False Friends in Urdu and Russian

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Abstract

This article belongs to a series of articles about the loanwords, cognates and false friends in Urdu language. Cognates are words in two different languages which present similar spelling, phonetics and meaning. Cognates usually facilitate a second-language learner on the tasks of vocabulary acquisition and expansion, reading comprehension, as well as in their learning process. Cognates in two or more languages, usually, have a common origin due to their diachronic relationship, which in turn, makes them share some sort of semantic affinity. However, false friends are those words that have had a dissimilar development and, as a result, may be deceptive in meaning and can also confuse the learners and students of L2, as the learners usually assume that they know the meaning of both words, which actually, misleads them. The learner needs to pay attention to pairs of words that appear similar but are, in fact, false friends: they have different meaning in some contexts or in all contexts. In this research we propose study of pairs of words which are false friends in Russian and Urdu. We use measures of phonetic similarity as a basic feature for classification, since Urdu and Russian present different scripts. In addition, we study their level of similarity through their lexical distance (Levenshtein algorithm). Semantic criterion is also utilized as a common framework for the analysis of false friends. The inferences of this study will provide Russian as well as Urdu language teachers with new understanding into the development of intercultural communicative proficiency in FLT as well as assist them with the development of teaching and learning strategies.

Keywords: false friends, similarity measures, lexical distance, SLA

Introduction

Everyone who studies a foreign language is faced with the issue of false friends. The term "false friends" was introduced by Koessler and Derocquigni in 1928 in the book *Les Faux-Amis ou Les Trahisons du vocabulaire Anglais*. False friends (from French "Faux amis" – interlanguage homonyms (interlanguage paronyms) are a pair of words in two languages, similar in spelling and/or pronunciation but differ in meanings. Partial false friends are those terms with similar spellings in two languages and at least one meaning in common, but not all.

A generally accepted classification of false friends consists of two types such as total false friends and partial false friends. This categorization is based on the semantic differences existing between two similar word pairs in two different languages. Total false friends imply an obvious semantic difference between the L2 and the L1, English and Russian in this case (e.g. English magazine-meaning a periodical vs. Russian магазин-meaning a shop, English gymnasium-meaning a sports hall vs. Russian гимназия-meaning a special type of school). (Yaylaci & Argynbayev, 2014)

Traditionally speaking, false friends are commonly seen as interlinguistic phenomena affecting different languages (Chamizo Domínguez & Nerlich, 2002; Hill, 1982; Koessler & Derocquigny, 1928; Prado, 2001; Shlesinger & Malkiel, 2005). False friends can be defined as:

1. Two words in two languages designate utterly different things; the words in question usually have different etymologies; the similarity between the words is rather accidental.

2. Two words in two languages have common (related) etymologies and something common in their meanings.

   a. The meanings of the two words differ in certain semantic details.

   b. The meanings are more or less identical, but the differences are stylistic.

   c. The meanings are more or less identical, but the words in question have different syntactical valences (Готлиб К.Г.М. ,1985).

Class 1 presents difficulties in distinction and learning only for beginners in learning a foreign language. Although advanced learners are not confused by them. The ones that really cause difficulties are the ones that belong to class 2.

Etymology of false friends can be absolutely different in case of accidental similarity of their pronunciation or spelling. Then, the similarity is purely coincidental. These meanings can be quite different through synchronic analysis. Moreover, sometimes there was no borrowing and words are derived from a common root in some ancient language (e.g. Greek, Latin) but have different meanings which developed with the passage of time and language evolution.

Other studies have facilitated the learners of L2 through the identification of cognates and loanwords in Urdu and other languages (Maldonado Garcia, 2013; Maldonado Garcia & Borges, 2013; Maldonado

Garcia & Borges, 2014). False friends are and will continue causing all sorts of difficulties to learners of L2.For example the violation of lexical combinability or stylistic compatibility, matching words in the utterance. These aspects complicate the perception of speech – during reading (written perception) and especially during listening (oral perception of discourse) and can seriously complicate the work of those involved in the translation, as false friends can lead to misunderstandings of the text or speech and in fact, delay the process of language development and acquisition.

In order to distinguish cognates (true friends) from "false friends," first of all a learner of L2 must rely on the assistance of dictionaries. It is really difficult to choose which meaning of a word exactly appears in the context as the reader/listener has to take into account the subject matter, field specifics, and the whole context. Urdu speaking learners of Russian language are not immune to the problems that false friends create for the new learners. The same will occur with the Russian speaking learners of Urdu language. These errors are produced due to the interference from the L1. For this reason, awareness of Urdu-Russian false friends is necessary as it is one of the sources of learners' errors.

In many cases it is not possible for the learners to distinguish the exact meaning of a term just on the basis of personal language experience, since this can be deceptive for the learner of an L2. Due to this personal language experience, L2 learners try to establish correspondences between their L1, on the one hand, and the L2 they are trying to learn, on the other. False friends can mislead only beginners of L2. In fact, false friends often lead to incorrect translations as well as misunderstandings.

Comparison of Urdu-Russian False Friends

In this particular case, the terms that will be compared are a set of words in Urdu and Russian languages. Urdu is an Indo-European language of the Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan family of languages which Ethnologue characterizes as Central zone, Western Hindi, Hindustani (Lewis, 2009). Furthermore, with the English language, by virtue of article 251 of the Pakistan Constitution of 1973, Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. In addition, Russian language belongs to the Indo-European family, Balto-Slavic branch, Slavic, East (Lewis, 2009). In addition, Russian language is the national language of Russia according to the Constitution of 1993, article 68(1) which states: "The Russian language shall be a state language on the whole territory of the Russian Federation."

This paper addresses only the problems of Urdu speakers learning Russian, due to the establishment of false semantic correspondences. Once the vocabulary has been identified, the semantic comparison will be

performed to clarify the doubtful correspondences and identify the real meanings of both terms. The phonetic comparison of the terms will be performed through lexical distance analysis (Levenshtein algorithm) and later their etymology will be obtained from the respective dictionaries.

Identification

It has been observed that Pakistani students of Russian language are experiencing problems when it comes to the identification of false friends. In this matter, although automatic methods of cognates and false friend's identification exist (Mitkov, Blagoev,& Mulloni, 2007), a list of phonetically similar terms in both languages was established according to the students input during the Russian language class that takes place at the Institute of Languages, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. The terms were identified during students' written and oral exercises, dialogues, reading samples and other activities that take place during the teaching of the courses of the Russian Language Diploma, which has the duration of one year. Other terms were also identified through interactions with other colleagues, speakers of both languages, in this way the list was expanded.

Results

In order to assist learners of L2 avoid the most common mistakes, a list of such "false friends" is given below. The list includes the Russian term with its phonetic representation (IPA) and its meaning in English as well as the Urdu term with its phonetic representation (IPA) and its meaning in English. The similarity level has been performed through the phonetic representation due to the fact that both languages use different script. The Russian language uses the Cyrillic script and the Urdu language uses the Nastaliq script.[3] Therefore, both languages needed to be compared through an equivalent comparison method just like in Maldonado Garcia & Yapici (2014). The lexical distance comparison was performed through the Levenshtein algorithm.

The table below shows two different and significant aspects which can be analyzed; those aspects are the following:

1. Level of phonetic overlap
2. Level of semantic overlap

Furthermore we will consider the etymology of the Russian terms as well as the etymology of the Urdu terms with the purpose of revealing a common root or different root. At the end the results will be analyzed.

Table 1: Phonetic-Semantic Comparison of Russian-Urdu False Friends

Sr. No.	Russian	IPA	Meaning in English	Urdu	IPA	Meaning in English	Lexical Distance through Leven-shtein
1.	диван	dʲɪˈvan	sofa, a collect-ion of poems, a minister	دیوان	ḍiːvɑːn	cast, collection of poetry, room	3
2.	Фон	ˈfon	back-ground	فون	fɔːn	phone, tele-phone	1
3.	ластик эластик	ˈɫastʲɪk eˈɫastʲɪk	rubber, eraser, kind of synthetic thread	الستک	ɪlɑːstɪk	elastic	4
4.	шáбаш + шабáш	ˈʂabəʂ ʂaˈbaʂ	witches` enough	شبیش	ʃɑːbɑːʃ	well done	4
5.	кофта	ˈkoftə	jersey, knitted jacket	کوفتہ	koːft̪ɑː	name of a dish, balls of mince meat	3
6.	где	ˈɡdʲe	where	گدھے	ɡəd̪ʰeː	donkeys	3
7.	газета	ɡeˈzʲetə	news-paper	گسٹ	ɡəzəʈ	gazet book of records, telephone numbers news-paper	5
8.	масло+ pl. маслá	ˈmasɫə mesˈɫa	cooking oil, butter	مسئلہ	məsɑːlɑː	problem	4
9.	лук	ˈɫuk	onion	لک	lʊk	hot blast (of a furnace), hot wind	2
10.	закат	zeˈkat	sunset	زکٰوۃ	zəkɑːt̪	giving money to poor people	3
11.	деньги	ˈdʲenʲɡɪ	soney	ڈینگی	ɖæŋɡiː	virus of mosquito	5

12.	давай	deˈvaj	let us, come on	دوائى	d̪əvɑːiː	medicine	4
13.	дуб	ˈdup	oak	دهوپ	d̪ʰuːp	sunshine	2
14.	школа	ˈʂkoɫə	school	کوال	kɔːlɑː	cola (name of drink)	4
15.	Я	ˈja	i	پب	jɑː	or	1
16.	для	ˈdʲla	for	دلیب	d̪əljɑː	porridge	5
17.	два	ˈdva	two	دعب	d̪ʊʔɑː	pray	4
18.	вода	veˈda	water	وعده	vəʔd̪ɑː	promise	4
19.	рука	rʊˈka	hand, arm	رقع	rʊqʔɑː	small letter, stop	3
20.	страна	streˈna	country	تَرانه	t̪ərɑːnɑː	anthem	5
21.	давать	deˈvatʲ	give	دوات	d̪əvɑːt̪	inkpot	4
22.	дорога	deˈrogə	road	داروغه	d̪ɑːroːɣː	guard	5
23.	быстра	bɨstˈra	quick (femi-nine, short form)	بِئر	bəst̠rʴɑː	bed dressing: pillows, sheets, etc.	3
24.	куда	kʊˈda	where	خدا	xʊd̠ɑː	god	3
25.	мир	ˈmʲir̥	world, peace	مِئر	miːr	cast name	3
26.	мысль	ˈmɨslʲ	thought	مثّل	mɪsl	example	2
27.	Брат	ˈbrat	brother	برات	bərɑːt̠	wedding	3
28.	мало	ˈmaɫə	a little bit	مبال	mɑːlɑː	necklace	3
29.	мера	ˈmʲerə	measure	میرا	meːrɑː	my	3
30.	база	ˈbazə	base	ﯾز	bɑːz	hawk	2
31.	ладно	ˈɫadnə	ok	الدِن	lɑːd̠nɑː	to load	4
32.	карта	ˈkartə	map, card	کرٮ	kərtɑː	he does	3
33.	печь	ˈpʲetɕ	oven to bake	پٮچ	peːt͡ʃ	screw	3
34.	Баба	ˈbabə	un-civilized village woman	ﯾﯾب	bɑːbɑː	old man	2
35.	канал	keˈnaɫ	canal, channel	کنٮل	kənɑːl	unit of land measure equi-valent to 20 marlas	3
36.	узкий	ˈuskʲɪj	narrow	اش کی	ʊskiː	his, her	4

					(for female things)	
37.	завал	zeˈvaɫ	gorge	زوال	zəvɑːl	decline, fall	3
38.	камера	ˈkamʲirə	cell	کمرہ	kəmrɑː	room, cabin	3
39.	компания, кампания	kemˈpanʲɪijə	company	کمپنی	kʌmp(ə)ni	commer-cial business/ pleasant people to be with	6
40.	Композитор	kəmpɛzˈɪtər̥	compo-ser	کمپوزر	kəmˈpəʊzə	a person who writes music, especially as a pro-fessional occupa-tion	5

An initial look at the table indicates that the phonetic comparison of the terms demonstrates an elevated level of phonetic similarity or overlap. The words in Russian and Urdu can be actually misunderstood in one or the other language, especially those which include nasal sounds. Furthermore, it seems that the semantic comparison will prove a nil semantic overlap or correspondence. This means that while the phonetic overlap is elevated, there is no semantic overlap or shared meanings, which is typical of a false friend situation.

With the purpose of corroborating the previous mentioned assumption, an etymological analysis will be performed in order to compare the origins of both terms; the Urdu term as well as the Russian term. This etymological analysis will actually reveal the origins of the terms which in turn will prove that the terms are in fact false friends. The etymologies of the words have been taken from Этимологический словарь русского языка (2004) *and Urdu Dictionary. Urdu Encyclopedia* (2011).

Table 2: Etymology of Russian and Urdu Words

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
1.	диван	Most probably western Europe loan word (French – divan) rather than Turkish-Persian word دیوان (diwān)	دیوان	Arabic
2.	фон	Came to Russian from German "Fond" and "French "fond". Origin– Latin "fundus"	فون	From English and this one from a shared root of tele from the Greek ηηλε- and phone from the Greek gr. θωνο- y -θωνος
3.	ластик	Latin "elasticus"	السٹک	From English and this one from Latin "elasticus"
4.	шабаш	Came to Russian through Polish "szabas" Origin – Hebrew "šabbāϑ"	شبیش	Persian
5.	кофта	Origin – Eastern European Languages (Swedish and Danish "kofta", Norwegian "kufta").	کوفتہ	Persian
6.	где	Came from Old Slavonic "къде". Also related to Old Indic "kúha" and "kútrā"	گدھے	Prakrit
7.	газета	From Italian "gazzetta" and French "gazette"	گسٹ	From English and this one via French from Italian "gazzetta"
8.	масло	Came from Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *maz-slo.	مسئلہ	Arabic
9.	лук	Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *lukъ. Loan word from Old German *lauka-	لک	Persian
10.	закат (катить)	Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *kotiti, *koti o̜.	زکٰوۃ	Arabic
11.	деньги	Came from Old Russian	ڈینگی	From English and

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
	(деньга)	"деньга". Loan word from Turkic languages (compare: Tatar Language "täŋkä", Chuvash Language "täŋgə", Mongol language "teŋge", Kalmyk Language "tēŋgṇ")		this one from West Indian Spanish, from Kiswahili "dinga" (in full "kidingapopo"), influenced by Spanish dengue "fastidiousness"
12.	давай (давать)	Came from Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language*dáti; *dājátī; *dāvā́tī and related to *dōu̯ - (compare: Latvian "dãvât", Lithuanian "dovanà", Old Indic "dāvánē")	دوائی	Arabic
13.	дуб	Came from Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *dombros from *dom-ros and related to Greek "δέμω", Old Norse "timbr", Anglo-Saxon "timber", Gothic "timrjan"	دھوپ	Sanskrit
14.	школа	Came to Russian through Polish "szkoła" from Latin "schola" and Greek "ζχολή"	کوال	Sanskrit
15.	Я	From Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *azъ.	پ	Persian
16.	для	From Old Russian "дѣля" through Old Slavonic "дѣлга".	بلیب	Sanskrit
17.	два	Came from Old Russian "дъва" through Old Slavonic "дъва". Related to Lithuanian "dù", Latvian "divi", Old Indic "duvā́u", "duvā́", "dvāù", "dvā", Greek "δύω", "δύο", Latin "due", "duae", Gothic "twai",	دعب	Arabic

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
		"twōs"		
18.	вода	From Old Russian and Old Slavonic "вода". Related to Lithuanian "vanduõ", Gothic "watō", Greek "ὔδωρ", "ὔδαηος", Old Indic "udakám", "uda-", "udán-"	وعده	Arabic
19.	рука	From Old Slavonic "рѫка" through Old Russian "рука". Related to Lithuanian "rankà", Latvian "rùoka"	رقعہ	Arabic
20.	страна	From Old Church Slavonic Language and Old Slavonic "страна" through Old Russian "сторона". Related to Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language*storna	ترانہ	Persian
21.	давать	From Old Slavonic "давати". Related to root *dōu̯ -:Latvian "dãvât", Lithuanian "dovanà", Old Indic "dāvánē", Greek "δοέναι", "δοῦναι"	دوات	Arabic
22.	дорога	From Old Church Slavonic Language "драга". Related to Indo-European *dorgh-	داروغہ	Persian
23.	быстро	From Old Slavonic "быстръ". Related to Old Icelandic "bysia", Norwegian "buse", Swedish "busa"	بسترا	Persian
24.	куда	From Old Slavonic "кѫдоу". Related to Latin "quandō"	خدا	Persian
25.	мир	From Old-Slavonic and Old Russian "миръ". Related to Old Lithuanian "mieras",	منر	Arabic

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
		Latvian "miêrs", Old Indic "mitrás"		
26.	мыслить (мысль)	From Old Slavonic "мыслити", "мышлҗ"	مثل	Arabic
27.	брат	From Old Slavonic "братръ", "брать". Related to Lithuanian "brotere ͂", Latvian "brātarītis", Old Indic "bhrā́tā", Greek "θρᾱ́ηηρ", "θρᾱ́ηωρ", Latin "frāter", Irish "brāthir", Gothic "brōþar"	برات	Arabic
28.	мáлый (мало)	From Old Slavonic through Old Russian "малъ". Related to Greek "μῆλον", Latin "malus", Old Irish "míl", Gothic "smals", Saxon "small"	مال	Sanskrit
29.	мера	From Old Slavonic through Old Russian "мѣра". Related to Indo-European root *mē-: Old Indic "mā́ti", "mímāti", Latin "mētior", Greek "μῆηις", "μηηιάω", Gothic "mēla"	میرا	Sanskrit
30.	база	Through German "Base" or French "base" from Latin "basis" and Greek "βάζις"	باز	Persian
31.	лад (ладно)	There is no reliable etymology. Scientists see relations (connections) with gothic "lētan" rather than with Irish "laaim" and Greek "ἐλάω", "ἐλαύνω"	الدب	Sanskrit
32.	карта	Through Polish "karta" or German "Karte" from Italian "carta", Latin "charta" and Greek	کرتب	Persian

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
		"χάρηης"		
33.	печь	From Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *pektьthrough Old Slavonic "пешть" and Old Russian "печь". Related to Old Indic "paktíṣ", Greek "πέψις"	پَکاچ	Sanskrit
34.	баба	Fromold Church Slavonic Language "баба". Related to Lithuanian "bóba" and Latvian "bãba"	بَیب	Persian
35.	канал	Through German "Kanal", Netherlands language "kanaal" or directly from French "canal" from Latin "canālis"	کنیل	Punjabi/English If derived from English it did from Late Middle English: from Old French, alteration of chanel "channel", from Latin canalis 'pipe, groove, channel', from canna "cane"
36.	узкий	From Common Slavonic (Proto-Slavic) Language *ǫzъkъthrough Old Slavonic "ѫзъкъ" and Old Russian "узъкъ", "узмень". Related to Old Indic "aī̐húṣ", "áī̐has", Gothic "aggwus", Lithuanian "añkštas", Latvian "angustus, Greek "ἄγχω"	اش کی	Sanskrit
37.	завал,вал	Most probably came into Russian through Polish wał. Compare Ukrainian вал, Czech val, Slovak val	زوال	Arabic
38.	камера	From Latin "camera"	کمرہ	Prakrit
39.	компания	From Polish "kampania" or German "Kampagne" or from French "campagne"	کمپنی	From Middle English and this one from from Old French *compainie*

Sr. No.	Russian word	Russian Etymology	Urdu Word	Urdu Etymology
40.	композитор	Through Polish "kompozytor " from Italian "compositore " and Latin "compositor"	کمپوزر	From late Middle English and this one from Latin *componere* influenced by Latin *compositus*.

ANALYSIS

The corpus was composed of 40 sets of terms in Urdu and Russian languages. The comparison of the terms was performed from phonetics as well as semantics point of views. In terms of phonetic similarity, the comparison was performed through lexical distance.[4] In this sense, we find the following level of similarity:

Table 3: Lexical distance measures

Lexical Distance Measures	Distance
Lexical distance 1	2
Lexical distance 2	5
Lexical distance 3	17
Lexical distance 4	10
Lexical distance 5	5
	40

The above table proves an elevated level of lexical similarity performed through the phonetic string comparison of the terms where 25 sets show a lexical distance of 3 or less than 3. All the terms have proved to have such similarities in pronunciation which can confuse the learners through inferences from their L1, be it Urdu or Russian.

Furthermore, the semantic structures comparison yielded some overlap in some meanings while semantic differences are observed in others. This means that this is a typical false friend panorama.

The confusions the students have been suffering have been observed during oral interactions as well as reading in both languages. They are clearer in specific sets; for example the set *ˈbabə-bɑːbɑː+ creates confusion as to the gender, origin and age of the character in question spoken of, or that the student is reading about. The [setˈɫastʲɪk-ɪlɑːsʈɪk] creates confusion as to the nature of the item in question, in Russian as it means eraser or rubber and in Urdu it is elastic. In the case of *ˈfon-fɔːn+ background is being confused with phone, for example in the sentence "There is a lot of noise in the background," it can easily be confused with

"There is a lot of noise on the phone" when having a phone conversation or interactions of this sort. Another typical example is clear in the set [ɡeˈzʲetə-ɡəzəʈ+ as it refers to the nature of the item spoken about a newspaper in Russian or a record book in Urdu (diary).

The etymological comparison shows coincidental similarity on all the sets. These sets do not present a shared root, neither the same origin. The analysis presents some borrowings; for example the first set of words, where the Russian term seemed to have been borrowed from French which in turn must have borrowed it from Arabic.[5] The Urdu term comes from Arabic.

Sets number 2, 3, 7, 11 and 36 present an interesting borrowing condition as all of the Urdu terms came to the language through English. Set of terms number 2 presents a situation where Russian seems to have taken the term from Latin and Urdu from English which in turn borrowed it from Greek. Set number 3 presents a similar situation where Russian took the term from Latin and Urdu from English which in turn had borrowed it from Latin. Set number 7 show a common origin since Russian seems to have borrowed it from Italian and French, and Urdu from English which in turn had taken it from Italian. Set 36 came from English which in turn took it from Old French and this one from Latin.

Sets 8, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26 and 27 coincidentally have the origin of the Russian word from Old or Common Slavonic. The sets 18 and 26 also share origin with Old Russian. Set 17 came from Old Russian through Old Slavonic. The Urdu words of these sets came from Arabic.

Sets 4, 5, 9, 15, 20, 22, 23, 24, 30, 32, 34 present a common origin of the Urdu word in Persian language; however, sets 9, 15, 20, 22, 23, 24 and 34 in Russian have their origin either in Common Slavonic, Old Slavonic or Church Slavonic. The Russian term of set 4 was borrowed from Polish and has its origin in Hebrew. Set 5 has its origin in Eastern European Languages. Set 30 has a shared root of Latin and Greek and was borrowed from Russian from French or German. Set 32 presents a shared root between Latin and Greek and was borrowed from Italian through Polish or German.

The Russian term of Set number 6 came from Old Slavonic while the Urdu term came from Prakrit and this is the only false friend which came from this language. In fact, this is not a borrowing since Urdu derives from Prakrit.

Seven sets of terms have the origin of the Urdu word in Sanskrit from where Urdu derives; these are sets number 13, 14, 16, 28, 29, 31, 33 and 36. The Russian word of set 13 has its origin in Old Slavonic, while set

16 came from Old Russian through Old Slavonic. Sets 28, 29, 33, and 36 come either from Old Slavonic or Common Slavonic. Set 14 has a shared root of Latin and Greek and was borrowed from Polish. In this sense we find the following distribution of terms:

Table 4: Language of Origin

Terms of Russian	No. of Pairs	Terms of Urdu	No. of Pairs
Old, Common, Church Slavonic	24	Sanskrit	8
Eastern European Languages	1	Prakrit	2
Polish/Hebrew	1	Persian	11
Italian/ French	1	Arabic	13
Latin/Greek	8	English with different final etymologies, mainly in Latin	5
Probably western Europe loan	1		
No Reliable Etymology	1	No Reliable Etymology	1
Loanword from Turkic	1		
Arabic	1		
Total	**40**		**40**

The etymology of the Russian terms shows a majority of Slavonic terms. Russian is an East Slavic language whose early form was Old East Slavic (Lewis, 2009). In this sense these terms come from the language that Russian derives from. The rest of the Russian terms are loanwords taken mainly from other European languages.

As far as Urdu is concerned, it is a language which derived from Sanskrit into Prakrit (Maldonado Garcia, 2014a; Maldonado Garcia, 2014b) this is reflected in the origin of some of the Urdu terms, as 10 of them belong to Sanskrit and Prakrit. For these reason they are not loanwords but they belong to the ancestor languages of Urdu and have developed into the language. The rest of the terms came into the language due to the Persian, Arab and British invasions (Maldonado Garcia, 2014b). The terms with origin in Latin from Russian and Urdu were in fact borrowed from other languages in Russian (French and Italian mainly) and came into Urdu from the English language.

The sets 6, 11, 17, 21, 24, 26, 27, 32 may be described as "false friends of a learner at the initial stage of learning Russian." They belong to

class 1. In these cases the similarities between the Russian and Urdu words may be felt because learners do not yet know how to pronounce the Russian words properly. For instance, if a learner pronounces the Russian word "где" properly, he or she would hardly recall the Urdu word for "donkeys." The same may be said about "два" and "ɗu'ā" etc.

Other sets that can present problems for beginners are 4, 8, 10, 19, 23 and 34.

Sets 1, 3, 7 and 35 belong to class 2a. They are interesting because they can really present difficulties for intermediate level speakers/learners of both languages.

Set 36, although mentioned by the students, seems easily discernible.

Conclusion

False friends are sets of terms in two different languages which have a similar phonetic or orthographic overlap, but present differing semantic structures, as well as different diachronic development. The differences in meaning and the etymological differences are typical of a false friend situation, although there can be false friends with the same origin, as in this case, due to the semantic evolution of terms.

The difference in the semantic structures is total while the phonetic similarity is elevated. As false friends between Russian and Urdu can constitute a source of misunderstanding for the students of both languages, this list has been put together and analyzed with the purpose of aiding instructors of Russian and Urdu as an L2 during language acquisition initiatives as well as intercultural activities and interaction.

Teaching materials of Urdu as a second language are not abundant. However, drawing attention towards Russian-Urdu false friends will aid the improvement of intercultural and interlanguage proficiency of the students of both languages.

The lack of Urdu studies creates problem for the students and instructors of this language. Curricula need to be improved in order to increase the awareness of the problems these terms can create for students.

Notes

[1]The similarity level here is the level of overlap between the Russian word and the Urdu word which has been calculated through the Levenshtein Distance.

[2]At the Russian Department of the Institute of Languages, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

[3]Urdu and Hindi were, in fact, one language. The script was created by Mir Ali Tabrezi during the 1400s. It was inspired by Persian and Arabic languages using the *Naskh* of Arabic and the outdated Persian tal'iq (Maldonado García, 2015).*Urdu Evolution and Reforms*, 122-124.

[4]Levenshtein Algorithm.

[5]Diccionario de la Real Academia Española.

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