

In the Latin translation by Peter Needham of Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone the word for motorbike is used. "Et ingens birotula automataria ex aere delapsa in viam ante eos descendit" and a huge motorbike fell out of the air and landed in front of them. (1)

Berotula automataria motorbike

- birotus, a, um *adj* two-wheeled, with two wheels
- automatarius, a, um *adj* automatic
automatus, a, um self-moving (2)

Derivations

bicycle, biology (3)

rotation

automatic

The Latin words have been combined to give the neo-Latin phrase birotula (4) automataria. The meanings of the two words stay the same but the meaning of them put together gives a new form of transport which the Romans would not have used. (5) Both birotus and automatarius are appropriate for the adaptation because both adjectives describe the traits of a motorbike: it is automatic and has two wheels. The use of birotus (6) is fair because it clearly implies two wheels, because it comes from the Classical Latin words bis (two) and rota (wheel) and it appears in Codex Theodosianus where it is used to specify a two-wheeled carriage as opposed to a four-wheeled one. (7) The fact that it is used with automatarius which means automatic makes it an accurate description of a motorbike.