Glossary for “The Sentence is a Lonely Place” by Gary Lutz

(all definitions are from Dictionary.com)

Note: Lutz frequently engages in a process known as “grammaticalizing,” in which he adds prefixes or suffixes to existing words so as to create new words that can probably be figured out based on a reader’s knowledge of the base word and familiarity with the prefix or suffix. There also are a couple of possible “portmanteau” words, in which he may be combining two words to create a new word that means both words simultaneously. We have attempted to explain what Lutz is doing and what he means by it.

Before you go further, here is a review of the basics:

**Nouns** refer to persons, places, things, states, or qualities, i.e, *grandmother.*

**Adjectives**: words that modify nouns and pronouns, primarily by describing a particular quality of the word they are modifying, ie, *wise grandmother.*

**Verbs**: words that express action, state, or a relation between two things. For example, *the wise grandmother ran.*

**Adverb**: words that function as modifiers of verbs or clauses, usually by indicating an action’s place, time, manner, circumstance, degree, or cause. For example, *The wise grandmother ran quickly.*

__________________________

**Alliteration** -- the commencement of two or more words of a word group with the same letter, as in *apt alliteration's artful aid.*

**Capsularly** – grammaticalized version of capsular (of, in, or like a capsule). Lutz is adding the suffix –ly, in order to transform “capsular” from an adjective into an adverb.

**Completely** – grammaticalized version of completed (having the state of completeness.) Lutz is adding the suffix –ly, in order to transform “completed” from an adjective into an adverb.

**Consonantically** – grammaticalized version of consonantic/consonantal (relating to, being, or marked by a consonant or group of consonants). Lutz is adding the suffix –ally, to turn the word into an adverb.

**Enclosing** -- possibly a portmanteau word that intentionally combines “enclose” with “explosive.” Or maybe a grammaticalized version of enclose (to close in or fence off, or to include in a package), in which case Lutz is adding the suffix –ive, to change the meaning of the word so it is expressing tendency, disposition, function, or connection.

**Inhabited** -- Possibly an error in the text that is meant to be “inhabited”, or possibly a portmanteau word, combining “inhabited” and “habitat.”

**Languagey** – a grammaticalized word that presumably means of, relating to, or typical of language. Lutz added the suffix –y, which adds the meaning of “characterized by or inclined to.”

**Marvelment** – a state of marvel or wonder. Lutz added the suffix –ment, which can be added to nouns, changing their meaning so they denote an action or resulting state.

**Omnitude** - The characteristic or fact of being all (universality; comprehensiveness) (using suffix –tude).
**Paraphrasal** – Possibly a portmanteau word, combining “paraphrase” with “phrasal.” Or a grammaticalized version of paraphrase (a restatement of a text, passage, or work giving the meaning in another form). Lutz added the suffix –*al*, which denotes “of the kind of, pertaining to, or having the form or character of.”

**Predecesive** – that has gone before; (immediately) preceding.

**Readerly** - of, relating to, or typical of a reader. Lutz is adding the suffix –*ly*, in order to transform “reader” from a noun into an adverb.

**Spiritlessness** - the trait of lacking enthusiasm for or interest in things generally

**Stupefyingly** – grammaticalized version of stupefy, to make stupid, groggy, or insensible. Lutz is adding the suffix –*ly*, in order to transform “stupefying” from an adjective into an adverb.

**Synonymicon** - a lexicon of synonyms, athesaurus.

**Tallowy** - resembling tallow in consistency, color, etc.; fatty.

**Tractional** - drawing or pulling. Lutz added the suffix –*al*, which denotes “of the kind of, pertaining to, or having the form or character of.”

**Ultimacy** - the state or quality of being ultimate (highest; not subsidiary). Lutz added the suffix –*cy*, to turn the abstract noun “ultimate” into an adjective.

**Unconsolingly** – grammaticalized version of unconsoling (not alleviating the grief, sense of loss, or trouble of, not comforting). Lutz added the prefix un-, which reverses the meaning of the word it’s attached to.

**Ungimmicky** – ie, not gimmicky. Lutz added the prefix un-, which reverses the meaning of the word it’s attached to.

**Unperforming** – not performing (i.e, nonperforming) Lutz added the prefix un-, which reverses the meaning of the word it’s attached to.

**Upfloating** – ie, floating up. Lutz is simply combining two words.