Kotoba (words)

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Editor's note : Although homophonic translation has always played a pivotal role in Yoko Tawada's writing between German and Japanese, she had not yet published such a translation of an entire text. In the present example—which Tawada had already presented at public readings—she self-translated her Japanese poem "Kotoba" homophonically into German, whereby the inspiration of Ernst Jandl's "Surface Translation"[1] becomes very obvious.

言葉	Kot wahr
口の中から	Kutsche Norm Nagel Kakao Rad
飛び出す	Topf das
つばきといっしょに	Tabak Treu ich schon Nee
花咲く	Hahn Na Sack
さく	Sack
口がさける	Kutsche gar Sag! er und
さきみだれる	Sah Krimi Dahlem
ころがり出る	Köln gar der
単語	Tango
遠くまで	Türklingel Made
とまらない	Tunnel Maler Nein
一度	Ich Dom
動き出したら	Hugo Kinder starben im Taler
言葉	Kot wahr
ひるがえる	Hildegard roh
誰のもの	Da rennt Mond
でもない	Des Monstrums Nein

1. See Dirk Weissmann's chapter in this book.