False friends and lexical borrowing:

A linguistic analysis of false friends between English and Arabic

Anwar A. H. Al-Athwary [a] [1]

[a] Najran University, Saudi Arabic

Abstract

This theoretical study aims at raising awareness of the existence of lexical false friends (FFs) in English and Arabic as genetically unrelated languages. It also provides a general categorization for FFs from a semantic point of view. A sample of more than fifty FF pairs is examined by contrasting their form, pronunciation and meaning. The analysis reveals that English Arabic FFs are of two types: Chance FFs (occur by coincidence) and semantic FFs(exist via lexical borrowing), the former being more frequent than the latter. This taxonomy is in line with those introduced by Chamizo-Domínguez (2008) and Roca-Varela (2015). Semantic FFs can be total (due to semantic shift, ellipsis, or figurative extension) or partial (through the process of semantic narrowing). Chance FFs are more problematic in the sense that they cause various degrees of embarrassment and confusion due to the fact that some constituents of FF pairs involve taboo and offensive words. Thus, such lexical FFs are considered potential agents that may create misunderstanding, miscommunication and confusionamong L2 learners.

Keywords: false friends; English; Arabic; chance false friends; semantic false friends

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of false friends has been a topic of hot discussion in the areas of linguistics, language acquisition, translation, and lexicography. False friends (FFs) are generally defined as pairs of words that look or sound phonologically and/ or orthographically similar in two languages, but differ significantly in meaning (Chamizo-Domínguez &Nerlich, 2002; Chamizo-Domínguez, 2008; Nida, 2000; Roca-Varela, 2014; 2015; Veisbergs, 1996).Pairs like English *carpet* 'rug' vs. Spanish *carpeta* 'folder', English *gift*'present'vs. German *Gift* 'poison', and English *dean* 'a boss of a college' vs. Arabic دين[diːn]'religion' are typical examples of FFs in the given languages. In the literature on FFs, the terms 'faux amis' and 'deceptive cognates' together with the term 'false friends' are usually used interchangeably to refer to the same concept (Roca-Varela, 2014).What is often misleading or deceptive in the phenomenon of FFs, as Yaylaci and Argynbayev (2014) note, is that the pronunciation or

---

[1] Corresponding author.
  E-mail address: anwaraha@yahoo.com

orthographic shape of such pairsdoes not really match with their proper meaning,especially for non-native users of the second language.

FFs are usually distinguished from each other in terms of their etymologies. According to Chamizo-Domínguez and Nerlich (2002), FFs, in two or more languages, come into existence either by coincidence or due to etymological relation. FFs resulting from the first situation are called 'chance FFs' and those formed in the second situation are called 'semantic FFs'. Chance FFs are those pairs which "share the same form but have different etymologies and different meanings in different languages" while semantic FFs refer to pairs of words which"have the same etymological origin, their meanings differ in different languages, but one can still detect semantic relations between them." (p. 1833).The etymological relation of semantic FFs occurs when the two languages are either genetically related or when they come into contact witheach other leading to lexical borrowing. In this sense, Nida (2000) defines FFs as "borrowed or cognate words which seem to be equivalent but are not always so" (p. 130). The use of the term 'cognate' in Nida's definition suggests that FFs may exist between languages which emerge from a common shared ancestor like Latin, French,German, and English, and the term 'borrowed' indicates that FFs may occur in two languages which don't necessarily come from the same original source as the case with English and Arabic. Semantic change is crucial in forming semantic FFs through space and time. For Beeching (2010), FFs are merely a product of semantic change, and they refer to"forms deriving from a common etymon which have developed different meanings in different languages" (p. 139).The attempt in this study is to provide a linguistic analysis of both chance FFs and semantic FFs in English and Arabic.

FFs are classified in the literature from different points of view (Al-Wahy, 2009; Beltrán, 2006; Chamizo-Domínguez, 2008;Veisbergs, 1996; Yaylaci&Argynbayev, 2014). Semantically speaking, and according toVeisbergs (1996: 628-29),FFs can be divided into three main groups:i) false friends proper, ii) occasional or accidental false friends, and iii) pseudo false friends. The first group is further divided into three types: complete or absolute FFs (also called total FFs in the literature), partial FFs and nuance differentiated word pairs. Complete or total FFs refer to those pairs of words in the two languages which are "monosemantic" (each word has only one meaning) and this meaning is different from the other item of the pair. On the other hand, partial FFs involve cases of word couples where one word has several meanings (polysemantic) which overlap with one meaning or more of the other word of the pair. Finally, nuance differentiated FFs are those word pairs which are basically similar inthe denotative sense, but they usually differ in terms ofthe connotative sense. The second type, i.e. accidental FFs, includes those pairs of words in two languages having similar formal appearance by chance or coincidence and their meaning is different. Such pairs don't share any etymological relation. It can be inferred thatChamizo-Domínguez and Nerlich's (2002) semantic FFs and chance FFsmentioned above correspond to FFs proper and accidental FFs, respectively. The last type of pseudo FFs is marginal and isn't usually discussed. FFs of this type is a product of the L2 imaginations, they are not real pairs of words and created on the basis of false analogy. The L2 learner builds an imaginative lexeme for the native one, thinking that the native word must have a similarequivalent in L2. From the perspective of form, FFs can be homographs (those which have the same or very similar spelling) or homophones (those which have the same or very similar pronunciation) (Chamizo-Domínguez, 2008). Moreover, lexical FFs can be differentiated from what is called idiomatic false friends. Al-Wahy (2009) defines idiomatic false friends as "expressions that have the same or similar forms in different languages but have different meanings or different sociolinguistic or stylistic features" (p. 104). In this sense,FFs are not only limited to single words but may also includemulti-word phrases and structures of various kinds.

1.1. Research questions

The taxonomy provided byVeisbergs (1996) aboveindicates that the phenomenon of FFs in any language takes place as a result of an etymological link of some kind or by accident. The two languages having common FFs are either genetically related or have been in contact with other languages. The FFs proper type (either total or partial) usually occurs due to one of these situations or on many other occasions due to both. Arabic and English are genetically unrelated languages; each one belongs to a totally different language family, the Afro-Asiatic (Hamito-Semitic) language family and the Indo-European language family, respectively. Nevertheless, the phenomenon of FFs does exist between these two languages, which is due to the process of lexical borrowing that takes place between Arabic and English. Al-Wahy (2009) states that "though English and Arabic are not genetically related languages, cultural contact between the two languages has led to the presence of false friends of different types, both lexical and idiomatic" (p. 103). In Arabic, there are some loanwords which represent pairs of FFs with their English counterparts. Pairs of words like *model*/موديل [mu:de:l], *hello*/ ألو [?alu:], and *white*/ وايت [wayt] have partially or totally different meaning in the two languages. Similarly, there are some instances of pairs which are very similar in form or/ and pronunciation but still very different in meaning and they are not apparently cases of lexical borrowing. These include pairs like *fun*/ فن [fan] 'arts', *dean*/ دين [di:n] 'religion', *fool* / فول [fu:l] 'beans', *jealous*/ جلس [jalas] '(he) sat down', and *rough*/ رف [raf] 'a shelf'.

Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to identify the possible lexical FFs that occur between English and Arabic by examining their pronunciation and spelling from one hand and their semantic relations on the other. The attempt also is made to confirm whether such pairs occur accidentally in the two languages or because of some kind of language contact that might have taken place in certain periods of history which lead to the phenomenon of lexical borrowing. In doing so, the meaning of the different types of FFs will be examined. In other words, the study attempts to find answers to the following research questions:

-What are the possible FFs that may occur between English and Arabic?

-How can the lexical English-Arabic FFs be categorized?

-What are the semantic relations between the FFs in English and Arabic?

1.2. Literature review

False cognates and FFshave been investigated linguistically in many languages fromdifferent perspectives. The majority of these studies were devoted to the FFs in English and Spanish (Beltran, 2006; Dominguez &Nerlich, 2002; Mitkov, Pekar, Blagoev&Mulloni, 2007; Roca-Varela, 2014; 2015). Some others are conducted on English and Russia (Yaylaci&Argynbayev, 2014), English and Slovene-Croatian (Fišer&Ljubešić, 2013; Memišević&Margić, 2011), Dutchand Afrikaans (Gouws, Prinsloo & de Schryver, 2004), Slavic languages (Soglasnova, 2018) and so on. Most of these studies focused on the strategies of false cognates recognition and their effects on language learning and translation processes.

Chamizo-Dominguez and Nerlich (2002) and Chamizo-Dominguez (2008)areoriginal and fruitful contributions to the phenomenon of FFs. They worked on FFs that exist in European languages like English, German, French and Spanish.They focused on the most common types of FFs, i.e. semantic FFs and Chance FFs. To differentiate between chance FFs and semantic FFs, the authors hold a very interesting comparison between these kinds of FFs from one hand and the phenomena of homonymy and polysemy on the other. They argued that chance FFs "could be considered to be equivalents, in two or more given languages, of homonymic words in a given single natural language", andsemantic FFs, in contrast, "could be considered the equivalents, in two or more given languages, of polysemous words in

a given single natural language" (Chamizo-Dominguez &Nerlich, 2002, p. 1836).For them, lexical borrowing represents the main source of semantic FFs (either total or partial). This takes place in three ways: i) narrowing (restricting the various senses of the original word in the donor language into only one sense in the recipient language), ii) generalization (adding one or more meanings to the borrowed word which is absent in the original word), and iii) figurative extension (extending the meaning of the borrowed word through metaphors, metonymy, etc).

It is very important to identify and recognize the semantic differences between FFs in the two languages because such pairs stand, on many occasions, as barriers for a second language learner and a translator as well. In this regard,Mitkov, et al (2007) and Fišer and Ljubešić (2013) followed a corpus-based identification of translation equivalents and FFs in some European languages. Mitkov, et al (2007), for example, confirmed that little research has been conducted on the topic of FF identification. Accordingly, they provided some interesting suggestions for identifying both FFs and cognates automatically from bilingual data. These techniques were applied on corpora collected from Spanish, French, German, and English in order to recognize pairs of FFsor cognates between these languages. Two experiments were conducted on two types of extraction methods: i) assuming 'ideal' extraction and ii) a real-world extraction. The findings showed that the appliedtechniquesrecognizeFFs and cognates with very acceptableoutputs for both accuracy and recall.Techniqueswhichinvolve background semantic information gave the most satisfactory outcomes.

The proper aim of many studies on FFs is to attract the attention of educators, L2 learners and translators to the lexical problems   and difficulties that FFs may cause in L2 learning process and translation.Yaylaci and Argynbayev (2014), for instance, focused on English-Russian FFs and aimed at raising awareness in avoiding misunderstanding caused by such FFs. For them, FFs between L1 and L2 have the tendency to decelerate the process of intercultural communicative competence development in ELT classes. In light of some models of intercultural communicative competence, the authors suggested some techniques to help L2 teachers and learners differentiate between FFs in Russian and English. They, however, confirmed that these awareness-raising tasks are not easy to perform. As a result, English language teachers must be culturally proficient and wellprepared in both L1 and L2.

It can be safely stated thatRoca-Varela (2015) is one of the most recent and comprehensive research on FFs. The author did her best to provide a detailed account of the phenomenon from many points of view. In her book, *False Friends in Learner Corpora*, she covered many topics such presenting a critical account of FFs definitions and classification, introducing a corpus-based approach to FFs as produced by Spanish learners of English, and finally approaching FFs pedagogically by conducting a series of classroom tasks such as presentation tasks, practice- production tasks, etc.Roca-Varela concluded that FFs generally represent a real problem for L2 learners. She found that Spanish learners of English make more errors in the written discourse than in the spoken one. As for the factors that lie behind the misuse of FFs, these factors include mother tongue interference, the semantic content of FFs, the context of occurrence, and the communicative function of the message.

Another most recent work on FFs is Soglasnova (2018).It is, however, restricted to providing an account of book cataloging in Slavic languages (such as Russian, Serbian, Polish, and Czech) by analyzing the errors that may emerge from FFs occurring in the book titles and how to avoid them. The unit of analysis, therefore, is a number of book titles containing FFs in these languages. The author concluded that the presence of FFs in Slavic materials lead to several challenges, especially for novice catalogers. The ultimate end of the study is to raise the awareness of these challenges and to provide appropriate strategies to avoid the pitfalls caused by FFs in Slavic languages.

In the field of contact linguistics, loan translation or calque is a well-known process which is used to create neologisms in a language. What is borrowed in this case is only meaning while the word form is

always native. For Vinay and Darbelnet (1995,p. 32), calque is "a special kind of borrowing", and calque together with loanwords may often, with some semantic change, become obvious examples of FFs. Calquing from English into Arabic is very common: بريد الكتروني, مؤتمر صحفي and بطاقة ائتمانية are only the semantic counterparts of the English 'electronic mail', 'press conference', and 'credit card', respectively. In the context of FFs, however, there is a specific type of calque which is known as semantic calques whereby meanings in a language are added or changed to include the meaning of their corresponding false friend. According to Al-Wahy (2009), this peculiar strategy of FFs construction does exist between Arabic and other languages including Englishand is known as idiomatic false friends.

As for studies on FFs between Arabic and other languages, very little attention has been paid to this issue. Al-Wahy (2009) is the only systematic research conducted in this regard. The study focused on what the author called idiomatic false friends (IFFs) in English and Arabic. For Al-Wahy, IFFs are those pairs of expressions or structures in two languages that are similar in terms of their literal meaning butdiffer from each other in terms of their idiomatic or pragmatic meaning (e.g. head over heels/ رأسا على عقب, the weaker sex/ الجنس اللطيف, to take one's chances/ أخذ فرصته, etc). The author provided a general classification of IFFs as related IFFs and unrelated IFFs. The former refers to those pairs of idioms whose idiomatic meaning is usually partially different while the latter includes pairs of idioms whose idiomatic meaning is totally different. The analysis is based on a considerable number of statements which are quoted from some Arabic newspapers. Al-Wahy(2009) attempted to show that if general idioms are difficult for translators, IFFs are doubly difficult for them. He concluded that the majority of English and Arabic IFFs are related IFFs (i.e. partial FFs). Arabic related IFFs are examples of loan translations which borrowed only one meaning of the multiple meanings of the English idiom, dropping out the others. This short review would mean that the current study differs from Al-Wahy (2009) in that the concern here is on the single-word FFs rather than on multi-word expressions, i.e. idioms. As Al-Wahy (2009) provided a taxonomy of IFFs, this study also tries to come out with a general categorization of lexical FFs in English and Arabic.

To the best of my knowledge, no studies have been conducted on lexicalFFs between English and Arabic. Therefore, the current study will be the first of its type in this regard. It aims at tracing such lexical false items in the two languages, examining their meanings and forms, and focusing on chance FFs and semantic FFs as introduced by Veisbergs (1996), Chamizo-Domínguez (2008), and Roca-Varela (2015).

2. Method

A total of more than fifty pairs of English-Arabic lexical FFs are collected from different sources (see Appendix A). The main source of FF data is the researcher himself. Being a bilingual in Arabic and English, he relies on his stock of vocabulary in both languages in collecting the data for the study. Another additional source of data is a number of YouTube videos on FFs between English and Arabic (e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgWlPF_QwFE&t=15s). For the purpose of establishing the denotations of the Arabic items in FF pairs, two Arabic-Arabic authentic dictionaries are used, namely Al-Muɛjam Al-Waseet(MW) and Abdulrahim (2011). The selection of these two dictionaries is based on the fact that they represent both the standard variety and some dialects of Arabic. The former is about Modern Standard Arabic and the latter is associated with both the standard and its colloquial varieties.More specifically, Abdulrahim (2011) is a dictionary of loanwords that have been borrowed into Arabic from other languages including English.Comparatively, Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary(CALD)is used to contrast the meaning of English words with that of their FFs counterparts in Arabic. Another English-English dictionary, i.e. Merriam-Webster Dictionary (MWD) is consulted where necessary to track the history and etymological origin of English loanwords from Arabic. A panel of experts who are bilingual in English and Arabic are consulted to verify and validate the pronunciation,

form and meaning of the collected data. Most of the FFs collected data belong to the monosyllabic and disyllabic words, especially chance FFs because this kind of lexical items is the forms which are most likely to behave as false or deceptive friends.

The contrastive and analytical method is adopted in the present study. Obviously, this method greatly shows how lexicology can comparatively contribute to language acquisition research on FFs.In this study the term 'false friends' is used in the sense introduced by Chamizo-Dominguez and Nerlich (2002). They refer to it as 'chance FFs' or 'semantic FFs', i.e. those pairs which are related by accidental phonological similarity between the two languages or by lexical borrowing. Therefore, other terms like false cognates or deceptive cognates (see Batchelor & Offord, 2000)are not used.The term 'Arabic',when used, refers to both Standard Arabic and its different dialects. In other words, the FFs data include elements collected from both the standard variety and other colloquial varieties of Arabic. Unlike Chamizo-Dominguez (2008), in this study pairs which belong to the same or different grammatical category in two given languages, especially when talking about chance FFs, are potentially considered.

3. Analysis and Results

In light of the classification of lexical FFs provided in the introduction above, the fifty-one collected data of FFs in English and Arabic can be categorized into two main types: chance FFs and semantic FFs (see Figure one below). Chance FFs show similarity in pronunciation and/ or form by coincidence, but their meaning is totally different. They have nothing to do with lexical borrowing, hence they could be called contact-free FFs. This would mean that the FF relation is purely accidental and is not due to contact between Arabic and English. Semantic FFs, on the other hand, are related to those pairs of words in which the Arabic item has been originally borrowed from English due to some contact between the two languages in space and time. Therefore, they could be called contact-induced FFs. They are similar in sound and form with some adaptation. In terms of meaning, they can be divided into total and partial. Total semantic FFs refer to those borrowed words whose meaning undergoessome kind of semantic shift while partial semantic FFs involve cases in which the borrowing language (in this case Arabic) picks only one sense (or sometimes two) from a polysemic word in the donor language (in this case English).
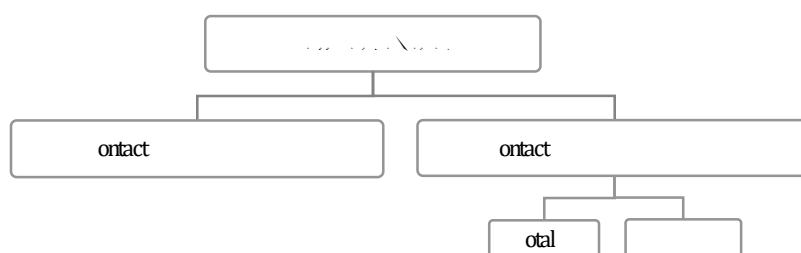

Figure 1. Types of English-Arabic FFs

With regard to frequency of occurrence, chance FFs are more frequent (30 pairs) than semanticFFs (21 pairs). In fact, the proportion of chance FFs between English and Arabic is expected to be much higher because the data collection process of chance FFs, in particular,is not comprehensive.In case of Arabic, the orthographic form of the Arabic part of the pair can be represented by transliteration. The word كان 'was' of the pair (*can*/كان), for instance, can be transliterated as [ka:n], getting the pattern*can*/ كان [ka:n]. Thus, the two parts of the pair are almost identical concerning the spoken form. Other examples include pairs like *rough*/ رف [raff],*mat, Matt*/ مات[ma:t], fool/ فول [fu:l], etc. The same thing can be stated about semantic FFs; many of them have a very similar phonetic shape (*siphon*/ سيفون[se:fu:n], *cream*/ كريم[kri:m], *receiver*/ريسيفر [risi:far], etc.). All these cases of FFs, either chance or semantic, represent cases of homophones. Homographic FFs don't exist because the orthographic systems of Arabic and

English are totally different. The following sections are devoted to contrast and analyze English-Arabic FFs with illustrative examples. In the process of meaning distinction, MW and CALDare referred to where necessary.

3.1. Contact-Free Ffs

These words do not have the same etymological origin and they are only similar in form by chance. As the collected data show, in addition to being very common, cases of contact-free or chance FFs are very interesting and in some cases are very peculiar. In many communicative interactions, they may cause embarrassment and lead to misunderstanding, especially among second language learners. To illustrate this type of FFs, it is appropriate to start with pairs whose parts belong to the same grammatical category and the examples in (1) are suffice:

(1)	*dean/* دين [di:n]	N/N
	can/ كان [ka:n]	V/V
	mask/ مسك [mask]	N/N
	aroma/ أرومة [?aru:mah]	N/N
	clap/ كلاب [kla:b]	N/N

The pair *dean/* دين , for example, is a typical FF of this type. The English *dean* 'a director of a college' has a false friend دين [di:n] in Arabic, meaning 'religion' which is totally different from that of English. Similarly, the wordأرومة[?aru:mah] in Standard Arabic denotes 'what remains in the ground of the tree after cutting it; origin' (MW). In English, its counterpart*aroma*,however, has the sense of 'a strong, pleasant smell'(CALD). Another interesting example from the list in (1) is the couple clap/ كلاب. While a *clap* in English refers to 'the act of clapping', the word [kla:b] or [kila:b] in Arabic has the denotation of 'dogs'. The rest of chance FFsin the collected data consists of words thatrefer to different word class. Some of these cases are exemplified in (2) below:

(2)	*jealous/* جلس [jalas]	A/V
	feel/ فيل [fi:l]	V/N
	rough/ رف [raff]	A/N
	hat/ هات [ha:t]	N/V
	mat, *Matt/* مات [ma:t]	N/V
	safari/ سفري [safari]	N/A

The English noun *mat* 'a rug' or the proper noun *Matt* constitutes an interesting FF with the Arabic verb مات [ma:t] 'to die'. In many occasions, this FF becomes a source of confusion for Arab learners of English when they hear a phrase like 'Matt Johnson'; it may be understood in such a way that someone called 'Johnson' has died. Another Arabic verb, that is جلس [jalas], which means '(he) sat down', represents a funny FF with the English adjective*jealous*. The adjectiveسفري [safari]in some colloquial Arabic is used to describe a situation in a restaurant when you make a take-out order and eat it somewhere else. In English, the noun *safari* denotes something else; it refers to 'a trip to watch, photograph, or hunt wild animals in their natural environment'(CALD). The Arabic سفريalso has another meaning when it is used as a phrase; it comes to mean 'my travel'. This sense is common in all Arabic varieties and the English *safari*is originally borrowed from Arabic and it has entered English via Swahili (MWD). This suggests that the word سفري can be problematic only in those Arabic dialects which use the word in its first meaning.

What is also interesting here is that some Arabic words are forming FFs with the names of countries and nationalities. This holds true with pairs like *Japan/* جبان [jaba:n] 'coward', *Russia/* رشا [raša] 'a female proper noun; (he) bribed somebody', and *Roman/*رمان [rumma:n] 'pomegranate'. Moreover, some cases of chance FFs reflect some kind of miscommunication and even offensive situation. The English proper name *Nike* or *Nick* and the Arabic word فك [fakk] are ordinary and common words in the two languages and refer to 'a US company' or to 'a name of a person' and to 'the upper or lower jaw', respectively. These

words, however, make FFs with their counterparts, i.e. نيك [nayk] and *fuck* which are taboo and offensive words. They both refer to the concept of 'sexual intercourse'. Thus, the pairs *Nike, Nick*/ نيك and *fuck*/ فك are problematic and are considered a source of embarrassment and confusion for L2 learners.

3.2. Contact-induced Ffs

These words share a similar pronunciation because they have the same etymological origin due to lexical borrowing in a language contact situation.They have nothing to do with coincidence. The meaning of the Arabic word differs from that of its English counterpart, either fully or partially. Contact-induced FFs are also called semantic FFs. As opposed to chance FFs, pair constituents of semantic FFs are always of the same grammatical category; in the present collected data, most of them are nouns except the pairs *full*/ فل and *hello*/ألو which are anadjective and an interjection, respectively.The majority of contact-induced FFs are collected from colloquial Arabic, namely Saudi Arabic and Yemeni Arabic. Some of them are also found in the standard variety.

3.2.1. Total FFs
Total semantic FFs are those pairs in which the borrowed word in Arabic has a completely different meaning from that of its English original form. This process is referred to as semantic changewhich is manifested in many ways such as semantic shift, ellipsis, and figurative extension.Pairs like *siphon/* سيفون, (ignition)*switch*(key) / سويس, *one-eight/* ونيت, *white*/ وايت, *screw*(driver)/ سكروب are examples of total semantic FFs and demonstrate the above-mentioned three strategies of semantic change. Some of them are analyzed in detail below to illustrate this kind of FFs.

سيفون / *siphon*
(3)   هناك ثلاثة عوامل رئيسة تستهلك الماء في المنازل أولها، الماء الذي يستهلكه السيفون، وثانيها غسل الملابس، والثالث الاستحمام.
(https://www.okaz.com.sa/article/969150)
There are three main factors that help consume water in houses: water that is consumed by the siphon, washing clothes, and having a bath.

(4)   وحددت الوزارة أيضا القطع ذات الطلب المستمر ... وهي: الزيوت بشكل عام البطارية، فلتر التكييف، فلتر زيت ماكينة (السيفون)، فلتر زيت قير، سير الدينمو.(https://www.okaz.com.sa/article/1012716)
The Ministry also identified spare parts of continuous demand ... namely: car oils in general, the battery, air conditioner filter, engine oil filter, gear oil filter, and dynamo belt.

The English loanسيفون[se:fu:n] in Arabic as illustrated in (3)originally refers to that 'tube used in the toilet to flush water and make the toilet empty'. The same meaning of the word [se:fu:n] is reported by MW and Abdurahim (2011), referring to it as 'the toilet box'. What concerns us here is the other sense of [se:fu:n]. In Saudi Arabia, this word is also used to refer to 'the oil filter of a car' as it is clear from the context in (4). It represents a totally different meaning.The original sense of the loanword [se:fu:n] 'siphon' stated above is completely shifted. In English, it isemployed to describe a device related to a toilet and used for flushing water. In Arabic, in addition to having the previous meaning, it also refers to a device related to a car and used for filtering engine oil.Such cases of total semantic shift are usually considered problematic, as words which have undergone this type of change contain no aspects of the original meaning and hence leading to the occurrence of a FF.The same can be said about the FF pair (ignition) *switch* (key)/ سويس [suways] 'car ignition key'.

سكروب /*Screw*(driver)
(5)   وتم القبض عليهما وبعد العودة الى السياره لتفتيشها وجد بداخلها سلاح ابيض النوع خنجر وشاكوش وسكروب.
(http://www.alriyadh.com/715222)
They both were arrested, and after returning to the car for inspection, there were a white weapon (a dagger), a hammer, and a screwdriver.

In the Saudi context, as the extract in (5) indicates, سكروب [sakru:b] has very interesting meaning: it is used to describe 'the tool used to tighten screws', that is 'screwdriver' and has nothing to do with the nail or the screw itself. What happened here is that the second part 'driver' is truncated and its meaning is transferred to the neighboring part, that is 'screw'. This process is known as ellipsis in which speakers or users of a language tend to drop the first or second part of the phrase or compound. In the case of [sakru:b], the elliptical form denotes the same meaning of the full form of thecompound. The linguistic motive of morphological contiguity can be invoked to interpret semantic alterations that occur due to ellipsis. The confusion due to the FF pair *screw* (driver)/سكروبarises from the fact that the meaning of the English compound'screwdriver' is transfused into the first part, that is [sakru:b] 'screw', which consequently may be understood by L2 learners to refer to either 'a screw' (a nail) or 'a screwdriver' (a tool).

ونيت /one-eight

(6)   التقطت مصادر لصحيفة (الجزيرة) صوراً لأدوية محملة في سيارة ونيت من نوع فورد، كانت تسير على طريق العارضة إلى أبو عريش (https://www.al-jazirah.com/2013/20130209/fe9.htm)

Sources for Al-Jazeera newspaper took pictures of medical drugs loaded in a Ford pickup, which was traveling along Al-Aridhah Road to Abu Arish.

The word ونيت in the extract in (6) is used in Arabic in its Saudi and some other Gulf States context to describe a specific type of car which is similar to 'a pickup truck'. Tracking the origin of the word [wane:t] in Arabic has led to two interesting scenarios. The first interpretation is that the employees working for Aramco in its early days in Saudi Arabia were the first to use this term. The pickup trucks, which used to bring them the daily subsistence, had a serial number starting with *one-eight* '1-8'. Since the trucks used to come to them on a daily basis, the employees used to call them [wane:t] 'one-eight' by referring to the vehicle serial number. Then, the two-word numberwascombined together getting the word [wane:t]. The second possibility is provided by Abdulrahim (2011: 221). He claims that [wane:t] is derived from 'vanette' which is the diminutive form of 'van' or from the phrase 'van-8' which is usually written on this type of vehicle denoting the passenger capacity of that vehicle. The FF pair *one-eight/* ونيتin its first meaning is an instance of figurative extension in the form of synecdoche, a mechanism which refers to a change in meaning based on whole-part relation. The part, in this case, is [wane:t] 'one-eight' (the serial number) which is employed to designate the whole, that is the vehicle. The second etymological interpretation of [wane:t], however, may be classified as an instance of semantic shift. Usually 'a van' or 'vanette' refers to 'a small vehicle with a closed part at the back'. The loanword [wane:t], however, doesn't denote this referent; it rather refers to 'a vehicle with an open part at the back in which goods can be carried'. This would mean that it has the same meaning as 'a pickup truck'. The same can be said about the FF pair *white/* وايت [wayt] 'water tanker, water tank truck'.

3.2.2. Partial FFs

Like total FFs, this group of FFs are also associated with English loanwords which have entered Arabic through lexical borrowing mediated by language contact.These loanwords constitute FF pairs with their English original counterparts. The difference in meaning between the two parts of each pair arises from the fact that the English word is always polysemic (having many senses) and when it is incorporated into the lexicon of Arabic,only one sense is usually retained. All other senses are excluded. This process is known as semantic narrowing or semantic specialization where the meaning of the borrowed word gets restricted. The misuse of partial FFs by L2 learners may occur when one sense of the polysemic word in the donor language is assigned to the borrowed word rather than assigning its common meaning acquired at the time of accommodating it into the borrowing language.The following examples are sufficient to make this type of FFs clear;it is worth mentioning that all denotations of English words given in the illustrations below are taken from CALD.

Table 1. Illustrations of partial FFs

FF pairs	Senses of the English part	Senses of its counterpart in Arabic
garage/ جراش [jaraš, gara:š]	1) a building where a car is kept 2) a place where cars are repaired 3) a place where fuel is sold for cars 4) fast and electronic dance music	1) a building where a car is kept
chat/ شات[ša:t]	1) a friendly informal conversation 2) a discussion that involves sending messages over the internet	2) a discussion that involves sending messages over the internet
cover/ كفر [kafar]	1) something that is put over something else to protect it 2) the stiff outside part of a book or magazine 3)shelter or protection in a dangerous situation 4) protection by someone who has a gun	1) something that is put over something else to protect it
*receiver/*ريسيفر [risi:far]	1) the part of a phone in two parts that you hold to your ear and mouth 2) a piece of equipment that changes radio and television signals into sounds and pictures 3) a person who officially deals with the business matters 4) an attacking player (in American football)	2) a piece of equipment that changes radio and television signals into sounds and pictures
goal / جول [go:l]	1) an area on a playing field 2) a point scored in some sports 3) an aim or purpose	1) an area on a playing field 2) a point scored in some sports
*model/*موديل [mu:de:l]	1) something that a copy can be based on 2) a person who wears clothes so that they can be photographed or shown to possible buyers 3) a particular type of machine, especially a car 4) something that represents another thing, usually smaller than the real object	3) a particular type of machine, especially a car

Table one shows that the original item of each FF pair is polysemic having several denotations ranging between two to four. The Arabic counterpart always picks only one meaning or maximum two as in the case of جول [go:l].

As an evidence of restricting the meaning of borrowed words in Arabic into one sense, Appendix (B) shows that the loanword ريسيفر has only one and the same meaning, i.e. 'a piece of equipment that changes radio and television signals into sounds and pictures ', in all the forty citations found in the Arabic Corpus Tool which is called "arabiCorpus". The Arabic extracts in (7) with their translations below are given as an illustration of the meaning that the word ريسيفر denotes in those forty texts. The examples are selectedfrom the beginning, middle, and end of the screenshots in Appendix (B).

(7) a. حتى الآن تتحفظ جمارك مطار القاهرة الدولي علي أجهزة الريسيفر والفاكسات والتليفونات اللاسلكية و الاسكنر التي ترد بصحبة الراكب ...

Until now, Cairo International Airport customs have reservations about receivers, faxes, wireless telephones, and scanners that come with the passenger...

b. ولمن يحمل معه الفاكس أو التليفون اللاسلكي أوالريسيفر يقول له هذه تعليمات الهيئة العامة للمواصلات السلكية ....

He informs those who carry a fax, wireless phone, or receiver with them, that these are the instructions of the Public Transport Authority...

c. صدرت الشركة العامة لصناعة التلفزيونات (سيرونكس) 500 جهاز ريسيفر إلى الأردن ...

The State Company for Television Industry (Sironex) exported 500 receivers to Jordan...

d. بعد قتل الضحية وسرقة 700 جنيه من حافظة نقوده، إضافة إلى سرقة جهاز كمبيوتر، وريسيفر، وهاتفين محمولين، وميدالية مفاتيح من الذهب ...

After killing the victim and stealing 700 pounds from his wallet, in addition to stealing a computer, a receiver, two mobile phones, and a gold key chain...

e. ضبط 5 شبكات مركزية لبث القنوات الفضائية و83 ريسيفر ومكونات الشبكات من كروت فك الشفرة...

5 central networks for broadcasting satellite channels, 83 receivers and network components of decoding cards have been seized ...

f. مشهد آلاف المواطنين المتكدسين على أبواب محال الساتلايت في عمان، كلٌ يتأبط "ريسيفره" على أمل فك شيفرة القنوات الرياضية التي تبث مباريات كأس العالم...

> The scene of thousands of citizens crowded at the doors of satellite shops in Amman, everyone is carrying his receiver, hoping to decipher the sports channels that broadcast the World Cup matches...

As it is clear from the citations in the screenshots, the borrowed word ريسيفر with this restricted meaning is employed in both the standard variety as well as the colloquial varieties of Arabic.

4. Implications

The illustrations of FFs used in the current study, though to some extent not statistically significant, serve to direct our attention to the presence of lexical FFs between English and Arabic despite the fact that these two languages don't share the same etymological origin. Investigating the phenomenon in depth may reveal more semantic and pragmatic aspects regarding the pitfalls and challenges pertaining to lexical FFs that L2 learners and translators may face. The presence of chance FFs in my data contradicts with Al-Wahy (2009) who claims that accidental FFs are lacking in English and Arabic because the two languages don't have a similar writing system. It can be assumed that to be present in two languages, it is enough for chance FFs to have identical or similar pronunciation.

Loanwords usually facilitate the translation and foreign language learning processes because they have similar meanings. However, when the meaning of borrowed words is changed totally or partially as shown above, such elements may become deceptive resulting in what is known as FFs which in turn lead to some translation and language acquisition problems. Loanwords like [sakru:b] 'screwdriver' and *wane:t* 'one-eight/ vanette' represent peculiar cases of semantic change in Arabic in the Saudi (and may be in some other Gulf States) context. They are peculiar in the sense that such borrowed items designate very specific senses which don't exist in other varieties of Arabic.For example, a loanword like سكروب [sakru:b] refers to 'nail with a spiral ridge while it refers to 'a screw' in Yemeni Arabic.

Some cases of FFs discussed in the earlier examples show more complicated relations. For example, the Arabic word فل [ful] refers to a kind of fragrant Arabian jasmine and makes a chance FF with the English adjective *full*. In the same time, the Arabic loanword [ful] 'complete; having eaten so much' is forming a semantic FF with the same adjective *full*. The same can be said about the pair *cover*/ كفر [kafar] '(he) disbelieved in Allah' (a chance FF) and *cover*/كفر [kafar] 'a cell phone cover' (a semantic FF). كفر also has another meaning in Yemeni and Saudi Arabic. It carries the meaning of a 'car's tier'. Related to this is the example *can*/ كان where the Arabic word كان [ka:n] is contrasted with the English auxiliary verb *can* and the noun *can* which means 'a tin' forming two examples of chance FFs.

5. Conclusions

Despite its exploratory nature, this study offers some insights into the presence of lexical FFs in Arabic and provides a general classification for them. The analysis of the sample has shown that lexical FFs do exist between Arabic and English. They are of two main types: chance FFs and semantic FFs. The former is purely accidental while the latter occurs due to lexical borrowing. This taxonomy agrees with that of Chamizo-Domínguez andNerlich (2002), Chamizo-Domínguez (2008) and Roca-Varela (2015). However, it differs from them in terms of semantic FFs. In such studies, semantic FFs usually occur due to lexical borrowing or because the given languages are sharing the same cognate because they are genetically related languages. In case of Arabic, semantic FFs come into existence only because of lexical borrowing rather than sameness of the original cognatesdue to the fact that Arabic and English don't belong to the same language family. Although it is unanimously agreed that FFs in general cause many problems at the level of communication, use, and understanding, the particular existence of taboo and offensive words in some English-Arabic FFs suggests further degrees of embarrassment and confusion.

The purpose of the current study, as implied earlier, is primarily theoretical;it only attempts to shed more lights on the topic of FFs identification and recognition in Arabic due to the scarcity of research in this regard.Therefore, further research is urgently needed to investigate the problems caused by FFs in Arabic and English in the processes of teaching/ learning and translation.It also leaves the door open for a more comprehensive and corpus-based extraction of English-Arabic FFs similar to those done by Mitkov, et al (2007) and Fišer and Ljubešić (2013). The automatic detection of FFs will certainly help in solving problems and difficulties created by FFs in L2 teaching/ learning and translation processes.

FFs may also occur between the dialects of the same language and they are usually known as intralingual FFs (see Roca-Varela, 2011). In Arabic, the verb يسبح [yasbah] is used in some Arab Gulf dialects to mean 'to have a bath/ shower'. In other Arabic dialects, the verb يسبح is only used to mean 'to swim' while verbs like يغتسل[yaġtasil], يستحم [yastaħim], ياخذ دوش [ya:xuðduš] are all used to mean 'to have a bath/ shower'. This may hinder communication among Arab speakers. In the various Arabic dialects across the Arab World, there are numerous instances which make speakers experience such embarrassing situations. One of the most interesting example is the word فرخ/ فرخة [farx/ farxah]. In Egyptian Arabic and other Arabic dialects, it refers to 'chicken, hen', but in Algerian Arabic, it surprisingly means 'an illegitimate child'. Another example is the word شكشوكة [šakšu:kah] found in Sudanese Arabic as opposed to other dialects, especially Saudi Arabic. While in Saudi Arabia it normally denotes 'a dish made of eggs and tomatoes', in Sudan, it comes to mean 'a loose or out of control woman'. These interesting examples, therefore, enhance researchers to conduct further research on FFs and false cognates among Arabic dialects.

6. Ethics Committee Approval

The author(s) confirm(s) that the study does not need ethics committee approval according to the research integrity rules in their country (Date of Confirmation: 17/09/2020).

Acknowledgements

References

Abdulrahim, F. (2011).*muɛjam ?al-daxi:l fil-luġah al-ɛarabiyyahal-ḥadi:θahwalahaja:tiha* [A dictionary of loanwords in the Modern Arabic and its dialects]. Demascus: Dar Al-Qalam publisher.

Al-Muɛjam Al-Waseet [Al- Waseet Arabic-Arabic Dictionary]. (2004). Arabic Language Academy, Cairo, Egypt: Al-Shorouk International Library.

Al-Wahy, A. (2009). Idiomatic false friends in English and Modern Standard Arabic. *Babel, 55*(2), 101–123.

Batchelor, R. & Offord, M. (2000). *Using French: A Guide to Contemporary Usage* (3rd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Beeching, K. (2010). Semantic change: Evidence from false friends. *Languages in Contrast, 10*(2), 139–165.

Beltrán, R. (2006). Towards a Typological Classification of False Friends (Spanish- English). *Resla*, *19*, 29-39.

Cambridge Advanced Learners' Dictionary. (2020). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (the online version) https://dictionary.cambridge.org

Chamizo-Domínguez, P. &Nerlich, B. (2002). False friends: their origin and semantics in some selected languages.*Journal of Pragmatics 34*,1833–1849.

Chamizo-Domínguez, P. (2008). *Semantics and Pragmatics of False Friends*. London and New York: Routledge.

Fišer, D. &Ljubešić, N. (2013). Best Friends or Just faking It? Corpus-Based Extraction of Slovene-Croatian Translation equivalents and False Friends.*Slovenščina 2.0*, *1,* 50- 77.

Gouws, R., Prinsloo, D. & de Schryver, G. (2004). Friends will be Friends – True or False. Lexicographic approaches to the treatment of false friends. Euralex 2004 Proceedings: Lexicological Issues of Lexicographical Relevance, 797- 806.

Memišević, A. &Margić, B. (2011). Impact of Language Proficiency on Error Rate in Croatian-English False Friends. In Vukanović, M. and Krstanović, I. (Eds.).*The Global and Local Dimensions of English: Exploring Issues of Language and Culture* (pp. 69- 82). Berlin: LIT

Merriam-Webster Dictionary. (2020). (The online version) https://www.merriam-webster.com/

Mitkov, R., Pekar, V, Blagoev, D. &Mulloni, A. (2007). Methods for extracting and classifying pairs of cognates and false friends. *Machine Translation 21*(1), 29–53, Springer.

Nida, Eugene. (2000). Principles of correspondence. In Venuti, L. (Ed.) *The Translation Studies Reader* (pp.126– 140). London and New York: Routledge.

Roca-Varela, M. (2011). Intralingual false friends: British English and American English as a case in point. *Seminar Scholar*, 132- 138. Retrieved from https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Intralingual-false-friends-%3A-British-English-and-as-Roca-Varela/d0e4e6961bce30737608d522ef20851b0d17e951

Roca-Varela, M. (2014). Faux amis in speech and writing: a corpus-based study of English false friends in the production of Spanish students. In Vandelanotte, L., Davidse, K., Gentens, C., &Kimps, D. (Eds.) *Recent Advances in Corpus Linguistics: Developing and Exploiting Corpora.* (Language and Computers - Studies in Practical Linguistics; Vol. 78) (pp. 293- 308). Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi

Roca-Varela, M. (2015). *False friends in learner Corpora: A corpus-based study of English false friends in the written and spoken production of Spanish learners*. Bern and Berlin: PETER LANG.

Soglasnova, L. (2018). Dealing with False Friends to Avoid Errors in Subject Analysis in Slavic Cataloging: An Overview of Resources and Strategies. *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly*, *56* (5-6), 404-421.

Veisbergs, A. (1996). False Friends Dictionaries: A Tool for Translators or Learners or Both. Proceedings of the Seventh EURALEX 1996 International Congress on Lexicography in Göteborg, Sweden,627- 634.

Vinay, J.-P. &Darbelnet, J. (1995). *Comparative Stylistics of French and English: A Methodology for Translation*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins. Translated and edited by J. C. Sager and M.-J. Hamel.

Yaylaci, Y. &Argynbayev, A. (2014). English-Russian False Friends in ELT Classes with Intercultural Communicative Perspectives. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, *122* , 58 – 64. Elsevier.

Appendix A.

A list of fifty-one lexical false friends between English and Arabic with their meanings.

Type of false friends	The meaning of the English item vs. the meaning of its Arabic counterpart
Contact-free false friends	
aroma/أرومة	a strong, pleasant smell / what remains in the ground of the tree after cutting it; origin
beer/ بير	an alcoholic drink made from grain / a well
can/كان	an auxiliary verb; a tin / was
clap/كلاب	the act of clapping / dogs
Cover/ كفر	to put or spread something over something / (he) disbelieved in Allah
dean/دين	an official of high rank in a college / religion
fat/فات	having a lot of flesh on the body/ passed
feel/فيل	to experience something / an elephant
fool/فول	a person who behaves in a silly way/ beans
fuck/فك	an act of having sexual intercourse / (upper or lower) jaw
full/ فل	complete; having eaten so much / a kind of fragrant Arabian jasmine
fun/فن	pleasure; entertainment / art; technique
good/ جود	pleasant; satisfactory / generosity
hat/ هات	a covering for head / give (me something)
Japan/ جبان	a country / a coward
jealous/ جلس	fearful about love / (he) sat down
machine/ مشين	a piece of equipment / odious
mat, Matt/ مات	a rug, a proper name / (he) died
mask/ مسك	face cover / holding something by hand
mud/ مد	wet, sticky earth / stretching or extending something
my/ ميّ	belonging to me / water
Nike, Nick/ نيك	a US company, a proper name / sexual intercourse
Roman/ رمان	a person who is from Rome / pomegranates
Russia/ رشا	a country / a female proper name; (he) bribed somebody
rough/ رف	not smooth; difficult / a shelf
safari/ سفري	a trip to watch and photograph wild animals / describing a take-out order in a restaurant
safe/ سيف	not dangerous / a sword
shape/ شيب	the particular form of something / white hair
soccer/ سكر	football / sugar
zoom/ زوم	a means of producing an enlarged image / juicy substance
Contact-induced false friends	
Total	
screw(driver)/ سكروب	a thin, pointed nail with a spiral edges / a screwdriver
siphon/ سيفون	a toilet device used for flushing water / a car filter
white/ وايت	a color / a water tanker
(ignition) switch (key)/ سويس	a place where the car key s inserted / a car ignition key
book / بوك	a written text / a notebook
one-eight/ ونيت	a serial number (of a certain car) / a pickup truck
stamp/ إستمبة	a tool for putting a mark on an object / a stamp pad
partial	
capsule/ كبسولة	(a polysemous word) / a smallcontainer with medicine inside that you swallow
chat/ شات	(a polysemous word) / a discussion that involves sending messages over the internet
cream/ كريم	(a polysemous word) / a soft substance that is rubbed on skin; a type of sweet
dish/ ديش	(a polysemous word) / a satellite aerial for receiving television signals
flash/ فلاش	(a polysemous word) / the bright light of a camera; a flash drive
full/ فل	(a polysemous word) /complete; having eaten so much
garage/ جراش	(a polysemous word) / a building where a car is kept
goal/ جول	(a polysemous word) / an area on a playing field ; a point scored in some sports
hello/ ألو	(a polysemous word) / what is said at the beginning of telephone conversation
model/ موديل	(a polysemous word) / a particular type of machine, especially a car
penalty/ بلنتي	(a polysemous word) /an advantage given in some sports (football)
receiver/ ريسيفر	(a polysemous word) / a device that changes TV signals into sounds and pictures
spirit/ أسبريت	(a polysemous word) / alcoholic liquids used for cleaning, mixing with paint, etc.
cover/ كفر	(a polysemous word) / something that is put over something else to protect it

Appendix (B)

Screenshots of 40 extractions (A and B) of the loanword ريسيفر [risiːfar] 'receiver' from arabiCorpus (Arabic Corpus Research Tool) (http://arabicorpus.byu.edu/)

A.

B.

Sahte arkadaşlar ve sözcüksel ödünç alma:

İngilizce ve Arapça arasındaki sahte arkadaşların dilbilimsel analizi

Özet

Bu teorik çalışma, İngilizce ve Arapça'da genetik olarak ilgisiz diller olarak sözcüksel sahte arkadaşların (SA) varlığına ilişkin farkındalık yaratmayı amaçlamaktadır. Aynı zamanda anlamsal bir bakış açısından SA'lar için genel bir sınıflandırma sağlar. Elliyi aşkın SA çiftinden oluşan bir örnek, formları, telaffuzları ve anlamlarıyla karşılaştırılarak incelenir. Analiz, İngilizce Arapça SA'ların iki tipte olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır: Şans SA'ları (tesadüfen meydana gelir) ve semantik SA'lar (sözcüksel ödünç alma yoluyla bulunur), ilki ikinciden daha sıktır. Bu sınıflandırma, Chamizo-Domínguez (2008) ve Roca-Varela (2015) tarafından sunulanlarla uyumludur. Anlamsal SA'lar toplam (anlamsal kayma, üç nokta veya mecazi uzantı nedeniyle) veya kısmi (anlamsal daraltma süreci yoluyla) olabilir. Şans SA'ları, SA çiftlerinin bazı bileşenlerinin tabu ve saldırgan kelimeler içermesi nedeniyle çeşitli derecelerde utanç ve kafa karışıklığına neden olmaları açısından daha sorunludur. Bu nedenle, bu tür sözcüksel SA'lar, ikinci dil öğrenenleri arasında yanlış anlama, yanlış iletişim ve kafa karışıklığı yaratabilecek potansiyel aracılar olarak kabul edilir.

Anahtar sözcükler: yanlış arkadaşlar; İngilizce; Arapça; şans yanlış arkadaşlar; anlamsal yanlış arkadaşlar

AUTHOR BIODATA

Anwar A. H. Al-Athwary is an associate professor at Najran University, KSA. He received his M.A. in Linguistics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. He got his PhD in Contact Linguistic and lexical borrowing from Aligarh Muslim University, India. Al-Athwary has published a number of research papers and book chapters in international and national journals of Linguistics and edited books on Linguistics. He has also supervised and refereed some MA theses in Applied Linguistics. His special areas of interest include lexical borrowing, phonetics and phonology, linguistic landscape, and translation.