

# Re: Pseudo-cognates?

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- *From:* erilar <[drache@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:drache@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
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In article <4uah9hF15tjbcU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Harlan Messinger <[hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

izzy wrote:

Snis Pilbor wrote:

Is there a special word for the event when two languages share a word, but only by sheer coincidence, NOT ... because of common heritage?

Informally, they are called "sound-alikes". Sometimes they are called "false friends".

False friends aren't sheer coincidence—they're words that *are* related but that cause confusion because their meanings are different. Examples are English "eventual" and French "eventuel" (= "possible"), English "actual" and French "actuel" (= "current", "at the moment"), English "smoking" and French "smoking" (= "smoking jacket").

What the OP is asking about is words that *appear* to be false friends but that aren't.

I believe "tori(or something with "tor" in it at any rate) is a kind of gate in Japanese?? Tor is a gate in German. I can see no way these two words can have any kind of linguistic relationship. So are they "false friends"?

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Mary Loomer (aka Erilar)

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Es ist nichts schrecklicher als eine tätige Unwissenheit.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Re: Pseudo-cognates?

(There's nothing worse than ignorance in action.)

Erilar's Cave Annex: <http://www.airstreamcomm.net/~erilarlo>

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