



# The Language of Winnicott: A Dictionary of Winnicott's Use of Words

*By Jan Abram*

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Jan Abram's lexicon - The Language of Winnicott - has proved to be the definitive comprehensive guide to Winnicott's thought since it was first published in 1996, Winnicott's Centenary Year. The twenty-two entries represent the major conceptualizations in Winnicott's theories and take the reader on a journey through his writings that span from 1931 – 71. Thus the volume is an anthology of the entirety of Winnicott's writings.

This new edition, with a new bibliography by Knud Hjulmud, expands on each original entry predicated on Abram's research discoveries, including archival material, over the past decade.

Thomas Ogden introduces Abram's dictionary by emphasising the experience of reading Winnicott's words. Abram's accomplishment, he writes, is comparable to the Oxford English Dictionary which offers the reader 'the history of the way a word or term has been used and how that usage has changed and is in the process of further change'. The hall mark of The Language of Winnicott is that it demonstrates how Winnicott's use of words creates a version of psychoanalysis that is a 'very living thing'.

Knud Hjulmand has been working on creating a definitive Winnicott bibliography. For the first time this new edition of The Language of Winnicott will include the most recently revised, chronological and alphabetical, bibliography of all the published works of D.W.Winnicott.

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## **The Language of Winnicott: A Dictionary of Winnicott's Use of Words By Jan Abram Bibliography**

- Rank: #1114661 in Books
- Brand: Karnac Books
- Published on: 2007-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.13" h x 1.22" w x 5.75" l, 1.59 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 600 pages

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#### **Review**

'I can thoroughly recommend this excellent account of Winnicott's multi-layered thought. Jan Abram takes us through the many facets of his thought with lucidity and obvious pleasure. It will remain a constant source of reference for anyone who wishes to understand Winnicott.'- Dr Roger Kennedy, President of the British Psychoanalytical Society

'This book is more than a dictionary; it is a guide that can be read from cover to cover. Jan Abram beautifully reveals Winnicott's extraordinary creativity and charts his revolutionary perspective that is still urgently needed today. Congratulations all round on this second edition.'- Juliet Mitchell, Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies, University of Cambridge

'The Language of Winnicott is an intelligent and useful reference book for readers and students of Winnicott. Such a guide has been very welcome as an alternative to a "dictionary" of concepts. The structuring and grouping of Winnicott's main ideas, the effective use of quotations, and Abram's own comments makes this book (originally published in 1996) indispensable for anyone wanting to understand the elusive quality of Winnicott's papers.'- Gregorio Kohon, Psychoanalyst, Training Analyst of the British Psychoanalytical Society

#### **About the Author**

Knud Hjulmand is a clinical psychologist and child psychotherapist in private practice in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is a member of the Danish Society for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy with children and adolescents and member of the Advisory Board for The Journal of Child Psychotherapy. He teaches and supervises for the University of Copenhagen and has several publications in Scandinavian Journals. He is bibliographer for the forthcoming Collected Psychoanalytic Works of D.W. Winnicott.

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