

**VAN GOOR'S  
MI NATURE  
ENGLISH  
WORDS  
BOOK**

English-Dutch

Den Haag – 1946 – Batavia

**Abbreviations**

adj	=	nameword
adv	=	byword
conj	=	fogword
fig	=	figurelike
mil	=	logrolling
o	=	oneself alone
pl	=	morewords
pop	=	meansome
prep	=	table setting
pron	=	fornameword
SA	=	pseudafricanish
subst	=	standing on one leg
werkw	=	workword (verb)

**A**

abide my time, watch over my tide  
after, darning  
arduous, steel

**B**

block, cliché  
by-stander, toe shower

**C**

cheerful, womanly  
choral, corral  
code, wet book  
comprehend, be gripped  
comprehension, get a grip

(the only pencil mark I've seen is next to these two words. I'm not sure what is meant by the oval shape, possibly with a 'z' in the centre)  
cot, crib

D  
dike, sluice  
droll, snake

E  
envelop, wrinkle out  
epilogue, slow reader

F  
fasten, to make vast  
feel, foal  
fragment, brook

G  
game, spell  
gang-plank, loop-tape

H  
hodge-podge, hot spot  
him, hem

I  
ironing-board, striking plank

J  
journal, dayblade

K  
kiss, course  
knife, mess

L  
leaves, blades

M  
maiden, micey  
mist, naval

N  
needle, naiad

## O

other, and her

## P

period, tide park  
possess, be seated  
position, toe place  
postpone, over stellar  
postwar, horology  
prostitute, public woman  
psychic, zeal  
puddly, mother rig

## Q

quarrel, twistseeker  
quibble, wordspell  
quiet, rust

## R

rebel, mutter, mother  
really, worklike, war like  
revise, here see  
revive, here live  
revolt, get down from the table

## S

shoot, shute  
shore, kissed  
shot, shot  
shrink, slink  
signal box, sign house  
solitary, ownsome  
stocking, kiss  
stigma, brand mark  
suspension of arms, woppingstandstill  
suspicion, afterthought

## T

table, trifle  
through, door  
throw, warp  
time, meal  
timetable, rooster

tug, sleepboat

U

useful, nutty

V

vagrant, swerving

W

wave, gulf

way, cantor

write, shrive

X

Y

yeast, gist

yesterday, gist erred

you, U

Z

zest, orange nipper

Zulu

## Afterword

The 'Dutch' words I've used in this text are playful misreading or rereadings. I do have some understanding of Dutch, even though as a child I could get by in English when I was in Holland. I've also studied German, and sometimes recognise words from the German equivalent. So my 'equivalences' are treating the words as though they were a 'stranger' language, much as English may often have seemed to my mother, but also purely as a chance encounter, to see what may emerge. At the same time, this new language has elements of my mother's life and my childhood seeping in. The Saxon language also seeps in with its earthy base derivatives, plosive consonants and warrior life.

Words that came later, and were never found in this dictionary, such as 'codge'. Words that never sounded entirely English, although they were Northern dialect, because I heard them in my mother's accent.

The dictionary itself is miniature. I don't know why the second 'i' is missing. This little book is the gift of small things, as, when I was a child, a friend of my mother's gave me a shiny tea spoon in a darkened room.

Two of my best known and loved Dutch words, Oma and Opa, granny and granddad (though I never knew my grandfathers), are not in this miniature dictionary, presumably because they are considered too colloquial. Now I think about it, my Northern grandmother was 'gran', and the grandfather, had he been alive, would have been granddad. So the female was the case: she encompassed the entire role of grandparenting.

There are so many different senses in which words can be used, which all rely on context. Charles Bernstein once used the example of a Japanese translator attempting to translate his work, and wrestling with the literal meanings. It was an immensely comic text, rather at the expense of the poor translator. So whether anyone picks up any of my meanings and mistranslations, and whether I understood them myself, I cannot say.