

Re: Dust-sucker [Was: Re: Armenian, Sumerian, Burushaski, and Turkic languages]

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-06/msg01517.html>

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- *From:* "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 25 Jun 2007 10:45:03 -0700
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On Jun 25, 12:32 pm, Joachim Pense <[s...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:s...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Am Mon, 25 Jun 2007 06:29:21 -0700 schrieb Peter T. Daniels:

On Jun 25, 5:16 am, "Reinhold (Rey) Aman" <[a...@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:a...@xxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

"Nothing sucks like an Electrolux."

In the 1960s, the Swedish Electrolux company successfully marketed vacuums in the United Kingdom with the slogan "Nothing sucks like an Electrolux." British consumers took the slogan literally because "sucks" as a term of disparagement is strictly an Americanism.

In the 1960s??

I associate "that sucks" with the 00s or maybe the 90s.

Ernst Jandl's poem "What you can do without vowels" was written AFAIK 1968. It goes:

kss  
fck  
lck  
sck

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pss  
sht

So "suck" was at least a four-letter word in the sixties. That doesn't mean that the expression "that sucks" existed, of course.

"Suck" has been a four-letter word since as far back as English has been recorded. That "poem" is a list of bodily functions and has nothing whatsoever to do with the expression "that sucks."

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