

Amah (Anglo-Indian), a wet-nurse. Portuguese *ama*, German *amme*, a nurse.

A sort of good-natured housekeeper-like bodies, who talk only of ayahs and *amahs*, and bad nights and babies, and the advantages of Hodgson's ale while they are nursing; seeming, in short, devoted to suckling fools and chronicling small beer.—*Letter from Madras, Yule and Burnell's Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

In pidgin English it has the same signification:—

My look-see, one *amah*, t'at *amah* has got one piecee littee *sankwei* chilo, wat look-see allo-same one Japanee *nitchky*. I askee *amah*, "How much you sellum my that one piecee culio?"—*The Saucy Sayings of Wan-Tong.*

Amandi, mende, men (gypsy), we; *amendi*, a *men* *dui*, we two. "Jāsa tu sar amandi, mān se trashno"—"Come with us; don't be afraid."

Ambassador (nautical), a practical joke performed on board ship by Jack Tars in warm latitudes, the victim being ducked in the wash-deck tub, and subjected to other indignities (*Admiral Smyth*). Sailors of other nations indulge in similar jokes when crossing the equator.

Ambia or **ambeer** (American), a euphemism for salivated tobacco juice, the result of chewing. Bartlett says, "The word is a corruption of *amber*, to which it bears a slight resemblance in colour, manifesting certainly a delicacy of expression which borders upon the poetical."

The word *ambia*, as generally used at Princeton, which largely represents the solid South, is not applied to saliva, but to the intensely strong nicotine, or thick brown substance which forms in pipes. I have always supposed that it is merely a Southern variation of *amber*, which exactly represents its colour.—*Notes by C. G. Leland.*

Ambidexter (obsolete), a barrister who acts as a counsel for both parties. Also a blackleg who shares with both parties at the gaming-table, or on the race-course.

Ambush (American), a nickname for the scales used by grocers, coal-dealers, &c. So called because they are always "lying in weight."

Ameen (Anglo-Indian), an Arabic word *amin*, meaning a trustworthy person, but applied by the English in India to several kinds of native officials, nearly all reducible to the definition of *fide commissarius*. It is also applied to native assistants in land surveying.—*Yule and Burnell: Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

"Bengalee dewans, once pure, are converted into demons; *ameens*, once harmless, become tigers.—*Peterson, Speech in the Nie Durpan case, ibid.*

Ameer (Anglo-Indian), originally an Arab word *amin*, root *amr*, signifying commanding or a commander, is used in the East in a very general way for dignitaries and magnates.