

sežotia

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I was writing here a while back about the dubious privilege of being called "pal" in Dublin. It's a simple word, with a long-established meaning (from a Sanskrit term, via Roman, meaning "brother").

But for some reason, it also lends itself to expression, so that depending on context, it can range from a greeting of friendship to the prelude for assault.

A much less ambiguous synonym, and pure Dublinese, is "sejotia" – or "old sejotia", the form it usually takes. That also means "friend", and crucially it never means anything else. It would be very difficult to start a fight, even in Dublin, by calling somebody your old sejotia.

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