**Guidelines for Identifying Persian loan words in Swahili**

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**Abstract:** Swahili has been affected not only by neighboring countries’ languages, but also by Persian language over time for political, scientific and cultural reasons, since Iran and eastern Africa have been deeply tied during previous decades. Entering this region, Iranian people have introduced some positive cultural attributes to African ethnics. On the other hand, it is claimed that some other cultures, such as the Arabs, have entered this region with totally different purposes, i.e. occupation and slavery. This paper seeks to evaluate this claim studying a number of Persian, Arabic and Persian-Arabic loanwords in Swahili. To that end, first some criteria is chosen by authors to evaluate the aforementioned points, and then some selected loanwords have been analyzed.

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**Keywords:** Swahili (Culture/language), borrowing (vocabulary), languages or dialects of Persian, Indo-Iranian, Bento

**1. Introduction**

Human in society has always lived so long and to communicate – as the most important human needs in the social life – had used the equipment and tools in the profiting and in this situation "language" was the main instrument. So the language is a "Social Institution" and in fact one of the most important necessities of life that its main role in creation the relationship.

Transformation of human society is continuously changed on the one hand, and so the language (especially vocabulary) is changing constantly and due to various social, cultural, political, historical, economic, geographic with together are now dealing with the final result of language contact.  They interact with each other. So it must be the consequence of collisions between languages and nonverbal communication between human communities as long-term or short-term (Modarresi, 2008).

Historical events such as the invasion and occupation of a country by the people of another land and another culture, language, or immigrant groups such as the migration of an ethnic group, language skills, from land to land caused by other are reasons for coming into this situation. In effects due to the different states of a language into another language appear. The general concept we call it in different ways and their impact on each other two languages, and the results were many aspects to consider, Like Usually most of the borrowing language is the more natural of the two languages ​​in the Pops (Modarresi, 2008). If the two linguistic communities, each The reason they are in contact with each other, usually linguistic elements, and especially the words, they are exchanged naturally between languages ​ (Bloomfield, 1933).

Present paper is descriptive - analytical review and library and is done by vocabulary, books and various other writing texts for linguistic extraction on loan in Swahili. It is so cleared that this paper is a research-based study. A body of 1000 words (in this article referred to 103 words), Swahili dictionary meaning was extracted. The main focus is the exploration and selection of words, and the words. This is shared between the Arabic and Persian and other languages. Pronounced All of Those words by Record of five Tanzanians Pronunciation accuracy was determined by a fittest other Tanzanians in Swahili, was, according to the transcripts, and this led to a series of information I could find that the sound in Swahili, a common language criteria (phonetic - phoneme) offers Persian and Swahili. This may be a reference to these criteria, but the main focus is on non-linguistic criteria of history, culture, dialect and others have noted that it can be as a factor for borrowing.

**2. Material and Methods**

**2.1. Borrowing**

The most common and most natural way in which the language comes, the elements being

exchanged between them is referred to as the borrowing. Borrowing the language of the various categories of linguistic variety is dividable. In general, one can general trend is that the borrowing language in different categories to different types of language occurs. Vocabulary at greater risk of social upheaval, they are easily changed. This change is very rapid, and low and high element of relations between the elements of the system does not change. Another important reason for the rapid variability is in terms of cultural continuity with the vocabulary. Because of cultural elements (material and spiritual) change continuously, it is natural that are changed the English words in the name of cultural elements. The close association between cultural elements and Vocabulary Changes causes the foot to be transformed into vocabulary and phonetic and grammatical devices, is more changeable (Bateni, 2001). Borrowing language from the view of most of the borrowing the words:

**2.1.1. Lexical borrowing**

Borrowing of words, usually of linguistic borrowing and therefore they are also visible in most languages. Words can quite freely from one language into another, without significant effect on vocabulary or grammar knowledge is borrowable. Set of words and words in any language of inconsistent needed by a given society it is common to find or obsolete. When something new is introduced from one culture to another, the linguistic labels or names from one language into another It is. In the process, the long term in the vocabulary of a language, in other words, called lexical borrowing (Arlato, 2005).

**2.1.2. Effective factors in the borrowing terms**

In Lexical borrowing there are three major languages:

I) low-frequency words: low-frequency words (in borrower language) than high frequency words are more at risk of being forgotten and replaced. It makes the oblivion low-frequency word, a word borrowed from another language.

II) Existence of same words in borrower language:

If the same words in a language, the use of overlapping building, to eliminate such interactions of a language, or both, with the same Left and instead uses the term loan.

III) Need for new words in a language-specific semantic domain for borrower language:

Since ancient word meaning in specific areas such as food, emotions and relationships, their expressive power is gradually being lost, in the field of foreign words borrowed It is (Vein Reich, 1976).

**2.2. Swahili Language**

Among the languages ​​spoken in Eastern and Central Africa (Safari, 2006) and as one of the major languages ​​of the interface lingua franca is the Swahili (Choge, 2009). Swahili is divided into northern and southern species of the southern variant of the language, before they are influenced by the Arabic language, language is influenced and it was due to the strong ties linking the Iranian government to Zanzibar (Fahmi, 1978). The name of this language leaves the Arabic term findings from the shore or coast, and scientists, including Termengham, so that the language associated with the East African Arab and Iranian immigrants and natives in this region, which is more in line with commercial activities (Fahmi, 1964).

In Swahili, the language of the family bantu (Arlatu, 2005) that is highly resistant to loan terms are not It is. Because we see the various languages such as Persian, is the family of Indo-European languages have borrowed words. Most profound influence on the control of the Persian language, Swahili is the number Persian words in the language that there is considerable over hundreds of years, not only the language but the key words in Swahili is replaced row. The terms under which the islands and coasts of East Africa Swahili Shirazian are mainly related to matters such as legislation and governance, commerce, navigation, agriculture, weaving, decorations, costumes, architecture and tools are container. Most of these words are not the same and equal to them in Swahili Is, in the language retain their stability. Some words from the Persian language Swahili, Have origins are Arabic, but linguists believe that the Many words from Persian and Arabic, the words spoken by the Shirazian Testament, the Arabic words also have the Shirazian Swahili (Krumm, 1940).

Some researchers believe that the Persian language, the origin of the entry way to the Swahili words, the Arabic language is the second language (Mathoko, 2001). Krumm is also a Persian word for seventy-eight, straight, and twenty-six words in Persian, Swahili, probably indirectly by the Arabs arrived, they noted.

Knappert as the renowned linguist English, Swahili identified in much Persian word, and believes, this language is Persian words, these are over. He believes Words related to the ancient Persian looms, even in the earliest literature in Swahili Were, he pointed out That some of these words, directly from Persian in Shirazian age have to Swahili, and some from other languages, especially Arabic, and Hindi languages, including Swahili, Urdu and Gujarati are entered. He knows most of the words in relation to maritime and agriculture (1979).

Another two hundred and ninety researchers also identified through the Persian word Balooches Omani sultans of Zanzibar were serving in the nineteenth century, the language is Swahili (Lozi, 2001). The sixteenth century Africa during the mid-twentieth century, dominated by countries such as Portugal, Germany and England were very faint, but the effect of this language is Swahili Is so slow that today Latin words have been identified in Swahili. While the purchase of the language they married, they should have more impact in Arabic and Persian Are. It is shown that Indians in East Africa, plus Arabic, Farsi words and trying to keep up with your favorite language these words (Arab Ahmadi, 2007).

Out of Africa under colonial hegemony in the mid-twentieth century onwards, towards the promotion of Swahili language and ethnic groups into a national effort 's. Attempts to enrich the academic and cultural needs of the language and word formation in recent years lead, eventually, marginalization is English, Swahili and their place in establishing academic centers. English language situation is in this area, especially in recent years. Thus, For example, the In Tanzania This language is a functional language and a foreign language has become, And this means that in everyday conversation in English to other languages, not only for communications to government agencies. Swahili position of the other party since independence has been steadily rising, So that the tongue of a native language as a national language, and now, it has become an international language, And the efforts to standardize it takes place, the added functionality of the daily, And the expected This trend will continue in future decades and their use of English. Hand Official language and Swahili, East Africa, is a national educational (Safari, 2006).

They say the family that went to the east coast of Africa, Egyptians and Persians and Arabs (Fahmi, 1978). Shirazian also influenced the culture and civilization of East Africa went left, tribe called Shirazi also formed and they are still in parts of East Africa are a group of indigenous people known by this name. These people consider themselves descendants of immigrant’s teeth Shiraz, despite the passage of centuries, yet some of their racial features memorabilia from their ancestors is preserved past and are proud of their ancestry. The natives are more divided now live on the coast of Tanzania and Kenya (Strandes, 1961).

Shiraz migration can be stigmatized and coherent largest organized group of Iranian Muslims migrated to Tanzania and East Africa (Levtzion and Pouwels, 2000). Which Over time, the depth of Iranian culture and civilization some factors, such as the New Year is common Rousseau customs, beliefs, traditions, Architecture Persian, and Hijri shamsi calendar, this culture has left. At Language areas, also has a significant impact on Persian language Swahili. The most prominent effects of the word are "Zanzibar" meaning "black beach[[1]](#footnote-1)" which is fully Persian.

Affrications researchers praised the Iranian diaspora And their social and cultural development of the East African coast Pardon Ages I have until the fifteenth century (Levtzion And Powells, 2000). Iranian human actions and behavior of Indians crept up to speed Ethics and governance based on justice, equality, Justice and the rule of consensus emerged They were unique in their kind (Mazrui, 1993). Iranians would not interfere in the tradition of bitter bondage and slavery, a brilliant aspect of and honorable Shirazian kingdom in Africa (Niane, 1993).

**3. Results**

One of the most noteworthy aspects of vocabulary studies, the arguments adduced on loan words has meanings. Clearer words, the meaning of words borrowed some concepts and characteristics suggest adding a positive culture is required, this phenomenon indicates, the fact that the lender has a role, not a role. Connection with Swahili culture, often commenting that the culture of conquest or colonization and exploitation on the east coast of Africa was Rather, the Iranian in this region, positive cultural characteristics such as schools, baths, mosques and cultural practices related to African nations Has been introduced. On the other hand, claims Login that professes some other kind of opposite the entrance to the Arab region, namely the concept of conquest and slavery. Some of these interactions can be pointed Persians and Africans, we have evidence, in this connection, vocabulary borrowed from Persian to indicate that they are not logged into Swahili (It is worth noting that the terms in parentheses are presented in tables, Examples of extension could mean one is). Loan Words and Their Meanings The authors develop this tool and suggest criteria for identification of loan words were in Swahili. In what follows, the selected subset of these criteria together with the corresponding arguments, the present study presents the lexical analyzer comprises. The following analysis will be based on the same criteria will be presented:

I) Since the Iranian sailors were those who had interacted with Africans, therefore, is a natural source of maritime common words, with high probability, learn Farsi. In many texts, both African and non-African, Swahili culture, the role of the Forums is subject to cultural and commercial issues, and, conversely, the Arabic conquest, slavery and the issue has been raised.

Table 1: Examples of sailing terms

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Persian Spelling | Swahili splling | Phonetic transcription[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| 1 | بندر | Bandari |  |
| 2 | (جهاز) کَشتی دارای بادبان سه گوش | Jahazi |  |
| 3 | (سرهنگ)ناخدا دوم | Serhangy |  |
| 4 | لنگر | Nanga |  |
| 5 | ناخدا | [[3]](#footnote-3)Nahodha |  |

Iranian businessmen have long-standing connections to the sea, is so far from the Persian words in Swahili is reached.

II) Since the Baluchis and shirazians immigrants East African there is had expected some words in Swahili dialect of Persian origin (especially the south) have:

Table 2: Examples of Iranian dialects

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Bibi | (بی‌بی)مادربزرگ | 1 |
|  | Babu | پدر بزرگ | 2 |
|  | Biriani | (بریانی)غذای محلّی | 3 |
|  | Tete | تاتی‌تاتی | 4 |
|  | Dada | (دادا)خواهر | 5 |
|  | Roshani | (روشنی)بالکُن، تراس | 6 |
|  | Kaka | (کاکا)برادر | 7 |
|  | Nana | (ننه)لفظی مودّبانه برای خطاب ‌قراردادن بانوان | 8 |

III) Historically, many of the cultural and scientific advances have spread in East Africa by the Persians and Arabs share, as is usually the conquest and slavery. Then expect some Swahili words of Persian origin have historical or scientific literature on accordingly, the words common to these developments point to a high probability of being Persian into Swahili.

Table 3: Examples of Cultural – Historical Effects

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Astrolabu | اُسترلاب[[4]](#footnote-4) | 1 |
|  | Taji | تاج | 2 |
|  | Hamamu | حمام[[5]](#footnote-5) | 3 |
|  | Hodhi | حوض | 4 |
|  | Zinara | (زُنار) کمربند سوزن دوزی شده | 5 |
|  | Shirazi | شیرازی | 6 |
|  | Fahari | (فرّ)شکوه | 7 |
|  | Kemia | کیمیا،شیمی | 8 |
|  | Mihrabu | محراب | 9 |
|  | Mnara | منار،مناره | 10 |
|  | Nairuzi | نوروز | 11 |

IV) The etymology of the following words was Persian Dictionary (also available in Arabic, though, and even though they are spelled out in Arabic). Another reason is that most of these words are supported with standard cultural exchanges between Iran and East Africa:

Table 4: Examples of Persian Roots

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Tumbaku | تنباکو | 1 |
|  | Zabarijadi | زبرجد | 2 |
|  | Zumaridi | زمرّد | 3 |
|  | Shaha | شاه | 4 |
|  | Sataranji | شطرنج | 5 |
|  | Suruali | شلوار | 6 |
|  | Sabuni | صابون | 7 |
|  | Faharasa | فهرست | 8 |

The Persian word is found in dictionaries, so directly (by Iranians) or indirectly (by other nations) have entered into Swahili, the origin of this word Trans is imported.

V) Since Iranian relations with the Africans in the weaving of Persian words in Swahili, so it's probably gone.

Table 5: Examples of idioms Weaving

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Atlasi | اطلس،پارچه | 1 |
|  | Bafta | (بافته)پارچه نخی | 2 |
|  | Hariri | حریر | 3 |
|  | Zari | (زری) نخ طلایی،زر دوزی | 4 |
|  | Katani - Kitani | کتان | 5 |
|  | Melimeli | (ململ) پارچه | 6 |

Knitting Instruction Africans, Iranians have repeatedly stressed, then they can input the words from the Persian language.

VI) Some common words in three languages ​​(Farsi, Swahili, Arabic) are becoming some Persian words.

Table 6: Examples from Transformations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Johar | (گوهر)جواهر | 1 |
|  | Lijamu | لگام | 2 |

It seems that Iranian relations with African economic relations, trade and culture, and not conquest, so not far from the Persian words entered.

VII) Some Swahili words are like a Persian suffix flection. Originally in Arabic, although there may also exist without their extensions, such as:

Table 7: Examples from Attribute Construction

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Kijamii | اجتماعی | 1 |
|  | Kijadi | اجدادی | 2 |
|  | Ustadi | استادی | 3 |
|  | Kijinsia | جنسی | 4 |
|  | Rasmi | رسمی | 5 |
|  | Ramali | رمّالی | 6 |
|  | Arusi | عروسی | 7 |
|  | Fulani | فلانی | 8 |
|  | Feruzi | فیروزه‌ای | 9 |
|  | Kahawia | قهوه‌ای | 10 |
|  | Nili | نیلی | 11 |

The student has had positive effects for the language.

VIII) To witness history in East Africa were the primary architects of the Persians, then the probability that the words are taken from the Persian:

Table 8: Examples from Architecture Expression

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Saruji | (ساروج)سیمان | 1 |
|  | Marmari | مرمر | 2 |

Iranians had a profound impact on all aspects of culture and architecture have left their, because interested in building (first building to the rock by the Iranian people are reminded of Africa), but relations based on Islamic brotherhood founded by Africans and they all had the same fraternity slogan.

IX) Swahili words that are in common with Persian Arabic equivalent, they are quite different from the equivalent Persian. So we can conclude with certainty that these are the words from the Persian language.

Table 9: Examples from Persian Equivalents

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phonetic transcription | Swahili Spelling | Persian Spelling | Number |
|  | Asteaste | (آسته آسته) یواش یواش | 1 |
|  | Badamu | بادام | 2 |
|  | Bwana | (بان)آقا[[6]](#footnote-6) | 3 |
|  | Wazi | باز | 4 |
|  | Barafu | (برف)یخ | 5 |
|  | Mbuzi | بُز | 6 |
|  | Bangi | بَنگ | 7 |
|  | Bumarengi | بوم رنگ | 8 |
|  | Bima | بیمه | 9 |
|  | Pajama | پاجامه،پیژامه | 10 |
|  | Paradise | پردیس | 11 |
|  | Pamba | پنبه | 12 |
|  | Pilau | پلو | 13 |
|  | Pana | پهن | 14 |
|  | Tamasha | (تماشا) نمایش | 15 |
|  | Mjafari | جعفری | 16 |
|  | Chai | چای | 17 |
|  | Chapa | چاپ | 18 |
|  | Charahani | چرخ خیاطی | 19 |
|  | Dirisha | دریچه | 20 |
|  | Darubini | دوربین | 21 |
|  | Randa | رنده | 22 |
|  | Rangi | رنگ | 23 |
|  | Rangirangi | رنگارنگ | 24 |
|  | Zaa | زاییدن | 25 |
|  | Sini | سینی | 26 |
|  | Shabashi | (شاباش)آفرین | 27 |
|  | Shanuo | شانه | 28 |
|  | Sharabu | (شراب)مشروب | 29 |
|  | Sharti | شرایط | 30 |
|  | Sharubati | شربت | 31 |
|  | Shura | شوره، نیترات پتاسیم | 32 |
|  | Ghala | (غلّه)سیلو،انبار | 33 |
| ()() | Karakana | کارخانه | 34 |
|  | Kasuku | (کاسکو)طوطی | 35 |
|  | Ukafu | کف،کف مایعات | 36 |
|  | Kuzi | کوزه | 37 |
|  | Gari | گاری(اتومبیل) | 38 |
|  | Gurudumu | گردون ،چرخ | 39 |
|  | Gulabi | گلابی | 40 |
|  | Gunia | گونی | 41 |
|  | Lala | (لالا)خوابیدن | 42 |
|  | Mama | (مامان)مادر | 43 |
|  | Mufti | مُفت، مُفتی،مجّانی | 44 |
|  | Meza | میز | 45 |
|  | Nargisi | نرگس | 46 |
|  | Nishani | نشان،مدال | 47 |
|  | Hudhurungi | (هزار رنگ)، قهوه‌ای مایل به قرمز | 48 |
|  | Hiliki | هِل | 49 |
|  | Kelele | (هلهله)جنجال،فریاد | 50 |

Some of the words are loan words in Persian language component. But this fact does not make the claim that the breakdown in the Persian language through these words are borrowed, too, have found their way into Swahili.

**4. Discussions**

Loan terms can be concluded from the study that the presence of Iranians in the region of East Africa was a builder, and unlike Arabic and English is not indicative of exploitation and slavery. Most of the words in the islands and the coast of East Africa Shirazian government have Swahili, East Africa and the Indian, Persian words with their own language and an interest in trying to keep the words. Some Persian words in Swahili with Arabic origins is although much can be claimed with respect to the use of these words by Shirazian its promise, it also Shirazian Arabic words have entered the Swahili Arabs because of the slavery and exploitation is not something else., of course Persian words in the language, the authors have proposed criteria for land next critical reviews linguists interested in the issue of language and identity borrowing provide loan words. The authors hope that the results of the studies reviewed, finally, a synergy of ideas and techniques on the topic, and formulate specific guidelines.

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1. Dehkhoda, ed 27, 506 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. These phonetic transcription are provided using international phonetic sign alphabet and enjoying Ladefoged and Maddieson (1996). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In dialects of Bakhtiari that are common in the nearby provinces of Bushehr and Fars and Khuzestan, in correspondence with the explosive of alveolar [d] voiced so that the Sound is pronounced in Arabic texts to suggest or imply d-Zagros is known almost is pronounced like dh on Swahili alphabet. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The origin root of this word is Greek and because of intercourse, it is not unthinkable that by the Iranian intermediary, the word has entered the language. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. In cased 3, 4, 9, 10 it can be said that the construction of the first bathroom and mosque in East Africa are done by Iranians, so these words have been imported from the Persian to Swahili. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Bwana means boss, owner and master that in Pahlavi is and in Avesta is  that means protective and guard from infinitive of pa means watch (Dehkhoda, ed 10, 584). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)