

## On English-Persian and Persian-English False Cognates

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### Abstract

This study aims at studying a kind of cognate words which are called false cognates in English-Persian and Persian-English data. False cognates are words which have the same form in the two languages, but despite their similarity in form, they have different meanings in the two languages. False cognates are of two kinds: a) those resulting from kinship relations across languages, and b) false cognates resulting from borrowings. False cognates can be found in almost all languages with any kind of relation to other languages. Due to remote kinship relation between English and Persian, the first type of false cognates was not found in the data; though there are still some "real" cognates found in the lexicon of the two languages. The second type of the false cognates was found in a relatively good amount in the two languages. These were classified into two subgroups according to their directionality, a) English-to-Persian lists, and b) Persian-to-English lists. Each of the two subgroups has its own subcategories. The study also resulted in finding a new phenomenon which we may term as "back borrowing". In this phenomenon, a borrowed word is sent back with a new meaning to the original language as a new instance of borrowing. The study of false cognates has some implications for contrastive analysts, error analysts, translators, translation theorists, foreign language teachers, curriculum designers, as well as lexicographers and lexicologists.

**Keywords:** False cognates, cognate words, Persian and English languages, back borrowing.

### Introduction

Cognate words are, by dictionary definition, the related words in different languages which come from a common source or which are the result of borrowings cross-linguistically. As an example, take the word مادر in Persian (/maadar/ viz. "mother") and the English word *mother*. Despite the passage of time, these words have retained their similarities in pronunciation and meaning. This is because the two

languages are, historically speaking, from the same origin; they are both offspring of Indo-European; a language that is thought to be spoken several thousands of years ago. (This is because of the fact that core vocabulary of languages, as linguists maintain, is less apt to change.)

Due to their nature, cognate pair may be either **true cognates** or **false cognates**. "True cognates" are found when these related words have more or less the same meanings as their forms may suggest. That is, their spelling, pronunciation, or both may suggest similar senses in the two cognate languages. For example, *maadar* and *mother* mentioned above are examples of true cognates; they both refer to a "female parent". A vast majority of cognate words in the languages of the world are normally taken to belong to this category of cognate words.

False cognates, on the other hand, violate such relations. They are defined as terms that denote word pairs from different languages that, in spite of their formal similarities, may have different meanings cross-linguistically. In other words, they resemble each other in the form but express different meanings in each of the two languages. There are two other terms that are alternatively used in the relevant literature, one is **faux amis**, which is a term borrowed from French and the other is its loan translation into English, **false friends**.

In this study, we are going to give an account of the false cognates and present a classification of them, both in English-to-Persian and Persian-to-English examples.

### Review of Literature

Different dictionaries and encyclopedias of linguistics provide almost similar definitions of false cognates. A selection of such entries is presented below.

- False cognates are "terms... denoting word pairs from different languages which, in spite of their similarities in form, have different meanings" (*Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*, 1996, p.163).

- “Words in different languages which resemble each other in form, but which express different meanings” (*An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Language and Languages*, 1996, p132).
- A “word which has the same or very similar form in two languages, but which has a different meaning in each” (*Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, 1992, p.136).

Each dictionary also provides its own examples of false friends cross-linguistically. The examples include English *figure* vs. French *figure* (“face”), English *demand* vs. French *demander* (“to request” unlike the English meaning), English *cold* vs. Italian *caldo* (“woman”), and Spanish *presidio* (“prison, imprisonment”) vs. German *Prasidium* (“residence of president; office of a chairman”).

Apart from the dictionaries, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* also provides a list of thirty French-English false friends (taken from Thody P. and H. Evans 1985). It also gives a few other examples from some other languages including Danish-English and Polish-English ones.

Textbooks of translation will also warn the would-be translators against such pitfalls in their translation tasks. Newmark warns the importance of false friends saying that the translator must never translate any word he has not previously seen without checking it, and this is where cognates are deceptive: [i.e. they are not true cognates] (1988, p. 182). Then he continues to say that a translator may require to make himself familiar particularly and generally with cognate word relations, and the development of meaning, thus “sensitizing himself to technical traps of such words...that are the surprises in the last lines of dictionary entries” (loc. cit.) However he has earlier pointed out that false cognates are but a small fraction of the lexicon of two languages and we must not hesitate to use them (op cit. p.72).

Larson (1984) devotes a chapter to problems in finding lexical equivalents. In one section of this chapter she brings into focus the topic of false friends. There, she says that one of the main causes of errors in translation on the level of lexicon, when translating into related languages is that of “false friends.” She further classifies the false friends into two categories: a) false friends found in languages

that are related, and b) false friends found as a result of borrowing. Then she concludes to say that the translator must be careful not to think that a loan word has the same meaning as it has in the language from which it is borrowed (Larson, 1984 p. 183 taken from Beckman and Callow, 1978, p. 198).

Mollanazar (1997) also speaks about problems when borrowing loanwords. In classifying them, he mentions the type of borrowed words which may result in a change in the alphabet, pronunciation, and meaning of the loanwords. For the third type of his classification i.e. the meaning change sort, he says that the range of the meaning of the loanword may undergo the process of expansion. For example; the loanword "mutton" does not mean "sheep" as the original French word does. He does not, however, recourse to the term "false friends," though then he concludes that this shift of meaning may cause problems for the translator.

In a number of articles about the theory and practice of translation, one can find references to the false cognates. Nida (2000) says that where linguistic and cultural distances between mother/source and foreign/receptor codes are least, one should expect to encounter the least number of serious problems. But as a matter of fact, if languages are too closely related, one is likely to be badly deceived by the superficial similarities with the result that translations done under such circumstances are often quite poor. One of these dangers consists of the so-called "false friends" i.e. borrowed cognate words that seem to be equivalent but are not always so.

Vinay and Darbelnet (2000) say one must remember that many borrowings enter a language through translation, just like semantic borrowings or *faux amis*, whose pitfalls translators must carefully avoid.

Textbooks on contrastive analysis and error analysis may also recourse to the false cognates. As an example, Keshavarz (1993), in classifying the sources of errors, speaks about interlingual errors which result from the transfer of phonological, morphological, grammatical, lexico-semantic, and stylistic elements of the learner's mother tongue to the learning of the target language. False cognates

can actually fall within the category of lexico-semantic elements. This type of error refers to the inappropriate use of a target language item because of its formal phonological similarity, and not a similarity in meaning, with a word in the learner's mother tongue.

### Methodology

In this study we want to show that a few percent of the cognate words in English-Persian and Persian-English examples, despite their similarity in form, exhibit a different meaning in either of the two languages. That is to say, they comprise special kind of cognate words that are called false cognates. To do so, the cognate pairs were selected on the basis of their formal similarity and their meanings were contrasted. When necessary, the relevant senses were consulted in the entries of the following dictionaries:

- *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1995) 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- *Webster's New World Dictionary* (1988) 3<sup>rd</sup> College ed. New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc.
- *Farhang Moaser English-Persian Dictionary* (1997) 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Tehran: Farhang Moaser Publishers.

If there was any kind of discrepancy between the meaning in the mother/source language and foreign/receptor language i.e. there was a kind of false cognates, then they were classified into the tables appearing in the following section to show their contrast.

### The Analysis of the Data

Basically, there are two types of false cognates: a) those resulting from family relations between languages, and b) those resulting from languages borrowing from each other. The former may especially be found when two languages have sister relations in the family tree. Therefore, one cannot expect to find this type of false cognates in Modern English and Modern Persian since they can exhibit a remote kinship relationship in the Indo-European family of languages. Nevertheless, any type of such relations, if any, is within a diachronic study of the two languages.

As for the latter type, we are going to say since both English and Persian have borrowed words from each other, it is possible for both to hold false cognates in their lexicons. Therefore, a list of false cognates must be available in the lexicon of both. In this section, we will have a look at the vocabulary system of these languages.

### **1. English-Persian List**

During the last century, Persian borrowed many pieces of technical and everyday vocabulary from different European languages especially French and English with French borrowings antedating the English ones. However, it was about the second half of the previous century when English gradually found its way in Persian vocabulary. Since then, English has been considered as the main source of recent lexical borrowings in Persian. In this subsection, we are intending to classify those borrowings that eventually resulted in the formation of false cognates. Since this kind of false cognates appears when one language borrows from another language, we would like to term them as **false borrowings** to differentiate them from the original category of false cognates. This is due to the fact that the original category, i.e. type "a" above denotes "born together" etymologically. For an ease of reference, we try to classify them in the following tables. As far as the scope of the meaning of these cognate words is concerned, one should bear in mind that the only relevant senses to our discussion are taken care of in the tables and the rest of the senses of the words in both English and Persian are skipped. This makes our discussions easier to cope with and more to the point. In the first table, we try to present the general false cognates.

**Table 1. General false cognates  
(A morphemic pronunciation is given for each Persian word.)**

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Class vs. کلاس /kelas/	طبقه	Classroom
Test vs. تست /test/	آزمون؛ آزمایش	Multiple choice test
Saloon vs. سالن /salon/	اتومبیل چهاردر؛ مشروب فروشی	Auditorium;
Machine vs. ماشین /majin/	دستگاه	Car
Magic vs. مازیک /mažik/	جادویی	Marker
Marmalade vs. مارمالاد /marmalad/	مریای پرتقال	Jelly
Mark vs. مارک /mark/	نشان	Brand
Carton vs. کارتن /karton/	قوطی کوچک (شیر؛ خامه؛ ذرت و غیره)	Crate (as in a crate of bananas)
Family vs. فامیل /famil/	خانواده	Kin; relative
Dashboard vs. داشبورد /dašbord/	صفحه چراغها و عقربه ها در اتومبیل	Glove compartment
Motor vs. موتور /motor/	هر نوع موتور	Motorcycle (especially)
Motorist vs. موتوری /motori/	راننده اتومبیل	Motorcyclist
Switch vs. سویچ /suič/	کلید (برق)	Car key
Model vs. مدل /model/	شیوه، سبک	Type of a car
Swiss vs. سویس /suis/	سوئسی	Switzerland
Station vs. استیشن /esteišen/	ایستگاه	Station wagon
Artist vs. آرتیست /artist/	نقاش، هنرمند	Actor/actress (هنرپیشه)
Colt vs. /kolt/ (after Samuel Colt, the inventor)	کره اسب	Revolver, pistol
Corset vs. کورست /korset/	شکم بند	Brasserie
Coupe vs. کوپه /kupe/	اتومبیل دودر	Compartment (in a
Cooler vs. کولر /kuler/	سردخان، خنک کننده، نوشیدنی سرد	Air conditioner
Wax vs. واکس /vaks/	موم	Polish

Turk vs. ترک /tork/	ترکیه ای	Natives of Iranian Azerbaijan or the Republic of Azerbaijan
Turkish vs. ترکی /torki/	زبان ترکی ترکیه	Azerbaijani (spoken in Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan)
Fee vs. فی /fi/	دستمزد؛ حق اشتراک	Subtotal amount of money in an invoice
Jacket vs. جاکت /ʒakæt/	کت، کاپشن	Sweater; cardigan, pullover (see also table 4)
Canal vs. کانال /kanal/	آبراه، مجرا	Channel
Band <sup>1</sup> vs. باند /band/	نوار؛ تسمه؛ بند	Runway
Band <sup>2</sup> vs. باند /band/	نوار؛ تسمه؛ بند	Gauze
Footballist vs. فوتبالیست	طرفدار فوتبال	Soccer player (AE), Footballer (BE)

Sometimes, a special type of similarity can be observed among the words of one language and the words of another. Take for example *Korea* which is the name of “a country in the south east Asia” کره /kore/ in Persian with the meaning “globe” which is another Persian sense of the word. This type of similarity in form, but not in meaning will *not* be considered as a false cognate pair since they do not come from a similar ancestry, nor are they the result of borrowing processes. Therefore, we might like to term them as an instance of **accidental similarity**; hence, they are out of the scope of present study. Other examples of this type of similarity are as follows: *coffee*, “the brew” vs. کافی /kafi/ (viz. “enough”), *tool*, “an instrument” vs. طول /tul/ (viz. “length,”) and *Portugal*, “the country in Europe,” vs. پرتغال /porteqal/ (viz. “orange”) which is also pronounced as پرتغال. (Observe in passing that the two latter cognate pairs are homophones but not homographs. However, this does not ruin our results.)

Sometimes, in order to convey the same idea in the receptor/foreign language, some additional wording(s) may be required: In other words, while mother/source language may use one word for a



given concept, the foreign/receptor language may use the same word *plus* (some) additional words or morphemes to convey the same concept. Some of these examples are given in the following table. For the sake of ease of reference, these additional forms are italicized.

**Table 2. False cognates with an additional wording in either of the two languages**

THE SOURCE WORD	THE RECEPTOR/FOREIGN LANGUAGE EQUIVALENT
ترافیک vs. /terafik/	Traffic <i>jam</i>
کلاس /kelas/	Classroom
تست vs. /test/	<i>Multiple choice</i> test (see also table 1)
سویس vs. /suis/	Switzerland (See also table 1)
تور vs. /tur/	<i>Package</i> tour (also package holiday)
توریست vs. /turist/	<i>A foreign</i> tourist in Iran
استیشن (اتومبیل) vs. /otomobil-e- esteifen/	Station wagon (see also table 1. for the Persian meaning in English )
موتور vs. /motor/	Motorcycle (false cognates is made only in this sense)
تریلر vs. /tereiler/	<i>Tractor-trailer</i>
Cigar*	سیگار برگ /sigar-e-bærg/

\*Observe that the source-target directionality is reversed for the last pair i.e. cigar vs. سیگار برگ .

Loanword in the foreign/receptor language may generally undergo the semantic process of narrowing. That is to say, while they may have a variety of meanings in the mother/source language, these words can bring an extremely limited set of their broad fields of meanings to the foreign/receptor language. While, for example, the English word *fan* can mean بادزن, پنکه, and فن, Persian speakers can only have the latter as a false cognate shared with English. We would like to consider these cases as **semi-false cognates**. English borrowings in Persian can sometimes show this kind of semantic process. In the following table some of these cases of semantic narrowing are given:

Table 3. False cognates with a sense of narrowing

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Fan vs. فن /fæn/	هر نوع بادبزن، پنکه، و یا فن	Only a radiator or a computer fan
Mosaic vs. موزاییک /muzayik/	معرق کاری	Tile
Water pump vs. واتر پمپ /water pump/	هر نوع پمپ یا تلمبه آبی	Only a kind of water pump used in a motor vehicle
Visit vs. ویزیت /viziit/	هر نوع دیدار	Visiting a doctor only
Visitor vs. ویزیتور /viziitor/	هر نوع دیدار کننده	Traveling sales agent

As stated above, many of the recent borrowings into Persian have come from French and English. One special group of the English-Persian false cognates is the ones in which Persian and English each has borrowed their respective pieces of vocabulary from French independently. Or even in some cases, both Persian and French have borrowed their respective pieces of vocabulary from English. As a result, it might be possible for the borrowed words to behave differently in the two languages. In Table 4, some of the most outstanding examples of such a discrepancy are presented. However, the table presents a few examples of such false cognates. One may also conclude that a similar list might be possible to be established for any other set of three languages of the world. It is also worth noting that the existence of such words in the other lists of the false cognates in this study is also not ruled out.

Table 4. False cognates with a French origin

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Chauffeur vs. شوفر /fufer/	راننده اختصاصی	Driver ( <i>slang</i> )
Tableau vs. تابلو /tablo/	صحنه؛ منظره	Road sign; fascia
Drawer vs. دراوړ /deraver/ (a recent borrowing)	کشو	Dresser
Liberal vs. لیبرال /liberal/	آزاد اندیش، آزادی خواه، میانه رو	(sometimes in Iranian political settings) An advocate of unbound liberty
Jacket vs. ژاکت /zakæt/ (see also table 1.)	کت	Sweater, cardigan, pullover
License vs. لیسانس /lisans/	گواهینامه، مجوز، پروانه	Bachelor's degree
Licensee vs. لیسانه /lisanse/	دارنده مجوز در مخصوصا فروش مشروبات الکلی	One who holds a Bachelor's degree

A similar list of false cognates with a German origin can also be established in Persian. This list may include, among other things, the following items:

Table 5. False cognates with a German origin

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Passage vs. پاساژ /pasaž/	عبارت	Arcade, shopping complex
Benzene vs. بنزین /benzin/	بنزین	Gasoline

Similar lists could also be established for some other languages with which Persian used to have, or still has different kinds of contacts like Arabic, French, German, Hindi, Urdu, Turkish, and perhaps some others. It is also possible to establish such relations among some other

languages with which Modern Persian has got family relations such as Tajiki, Baluchi, Kurdish, Armenian, and Pashto. Any way, each of the foregoing languages should be studied separately.

Sometimes, the false cognates are established in either of the two American or British accents of English, but not in both. Some of these examples are given below.

**Table 6. False cognates which are formed in either British or American Accent**

COGNATE PAIRS	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT	THE WORD IN THE FALSE COGNATE MAKER ACCENT
Football vs. فوتبال /futbal/	فوتبال امریکایی (BE: association football)	Soccer(AE)
Antenna <sup>1</sup> vs. آنتن /anten/ (See also table 7 below for another meaning)	شاخک حشرات	Aerial (AE)
Garage (esp BE) vs. گاراژ /garaž/	تعمیرگاه	Mechanics
Paraffin vs. پارافین /parafin/	۱. پارافین ۲. نفت سفید	Kerosene (AE)

However, it is worth noting that the accent variations given above will not make serious problems for the translator or the foreign language learner. However, it will remain to be a matter of accuracy in the translated text or in the performance of the foreign language learner when it contains these inappropriate accentual variations.

Generally, words might undergo the semantic process of metaphorical extension (see for example Lyons, 1995). This is one of the principles of semantic change. For example the word "foot" which normally means "the lowest part of the leg below the ankle" can also mean "lowest part of a hill or mountain". This factor is especially operative when we compare the senses of the borrowed words with the original senses in the source language. As a result, the borrowed words might carry some sense that is unknown to the original language system from which it is borrowed. Take for example the

cognate pair “kilometer/ کیلومتر”. While the English word means “metric unit of length equal to 1000 meters,” the Persian word may also mean what in English may be referred to as a “speedometer” or “tachometer”. The process is especially found in the words borrowed from other languages. As a result, one can find the emergence of false cognates in the two languages due to the metaphorical extension. In the table below, some of such instances are given where only the second equivalent is relevant to our discussion.

**Table 7. Formation of False cognates as a result of metaphorical extension**

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Kilometer vs. کیلومتر /kilometr/	۱. کیلومتر شمار ۲. کیلومتر (۱۰۰۰ متر)	Also speedometer, tachometer in informal Persian
Meter vs. متر /metr/	صد سانتی متر	Also tape measure, tape line in Persian
Antenna <sup>2</sup> vs. آنتن /anten/ (see also table 6 above for another meaning)	۱. آنتن ۲. شاخک حشرات	Aerial only
Coat vs. کت /kot/	۱. کت ۲. نوعی کت بلند	Jacket mainly
Mode vs. مد /mod/	۱. مد ۲. شیوه، سبک	Fashionable

Finally, it is also not impossible to find some cases which both English and Persian have what we earlier referred to as “true” cognates, but actually either language might use some other word in normal/unmarked situations. For instance while it is not impossible in the English language to use the word “video” as it is used in the borrowed Persian word “ویدئو”, English actually uses the abbreviated form “VCR” instead (and not what is commonly used in Persian, i.e. “video”). In the following table some similar examples are presented.

**Table 8. Cognate pairs and unmarked vocabulary**

COGNATE PAIRS	THE PREFERRED UNMARKED CASE IN THE TARGET LANGUAGE
Serial vs. (سریال) تلویزیونی /sreial(-e-telviziuni)	(Film) series
Video vs. ویدیو /vide?o/	VCR
Racket/ راکت /raket/	Bat (esp. for baseball, cricket, and ping pong)

## 2. Persian-English List

A similar list of false cognates could be established where Persian is the mother/source language and English is a foreign/receptor language. Cognates of this type, i.e. "true" cognates date back to the time of Old Persian when European languages Latin and Greek borrowed words from this language. Those words underwent various phonological and semantic changes and were finally taken into English vocabulary. Some of them are still used in Modern English. These borrowed words i.e. "true" cognates include *pistachio*, *spinach*, *caravan*, *caravansary*, (also *caravanserai*), *lilac* (from *lilac* variation of *nilac*), *paradise*, *bazaar*, *shah*, and *parasang*. They may be taken into the English vocabulary via Arabic and/or languages. *Lilac*, for example, which was a variation of *nilac* "bluish," was taken from Persian through French and Arabic. This word is no longer used in Modern Persian and, the word *yas* is used instead. However, in some accents it is still present, (cf. *lili* in Shirazi Persian). The number of such false cognates is relatively more limited than the number of them in the list of English-Persian false cognates given in the preceding tables. As the reader may verify for himself, the changes in the pronunciation of these cognate pairs are much more noticeable than the previous lists presented above (cf. Tables 1-8). Anyway, they are classified in the following tables. The first table deals with the words connoting "color terms":

Table 9. Persian color terms forming false cognates in English

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Crimson vs. قرمز /germez/	زرشکی، ارغوانی	Red
Azure vs. لاجورد /lajevard/	نیلگون، آبی آسمانی	Lapis lazuli
Pistachio vs. پسته /peste/	رنگ (سبز) مغز پسته ای	Pistachio nut (not the color)
Khaki vs. خاکی /xaki/	قهوه ای متمایل به زرد، خاکی، نظامی (فقط رنگ)	1. Terrestrial 2. dusty 3. khaki

Due to the limited instances of false cognates below, we will leave the rest of the terms in the following table without further categorizations:

Table 10. Miscellaneous terms of Persian origin forming false cognates in English vocabulary

COGNATE PAIRS	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT IN PERSIAN	PERSIAN EQUIVALENT IN ENGLISH
Pajamas vs. پیژامه /pižame/	لباس خواب مردانه (شامل هم پیراهن و هم شلوار)	Casual trousers worn at home
Van vs. وانت (تصغیر و ن) /vanet/ (the diminutive form of van)	کامیون کوچک	Pick up
Lemon vs. لیمو /limu/	lemon (not lime)	1. Lime 2. Sweet lemon
Paradise vs. پردیس /pardis/	بهشت	In modern Persian the arabicized version فردوس /ferdows/ is commonly in use. It is also a proper name

The reader is also asked to refer to the next section for more on cognate pairs of this type:

So we can say that in this section we tried to show that a small fraction of borrowed words in both English and Persian constitute what might be called as “false cognates.” These lexical items, despite their similarity, in form might convey senses that are foreign to the original language from which the piece of vocabulary has been borrowed. A sense of understanding of this phenomenon is crucial to all those who work in the fields of foreign languages. This might simply be due to the fact that there is no synonymy among languages or even within a language.

### 3. Back-Borrowing

The present study also led to the finding of a special type of borrowing that has developed throughout the long history of the two languages borrowing vocabulary from each other. In this type of borrowing, an already borrowed word may again be the source of a new type of borrowing which is sent back to the original language form which the borrowing had previously taken place. Here, a change of meaning will be observed throughout the whole derivation. So for example, the word caravan (کاروان /karevan/) was borrowed from Persian to mean “a group of people with vehicles or animals traveling together for safety” and then underwent some semantic change to mean “a large vehicle pulled by cars equipped for living and sleeping in.” In turn, the word underwent the process of clipping to become *van* with the semantic broadening to mean “a covered vehicle with no side windows for transporting goods or people.” Then, Persian again borrowed the newly formed word وانت /vanet/ while the diminutive suffix at the end to mean what they mean “a pick up” in English. Now this last part of the derivation, i.e. the diminished version of the word with its new meaning just mentioned is by no means similar to the original meaning of the word in Persian. We will call this version of borrowing, where one borrowed word is again the source of a new borrowing into the original source/receptor language, a **back-borrowing**. Some instances of back-borrowing are found in the following table.



Table 11. Back-borrowings

'PERSIAN ORIGINAL WORD	ENGLISH BORROWING	SEMANTIC CHANGE	PERSIAN BACK-BORROWING
خوارزم / <i>xaræzm</i> /	Through Arabic <i>al-Khwaræzmi</i> "inhabitant of Khwaræzm in Iran"	<i>Algorithm</i> [technical use]	الگوریتم / <i>algoritm</i> / "algorithm"
ورد / <i>wrda</i> / [Old Persian] "flower"	<i>Rhodon</i> and also <i>rose</i>	<i>Rose</i> , (the flower) [semantic narrowing], also <i>Rhodon</i> (a feminine name), and in combinations like <i>Rhododendron</i> ((lit. rose tree) a kind of flower)	روز / <i>roz</i> / "rose"
کاروان / <i>karevan</i> /	Caravan	<i>Van</i> [addition of new sense]	وانت / <i>vanet</i> / (including the English diminutive suffix) "a pick up; a van"
لیمو / <i>limu</i> /	Lemon	<i>Lemonade</i> [a kind of drink]	لیموناد / <i>limunad</i> / "lemonade"
پای جامه / <i>pay jamæ</i> / "leg garment"	Pajamas	Broadened to include a jacket (or blouse)	پیژامه / <i>pižame</i> / "lounging trousers"

As the reader can verify for himself, the data in this section may partly overlap especially with the previous section (cf. Tables 9-10). However, the conclusions are different.

### Conclusions and Implications

In this study we tried to show that, despite its absence in the literature, an understanding of false cognates is of vital importance to all those who are concerned with the study of English and Persian.

The findings of this paper are of high importance to the following people:

1. Contrastive analysts and error analysts to be aware of the type of errors the prospective language learner may make in his interlanguage stage and to find proper remedial programs for the student to pass through his developmental stage of language acquisition/learning. This is due to the fact that the field of false cognates is a good source of errors on the part of the learner.
2. Translators and translator theorists to be accurate in their task of finding equivalent cross-linguistically.
3. Language teachers and curriculum designers so that they might better understand the nature of acquisition/learning of their students' vocabulary construction and cope with any problems encountered in the classroom as a result of interlanguage process.
4. Lexicologists and lexicographers in their task of dealing with the theory of translation in natural languages and finding proper equivalents in their bilingual dictionaries; a requirement of bilingual dictionary compilation which is only partially and unconsciously observed, if any, in Persian-English and English-Persian dictionaries compiled thus far.

Similar studies can be conducted to show that other languages with which Persian has got kinship relations and/or interchanged lexical items have similar lists of false cognates.

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