

Transliteration of Latin names to Persian: Issues and solutions

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Abstract: One of the translation issues that has been considered by many researchers is the translation of specific names from one language to another.

Most of these problems are rooted in the phonetic differences of different languages. The names of persons involved in a work, including creators, translators, illustrators, etc., and who are the subject of a book are authorized in the Authorization Department of the Cataloging Department of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI). The Reference Bank of Avanevesht of Latin Names is designed to transliterate the Latin personal names (non-Persian names) to Persian.

In this research, the Latin personal names of the 374 articles in the Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization have been studied during 2011-2019. This journal is one of the most prestigious journals in the field of librarianship and information, which is published by NLAI. This study was conducted by content analysis method. In order to collect data, all Latin names citations of the journal articles and their Persian equivalents were matched with Reference Bank of Avanevesht of Latin Names. To answer the following questions:

1. To what extent have researchers been able to transliterate the specific names in their articles correctly?
2. Which Latin names are transliterated correctly?
3. Which Latin names are transliterated differently?

Keywords: Transliteration, Latin names, National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Reference Bank of Avanevesht of Latin Names, Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization

1. Introduction

One of the translation issues that has been considered by many researchers is the translation of specific names from one language to another (Hosseini Masum, Shahbaiki, 2013). Transliteration in Merriam-Webster (2021) is defined as "to represent or spell in the characters of another alphabet". ISO also defines "representation of the graphic characters of a source script by the graphic characters of a target script". In Iran, there are no unique transliteration rules to interpolate authors' names, and organizations and researchers transliterate the names according to their taste (Mohammadzadehsarab, Kazerani, Shekofteh, 2018). Most of these problems are rooted in the phonetic differences of different languages.

Various researches have been studied in this field in Iran and around the world, including (Kaveh, Mirzabeigi, Sotudeh, Moloodi, 2020); (Mohammadzadehsarab and etal, 2018); (Riahinia, Niknia, 2016); (Sotudeh, Honarjooyan, 2012); (Haghollahi, Bidoki, Yari, 2012); (Karimi, Turpin., Scholer, 2006). These articles are listed as history of such researches, but they have not any relation to any use of Avanevesht Bank.

According to the review of existing researches in this field, it can be said that there is a gap in the transliteration of Persian to Latin names as well as Latin to Persian names, and with the passage of time and the emergence of new technologies and the emergence of extensive communication in the global village, this gap has not only not been bridged but has also deepened, and the need for this issue is more important than ever.

The reasons of the gap between transliteration Persian – Latin Names and Latin-Persian are:

1. Not considering the different rules of different languages. Even if the Alphabet of Arabic and Persian are same in their format but there is difference also. The origin of these languages is different. There are four letters more in Persian Alphabet: P=پ; ch=چ; zh=ژ; gh=گ. Also, vowels are somehow different. The Library of Congress Online Catalog transliterate Persian Names according to the rules of Arabic language. For example, the name of: مرضیه هدایت, as a Persian Name transliterates to English as Marzieh Hedayat, but in Library of Congress Online Catalog is: Hidāyat, Marzīyah.

2. Different transliterations that leads to non-uniformity of a Persian Name, for example: The English transliteration of first name of a Persian author, صادق هدایت: Hidāyat, Ṣādiq, 1903-1951, is written in 6 forms:

Persian= صادق

English: Sadeq, Sadek, Sadegh, Sadiq, Sodiq, Sadiqi

The researchers and translators of English to Persian transliterate names in different forms in different texts, for example The surname Hamilton is transliterated in four forms: همیلتون، هامیلتن، همیلتون، همیلتن

Avanevesht Bank: Reference Bank of Transliteration of Latin Names (English, French, ...) Of the National Library & Archives of the I. R. of Iran

In 1990', transliteration of the foreign or non-Persian names like English, French, ... began in the National Library & Archives of the I. R. of Iran. At the beginning, there were only three card holders, one for the first names and two for the family names, which were written by hand. Then, after the use of Iran Marc, there was a need to have a bank of authorized names. In 2010, National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), in order to uniform transliteration of the names, including Latin authors, established Reference Bank of Avanevesht of Latin names. All Latin (non-Persian) names of whom that must be authorized, the names of authors of the translated books to Persian or the ones that are purchased by NLAI are read based on Avanevesht Bank. This bank was based on those card holders. Now, there is more than 160.000 names in it, and the addition of new names will continue in the future. Due to the high potential of this bank and most importantly the bibliographic warrant, but this bank is only used by catalogers of NLAI and has no other use. Even the officials of one of the most important journals in the field of library and information study in Iran that is published by NLAI (Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization), do not consider it.

The main object of the establishment of Reference Bank of Avanevesht of Latin names is the uniformity of names that are transliterated in different forms. In order to give the Persian readers, the correct pronunciation of the name, some Persian and Latin sources are used. Of course there are many names that are not found in the sources, but if such names are transliterated by the researchers and translators, in order to transliterate correctly, are checked according to the rules of the original language and nationality of the author. For example: Jean: English= جین; French= ژان

According to the transliteration, a Persian reader understands the nationality of the author, English or French. We encourage the researchers and translators use the right transliteration in order to prevent any mistake about the identity of the one, whose name is transliterated.

Some of the sources that the names are transliterated based on them are:

Duden, Konrad (1974). *Der Grosse Duden...* vol. VI: Aussprachewörterbuch; Wörterbuch der deutsch Stan dardausprache. Mannheim: Bibliographisches Inst.

Merriam Webster's Biographical Dictionary (1995). Springfield Mass.: Merriam – Webster, Inc.

Jones, Daniel (2006). *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary*. Edited by Peter Roach, James Hartman, Jane Setter. New 17th edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mackey, Mary Stuart & Mackey, Maryette Goodwin (1976). *The Pronunciation of 10.000 Proper Names*. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company.

Miller, G.M. (1971). *BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names*. London: Oxford University Press.

Wells, J. C. (2000). *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*. NEW EDITION.

The main aim of this bank is the transliteration of the names in accordance with their nationality, but there are some reasons that a cataloguer must ignore the correct equivalence. The reasons are:

- There are differences between phonetic systems of different languages, and the phonetics of some letters in both languages are not similar. For example, Smith (English), اسمیت (Persian);

S=س; m=م; i-ی; th=ث

Even if, there is the letter ث in Persian language, but it is not transliterated same in different names. It is transliterated in a few names ث, such as Macbeth=مکیث, and in other names the equivalence of th is ت like Smith=اسمیت;

- The wrong equivalence has much frequency because the first translator transliterated it wrong;
- Sometimes the correct equivalence does not have an appropriate meaning and is in contrast with moral or social norms, so the cataloguer must consider such points in the transliteration of the names.

The other objects of this bank are:

- Recording the names of those whose names are authorized, like authors, poets, ...;
- consistency of transliteration of the names of different nationality;
- prevention of duplicate;
- easy and speedy search of the bibliographical database of the National Library & Archives of the I. R. of Iran; and
- to edit the old cards

The consequences of nonuse of the Avanevesht Bank are:

1. inconsistency of transliteration of the names of one nationality, for example: Smith=اسمیت، اسمیت
2. inconsistency of transliteration of different languages, according the nationality of the author, for example: Charles: English: چارلز; French: شارل; Swedish: کارل
3. different identity for one author (for a Persian reader), for example: Xenophanes (Greek): گزنوفانس، گزنفان، کسینوفانوس، گزنفان، کزنفانس، گزنوفانس

This article answers the following questions:

1. To what extent have researchers been able to transliterate the specific names in their articles correctly?

2. Which Latin names are transliterated correctly?
3. Which Latin names are transliterated differently?

2. Methodology

In this study, content analysis method was used. All 374 articles published in the *Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization* during the years 2011-2019 were reviewed. Based on this, a checklist was prepared which included the author's name cited in the articles, Persian transliteration by the author of the article, nationality of the author cited in the articles, and its availability and Persian equivalents in Avanevesht Bank. The full text of each article was studied and all the names of Latin authors cited in these articles along with its Persian transliteration were entered in the checklist and their Persian equivalents were matched one by one with Avanevesht Bank. Finally, in order to analyze the data, the desired table was implemented in Excel.

Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization (NASTINFO), published since 1990 by the National Library of Iran, is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal for original research and reviewed articles. Until 2011 its title was *Faslnameh-yeh Ketab* [Book Quarterly]. The change of title occurred in 2011 when the team editors decided to shift the focus of the journal to information organization as a pivotal role of the National Library to undertake the leadership in this area at the national level.

Therefore, while the journal welcomes submissions that address library services on a national scale, its priority is receiving research and review articles that contribute to advancing information organization theory and practice (*Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization* (NASTINFO), 2021). The journal is one the best journals on library and information science in Iran, and recently they have been trying to index it in the Scopus database (*Journal of National Studies on Librarianship and Information Organization* (NASTINFO), 2021).

In order to collect data, all Latin citations along with Persian equivalents used in the text of the *National Library Quarterly* articles from 2011-2019 Was recovered. A total of 5,570 Latin names and their Persian matches were searched in Avanusht Bank.

An example of a name and the process of the recording in the Avanevesht bank:

Figure 1. The main page of the bank

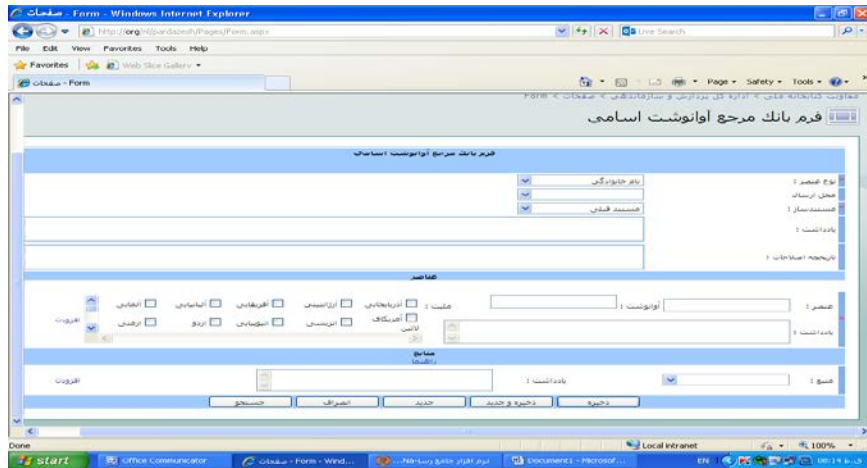


Figure 1 shows the first page of the Avanevesht Bank. The elements are as follows:

- first box: the type of the name such as first name, surname, name of the cataloguer and the history of the corrections;
- second box: the name in the English alphabet, Persian equivalence, the nationality and the necessary notes such as the rules of the pronunciation of a letter like, sz=ش in Polish;
- third box: the sources of the pronunciation and the notes in relation to the name.

Figure 2 The main page of the bank (continue)

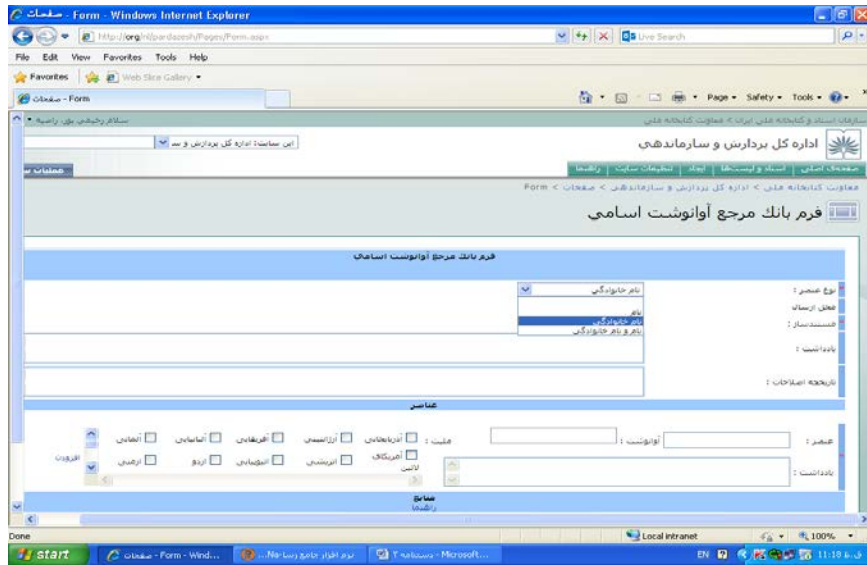
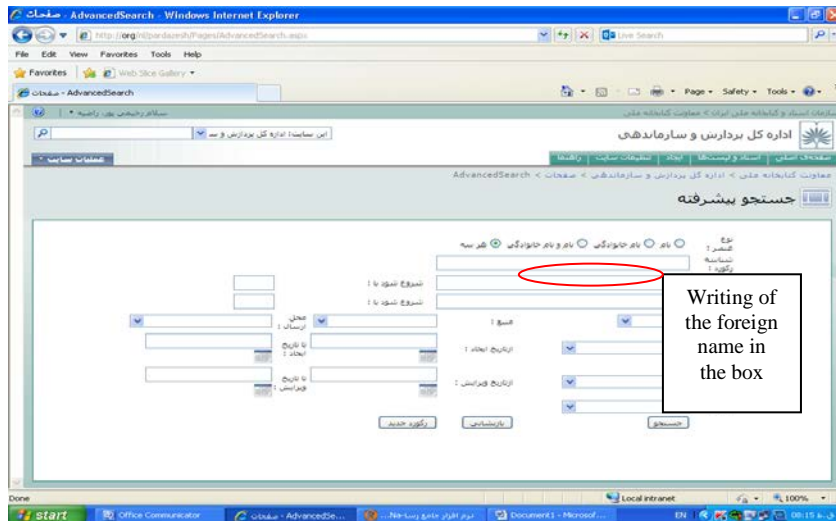


Figure 3 The main page of the bank (continue)



In figures 2 and 3 the elements are shown in detail. Figure 2 shows which type of the name is selected, and figure 3 shows the box of the name in English.

Figure 4. A main page, after recording a name

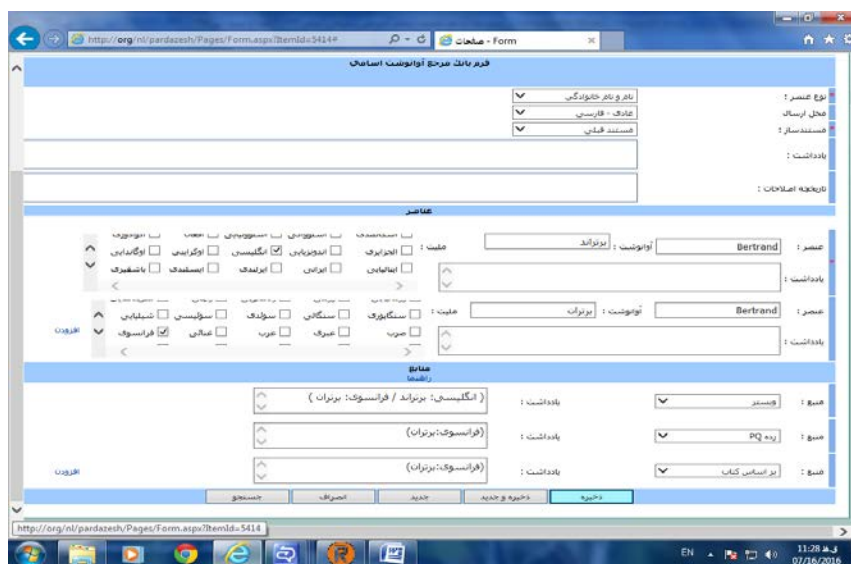


Figure 4 shows a complete record that all boxes are filled. It shows the name Bertrand, its Persian equivalence in English and French, different nationalities, and the sources of pronunciation of the name.

3.Results

According to the findings of Table 1, the total number of names is 5,570 records, of which 3,660 records (66.4%) are records that existed in Avanevsh Bank. Also, 1852 records (33.599%) are records that were not available in the Bank.

Table 1. Total statistics of Latin names retrieval

Number of Latin names	Number of names available in Avanevsh	percent	Number of names not available in Avanevsh	percent
5570	3660	66.4	1852	33.599

Out of 5570 records, 58 records were removed from the statistical population due to being Persian, not being mentioned in the original article and the inconsistency of Latin names with the Persian translation, and finally, 5512 records were examined. The data obtained of the records by year are given in Table 2. As shown in this table, the most records are related to 2018, and the lowest is related to 2015.

Table 2. Records retrieval by the year 2011-2019

2011	Number	2012	Number
Number of names not available in Avanevesht	89	Number of names not available in Avanevesht	135
The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	147	The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	189
The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	76	The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	113
Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	44	Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	3
Total	356	Total	440
2013		2014	
Number of names not available in Avanevesht	202	Number of names not available in Avanevesht	156
The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	218	The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	241
The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	133	The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	104
Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	1	Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	-
Total	554	Total	501
2015		2016	
Number of names not available in Avanevesht	60	Number of names not available in Avanevesht	256
The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	90	The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	383
The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	46	The Persian equivalent of Latin names not corresponds to Avanevesht	170
Total	196	Total	809
2017		2018	
Number of names not available in Avanevesht	319	Number of names not available in Avanevesht	451
The Persian equivalent of	437	The Persian equivalent	618

Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht		of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	
The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	210	The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	191
Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	-	Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	7
Total	966	Total	1267
2019			
Number of names not available in Avanevesht	184		
The Persian equivalent of Latin names corresponds to Avanevesht	218		
The Persian equivalent of Latin names does not correspond to Avanevesht	76		
Cases where the Latin name of the author was not in the article	3		
Total	481		

To what extent have researchers been able to transliterate the specific names in their articles correctly?

Out of 5512 Latin names of 374 articles and their correspondence with Avanevesht Bank, 2541 names (46.099%) have been transliterated correctly, and the Persian equivalent of 1119 Latin names (20.301%) was inconsistent with Avanevesht Bank (table 3).

Table 3. Latin names transliterated by researchers and their correspondence with Avanevesht Bank

Number of Latin names	Number of correctly transliterated names	percent	Number of names not available in Avanevesht	percent
5512	2541	46.099	1119	20.301

Which Latin names are transliterated correctly?

Of the 2541 names that were transliterated correctly, there were names that were repeated in articles and in different years and in all cases were transliterated correctly. In Table 4, there are 15 Latin names whose Persian translations and Avanevesht Bank are compatible and also have the highest frequency of repetition. As shown in this table, the name **Chen** with the frequency of 41

repetitions is in the first place, **Lee** and **Kim** with the frequency of 23 repetitions are in the next ranks.

Table 4. Latin names are transliterated correctly

Number	Latin name	Persian transliterated	Frequency
1	Chen	چن	41
2	Lee	لی	23
3	Kim	کیم	23
4	Smith	اسمیت	17
5	Li	لی	16
6	Lin	لین	15
7	Park	پارک	13
8	Kumar	کومار	13
9	King	کینگ	12
10	Jones	جونز	12
11	Miller	میلر	10
12	White	وایت	10
13	Tillett	تیلت	9
14	Saracevic	ساراسویک	9
15	Fisher	فیشر	8

The reasons of these correct transliterations could be:

- the pronunciation is simple, because the equivalence of the letters in both languages is the same, for example, Li= لی, l= ل and i= ی;
- these names are heard in the films, news,
- the first translator has transliterated it correctly.

Which Latin names are transliterated differently?

Among the 1,119 names whose Persian transliterations were inconsistent with Avanevesht Bank, some cases were transliterated in different ways each time. Table 5 lists 15 Latin names that are transliterated each time differently. As shown in this table, some of these names are transliterated in 4 different ways. For example, Bar-Ilan comes in four different forms: بارایلن, بر-ایلان, بارایلان and باریلن, of which بارایلان corresponds to Avanevesht Bank (Table 5).

Table 5. Latin names transliterated differently

Number	Latin name	Persian transliterated	Persian transliterated	Persian transliterated	Persian transliterated	Avanevesht
1	Bar-Ilan	باریلن	بارایلان	بر-ایلان	بارایلن	بارایلان
2	Jarvelin	ژارولین	ژاولین	یارولین	چارولین	یرولین
3	Huang	هوانگ	هوانگ	هوانگ	هانگ	هوانگ
4	Xie	زای	شیه	ژی	اکسی	شی

4	Evans	اونس	اوانز	ایوانز		اونز
5	Howard	هاورد	هووارد	هوارد		هوارد
6	Julien	ژولین	جولین	جولیان		ژولین/ فرانسوی جولین/ انگلیسی
7	Le Boeuf	لو بوو	لوبوف	لیوف		لوبوف
8	Lewis	لونیس	لونیس	لویس		لونیس
9	Roberts	روبرتس	رابرتز	رابرتس		رابرتس
10	Rogers	روجرز	راجرز	روژرز		راجرز
11	Smiraglia	اسمرگلیا	اسمیراگلیا	اسمیراگلیا		اسمیراگلیا
12	Ribeiro-Neto	ریبریو- نتو	ریبریو- نتو	زیبریو-نتو		ریبریو
13	Strauss	استراس	اشتراس	استراس		استراس
14	Wu	وو	وا	هو		وو
15	Zhang	زهانگ	ژانگ	جانگ		جانگ

The reasons of these differences are:

- the translators have known them as English names and did not recognize their nationality; for example, Jarvelin is a Finnish name, not English, but they transliterated it as an English name. There is a difference between the pronunciation of letter J in Finnish and in English. The Persian transliteration of letter J in Finnish is *ج*, and in English *ج*. Then the transliteration of it to Persian will be different.
- Some names are exceptions and do not match with the original pronunciation but consist of Avanevsh Bank. Because of the frequency and precedence of these names in Persian translations, their transliterations are different from the original, but it is selected by Avanevsh Bank, for example, Howard. The English pronunciation is *هاورد*, but because of the said reasons, *هوارد* is selected.

4. Conclusions

There are serious problems with transliteration and paraphrasing the Latin names into Persian, due to the distinct difference between the signs of the alphabets of both languages:

1. disparity in transliteration and paraphrasing of Latin names in Persian;
2. to give different identity to one person by different transliteration of his/her name;
3. not considering the nationality of the name and transliteration of it according to it;
4. inconsistency of the transliteration of the same names.

It is essential to have a specific reference that has a specific standard for transliterating Latin names into Persian.

It should be noted that the negative effects of inappropriate transliteration do not end with just the word, and its effect will continue in chains. It can be said that today, due to the use of new information and communication technologies, the time and space gap at national and international levels in different societies has been minimized, and as a result, when new phenomena appear in each country, news and information related to them in the form of new articles, speeches and communication media, very quickly transferred to other countries.

According to the research findings, it can be said that there are more than half of the Latin names in the articles in Avanevsh Bank. This bank has the ability to meet an important part of this need in Iran.

Considering the results of the present study, the following suggestions can be considered:

1. Attempts to use uniform transliteration in Latin name to Persian,
2. Transliteration policy should have a theoretical, clear and precise framework,
3. It is suggested that NLAI, as the trustee of Avanevsh Bank, provide an introduction for researchers when using Latin names to identify the basic problems of this bank and to be able to introduce and use this bank widely.

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