

Saudade is a Portuguese term which does not have a direct English translation. It refers to a state of melancholy and yearning for something or someone but unlike nostalgia which is defined as 'a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a period in the past', *saudade* can be described as missing something or someone, even if one will see this person or experience this thing in the near future. Portuguese scholar Aubrey Bell attempts to analyse this elaborate concept in his 1912 book *In Portugal*, describing *saudade* as 'a vague and constant desire for something that does not and probably cannot exist, for something other than the present, a turning towards the past or towards the future; not an active discontent or poignant sadness but an indolent dreaming wistfulness'

Saudade interests me for many reasons - linguistic, sociological, historical and not the least personal. *Saudade* is so far the best word to explain the way I felt after I left my favourite place and my home for 7 years - I often think of my life there and sometimes secretly wish that I can go back and be this previous version of me again. Even after 15 years living at a different place in a different part of the world, I am still giving into this 'dreaming wistfulness' and my new world falls apart for a moment and I stop being who I am.

Definition - <http://blog.dictionary.com/portuguese-terms/>

This untranslatable Portuguese term refers to the melancholic longing or yearning. A recurring theme in Portuguese and Brazilian literature, *saudade* evokes a sense of loneliness and incompleteness. Portuguese scholar Aubrey Bell attempts to distill this complex concept in his 1912 book *In Portugal*, describing *saudade* as "a vague and constant desire for something that does not and probably cannot exist, for something other than the present." He continues to say that *saudade* is "not an active discontent or poignant sadness but an indolent dreaming wistfulness." *Saudade* can more casually be used to say that you miss someone or something, even if you'll see that person or thing in the near future. It differs from nostalgia in that one can feel *saudade* for something that might never have happened, whereas nostalgia is "a sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time."