

NYLA MATUK / Synaesthesia-lese (Translaximations)

Japonaiserie	Ceremony at the mayonnaise factory
Longueurs	Strong bitters through dull history
Moufflet	Soft Quebecois muffin
Le Mandarin	Appellation sophisticated Montreal duck
Chiriya	Happy budgerigar
Bahar	Outdoor jumble sale, bazaar
Chatouiller	Cat's action verb
Pukka	Budding adolescent girls' hockey team
Shalwar Kameez	Planning to wear that chemise sometime
Katcha	Caught you early, before your time

This poem uses synaesthesia, connotation, and translation together to render approximate translations into English of the left-hand column words which are in French or Urdu.

Since I often associated colours, sounds, or tastes with words, and because I was exposed to French and Urdu at a young age, I got in the habit of imagining ideas associated with particular words. For example, in this poem, "longueurs" is associated with "liqueur" but its approximate and actual definition/usage, i.e., the long narrative of a given historical phenomenon, for example, had me combining "bitters," associated with liqueurs, and boring historical narrative: "strong bitters through dull history." And with the Urdu word "katcha," which means unripe, I associated "caught ya" and put it together with the idea of an unripened fruit. Hence, "caught you early, before your time."