

Nazi Euphemisms

During the twentieth century, we have learned that words need not serve the purpose of honest communications. In fact, words are often used to hide truth and become a means of deceiving people. During the Holocaust, Nazi language not only shielded reality from their victims but also softened the truth of the Nazi involvement in mass murder. This manipulation of language is still practiced in the modern world.

German Word	Literal Meaning	Real Meaning
1. <i>Ausgemerzt</i>	exterminated (insects)	murdered
2. <i>Liquidiert</i>	Liquidated	murdered
3. <i>Erledigt</i>	finished (off)	murdered
4. <i>Aktionen</i>	actions	missions to seek out Jews and kill them
5. <i>Sonderaktionen</i>	special actions	special mission to kill Jews
6. <i>Sonderbehandlung</i>	special treatment	Jews taken through death process in camps
7. <i>Sonderbehandelt</i>	specially treated	sent through death process
8. <i>Sauberung</i>	cleansing	sent through the death process
9. <i>Ausschaltung</i>	elimination	murder of Jews
10. <i>Aussiedlung</i>	evacuation	murder of Jews
11. <i>Umsiedlung</i>	resettlement	murder of Jews
12. <i>Exekutivmassnahme</i>	executive measure	order for murder
13. <i>Entsprechend Behandelt</i>	treated appropriately	murdered
14. <i>De Sondermassnahme zugeführt</i>	conveyed to special measure	killed
15. <i>Sicherheitspolizeilich durchgearbeitet</i>	worker in security police	murderer
16. <i>Losung der Judenfrage</i>	solution of the Jewish question	murder of Jewish people
17. <i>Bereinigung der Judenfrage</i>	cleaning up the Jewish question	murder
18. <i>Judenfrei gemacht</i>	made free of Jews	all Jews in an area killed
19. <i>Badeanstalten</i>	bath houses	gas chambers
20. <i>Leichenkeller</i>	corpse cellars	crematorium
21. <i>Durekgeschleusst</i>	dragged through	sent through killing process in camp
22. <i>Endlosung</i>	the Final Solution	the decision to murder all Jews
23. <i>Hilfsmittel</i>	auxiliary equipment	gas vans for murder