadian** — relating to **Arcadia**, the region of ancient Greece.
3. **Acadian** — the French-speaking people and variety of French associated with Acadia in Atlantic Canada.

1. Arcadian / Ancient Greek

Ancient Greek has several words for love, depending on the kind of love being described:

- ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*) — to love, show affection, esteem
- ἀγάπη (*agapē*) — love, affection
- φιλέω (*phileō*) — to love, be fond of
- φιλία (*philia*) — friendship, affection
- ἔρως (*erōs*) — passionate or sexual love

These are **Greek words**, and they are not etymologically related to English *love*, Russian *lyubov*, or Akkadian *rāmu*, though these cultures often blended through time.

Interestingly, Biblical Greek **agapē** became particularly important in Christian theology because the New Testament uses it extensively in discussions of divine and self-giving love.

2. Acadian French

By **Acadian** we mean the French of Acadia, *français acadien*, and the basic French words for love are:

amour = love

aimer = to love

These words ultimately come from **Latin**:

Latin *amō*, *amāre* → Old French *amer* → Modern French **aimer**

and:

Latin *amor* → Old French *amor/amour* → Modern French **amour**

Therefore, Acadian French inherited its basic vocabulary for “love” from the same Latin ancestry as other varieties of French.

Acadian French also contains distinctive forms, vocabulary, and pronunciations, but **amour** and **aimer** ultimately come from Latin rather than from the ancient Semitic root *râmu*.

3. Comparing the Words for “Love”

Language	“To love” / “Love”	Language Family
Akkadian	<i>râmu</i>	Semitic
Biblical Hebrew	<i>’āhab / ’ahavah</i>	Semitic
Arabic	<i>’ashiq, aḥabba, ra’ima</i> , etc.	Semitic
Ancient Greek	<i>agapaō, phileō, erōs</i>	Greek / Indo-European
Latin	<i>amāre, amor</i>	Italic / Indo-European
Acadian French	<i>aimer, amour</i>	Romance / Indo-European
English	<i>love</i>	Germanic / Indo-European
Russian	<i>lyubit’, lyubov’</i>	Slavic / Indo-European
German	<i>lieben, Liebe</i>	Germanic / Indo-European

4. Two Major Linguistic Families

The words above represent **at least two enormous linguistic families**.

Indo-European

Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

↓

Greek

Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

↓

Italic → Latin → French

↓

Acadian French

Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

↓

Germanic → English / German

Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

↓

Slavic → Russian

Semitic

Proto-Semitic

↓

Akkadian

and, through other branches:

Proto-Semitic

↓

Hebrew / Arabic / other Semitic languages

5. Why the Comparison Is Interesting

“**Love**” is an extremely old and universal human concept, but different language families developed or inherited entirely different linguistic roots for expressing it.

For example:

- Akkadian uses **râmu**
- Biblical Hebrew uses **’āhab / ’ahavah**
- Ancient Greek uses several distinct terms, including **agapē**, **philia**, and **erōs**
- Latin uses **amāre / amor**
- French uses **aimer / amour**
- English uses **love**
- Russian uses **lyubit' / lyubov'**
- German uses **lieben / Liebe**

Historical linguistics distinguishes between:

Actual cognates

Words inherited from a common ancestral root.

and

Coincidences or semantic associations

Words that happen to resemble one another or express related concepts without having a demonstrated common origin.

6. Further Understanding

Akkadian is the ancient Mesopotamian language.

Acadian refers to the French-speaking population and variety of French associated with Acadia in Atlantic Canada.

7. A Deeper Question

Is there a hidden linguistic connection between “love,” *râmu*, *ahavah*, *agapē*, *amour*, *lyubov*, and YHWH/Jehovah?

8. Ancient Egyptian

In **Ancient Egyptian**, there wasn't one exact equivalent of the modern English word *love*. Different words and expressions described affection, desire, friendship, devotion, and romantic attachment.

A few important terms are:

- **mr / meri (mrj)** — **to love, desire, or be fond of**. This is the primary Ancient Egyptian verb commonly translated as “love.”
- **ib (jb)** — **heart**, which was considered the center of emotion, thought, and character.
- **ḥꜣy (hay)** — can relate to **rejoicing or being glad**, depending on context.
- **ḥtp (hetep)** — **peace, satisfaction, contentment, or offering**, and appears in expressions connected with harmony and well-being.

For a phrase expressing “**I love you**,” Ancient Egyptian can be reconstructed as something along the lines of **ink mr.k** (“I love you,” addressed to a male) or **ink mr.t** (“I love you,” addressed to a female), though Egyptian grammar and spelling varied across periods.

For a beautiful Ancient Egyptian word/name meaning “love” for our writing or spiritual material, **meri (mrj)** is a great choice :).

9. Mi'kmaq

Mi'kmaq (Mi'kmawî'simk), this language has expressions for loving someone, but the exact form depends on **who is loving whom** because Mi'kmaq verbs encode grammatical relationships.

A commonly encountered form is:

- **Kesalul** — “I love you.”
- **Kesalul** is often written with slightly different orthographies, such as **Kesalul** / **Gesalul**, depending on the writing system and community.

The underlying verb is related to **kesal-**, meaning **to love**.

10. Cultural Blending, Summary

Isn't language so beautiful? How cool is it that the word love has been said in so many unique ways. There is a lot we can learn from the word, “**love**.” I think God did a great job guiding us here today. Thank you for learning about the language of Love with US :).