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Dr. Assaf,

Thank you for taking the time to contact us about our inclusion of the term street Arab in Roget's New Millennium Thesaurus at Thesaurus.com. We take your concerns very seriously and we are sorry we have offended you. We abhor the use of racial and ethnic slurs and there was no intention on our part to be racist or to perpetuate racism.

Thesaurus.com is intended to be a guide to contemporary English usage. In our efforts to make the reference as comprehensive as possible, antiquated terms that are no longer used in modern English are sometimes included. The term in question was used in nineteenth century English to describe homeless children who roamed the streets as a nomadic way of life, and it is found in popular literature of the times, such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's tales of Sherlock Holmes. The English language has changed along with American culture in the last hundred years and this term is no longer in common use. Since our aim with the thesaurus is to reflect current usage, we acknowledge that the inclusion of this term was an error. It is our policy to correct errors as quickly as possible, and when we were notified of this error we corrected it on the site immediately.

We are also working very quickly to review our editorial systems to ensure that our policies are implemented consistently. If there are any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Kariger".

Brian Kariger
CEO
Lexico Publishing Group