Anyone who has adden the New York City subway system on traveled around in many major cities of the world is acquainted with it-crude drawings, written obscenities, clever sayings, names and trademarks of persons and gangs, and other varieties of self-expression. The searched word is the plural of an Italian

term, graffito (or sgraffito), derived from the Greek word for writing, graphein.

Graffito means "scratching," and it has long been used to describe these drawings.