

LANGUAGES

Since before my first breath of the sea breeze,
well before human talk or speech,
I have followed, at great length, the path of language.

Since the day of my first, faltering word, 'Mama,'
my troublesome, shaky pronunciation of syllables
has been filled with syntax and morphology.

I learned the tongue spoken in the asphalt jungle,
acquired new ways of harmonious self-expression,
but learning these, lost much of what I knew.

I lost part of that which my father told me
and have seen, passing in front of my door,
new 'cultured' ways of hypocrisy.

Silence crushes the cry against injustice
and the stifled scream of the outcast.
To-day I learned not to judge, but to listen well!