


# **Reading Classical Authors**

Maryam Foradi, University of Leipzig

# AncientGeek: eLearning environment for historical languages

cient Geek

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## Get your Greek on.

Learn Ancient Greek as you read Thucydides' harrowing tale of the war between  
οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι (the Spartans) and οἱ Ἀθηναῖοι (the Athenians).

[Starten!](#)



### Spiele deinen Weg zu Griechisch

Develop your mad Greek skillz through games and choose the path to Greek glory that suits your personal learning style.



### Keep it original.

Explore Classical texts in their original languages, the way they were meant to be read, enhanced by data contributed by people like you.



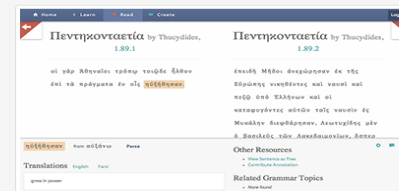
### Be a scholar!

Contribute micropublications like translations and annotations to help create brand new, digital editions of Classical works!

Here's how it works.

**You choose the way you want to learn Greek** — whether it's through pure immersion or structured lessons, Ancient Geek supports you in both ways.

You'll have all the tools you need to grapple with *real* Ancient Greek from day one, not just contrived textbook examples.



# Starting AncientGeek

- Ancient Greek as the first language
- Using Pentecontaetia as the first reading text
- Using Hansen & Quinn and Smyth's Grammar as a source
- Generating automatic exercises

# Using Pentecontaetia as Reader

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←

## Πεντηκονταετία

by Θουκυδίδης,

1.89.3

Ἀθηναίων δὲ τὸ κοινόν, ἐπειδὴ αὐτοῖς οἱ  
βάρβαροι ἐκ τῆς χώρας ἀπῆλθον, διεκομίζοντο  
εὐθὺς ὅθεν ὑπεξέθεντο παῖδας καὶ γυναῖκας  
καὶ τὴν περιοῦσαν κατασκευὴν, καὶ τὴν πόλιν  
ἀνοικοδομεῖν παρεσκευάζοντο καὶ τὰ τεῖχη·

→

## Πεντηκονταετία

by Θουκυδίδης,

1.89.4

τοῦ τε γὰρ περιβόλου βραχέα εἰστήκει καὶ  
οἰκίαι αἱ μὲν πολλαὶ ἐπεπτώκεσαν, ὀλίγαι δὲ  
περιῆσαν, ἐν αἷς αὐτοὶ ἐσκήνωσαν οἱ δυνατοὶ  
τῶν Περσῶν.

ἀπῆλθον

from

ἀπέρχομαι

Parse

Translations

English

Farsi

departed

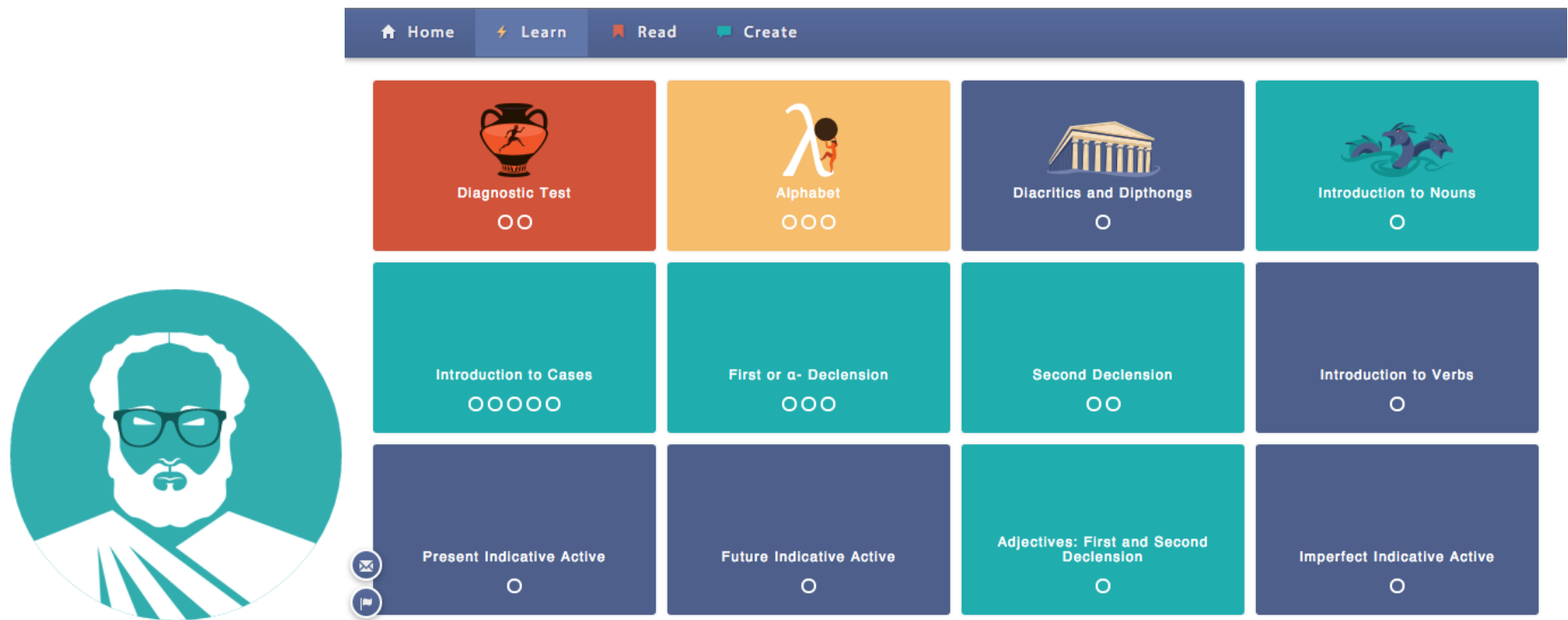
Other Resources

- [View Sentence as Tree](#)
- [Contribute Annotation](#)

Related Grammar Topics

- None found

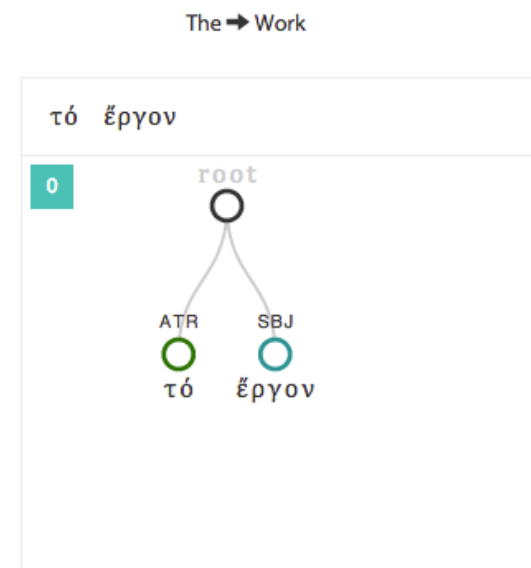
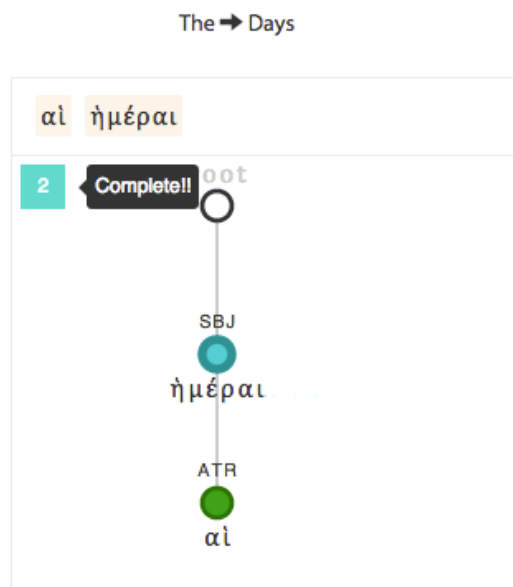
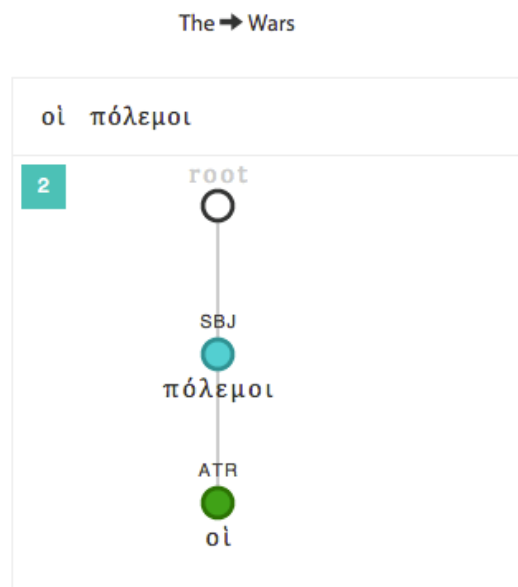
# Thucydides introduces the AncientGeek learning units



# Closed Exercises for Treebanking

Place the definite articles under the noun.

Each of these fragments shows the same pattern — a definite article that belongs below the noun it refers to!



# Introduction to Alignment

## PRESENT INDICATIVE ACTIVE

### Present Indicative Active

λύω, <i>I untie</i>		
Present Indicative Active		
<b>Singular</b>		
1st	λύ ω	I untie
2nd	λύ εις	You untie
3rd	λύ ει	He/She/It unties
<b>Plural</b>		
1st	λύ ομεν	We untie
2nd	λύ ετε	You untie
3rd	λύ ουσι(ν)	They untie

## The Present Indicative Active in the Pentecontaetia

The following is an example of how Thucydides himself makes use of a present indicative active verb in the

Pentecontaetia.

grc

ἅμα δὲ καὶ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἀπόδειξιν ἔχει τῆς τῶν Ἀθηναίων ἐν οἴῳ  
τρόπῳ κατέστη .

en

Besides , [this] contains an explanation by what means the Athenian power has been  
established .

— *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, 1.90.4

Keep Reading »



Ἀθηναίων δὲ τὸ κοινόν, ἐπειδὴ αὐτοῖς οἱ βάρβαροι ἐκ τῆς χώρας ἀπῆλθον, διεκομίζοντο εὐθὺς ὄθεν ὑπεξέθεντο παῖδας καὶ γυναῖκας καὶ τὴν περιοῦσαν κατασκευὴν, καὶ τὴν πόλιν ἀνοικοδομεῖν παρεσκευάζοντο καὶ τὰ τείχη .

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Πεντ

τοῦ τε  
οἰκίαι αἱ  
περιῆσαν  
τῶν Περ

ἀπῆλθον from ἀπέρχομαι Parse

Translations English Farsi

departed

Other Resources

- View Sentence as Text
- Contribute Annotations

Related Grammar

- None found

Grammar

Translations

Sentence

User Annotations

Translate this Sentence!

Build this Parse Tree!

Ἀθηναίων von Ἀθηναῖος




# Localization

- Linguistic Level:
  - Translation Alignments
  - Adapting the Teaching Content
- Technical Level
- Cultural Level

# Comparing LTR and RTL Languages


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Coming Soon




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## زبان یونانی خود را ارتقا بده

همانطور که داستان‌های تخریص‌کننده را درباره جنگ بین  
οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι (اسپارت‌ها) و οἱ Ἀθηναῖοι (آتنی‌ها)

Coming Soon



### پژوهشگر باش!

برای کمک به ایجاد نسخه‌های جدید و دیجیتال آثار کلاسیک، با کارهایی چون ترجمه و جستجوهای به تشریح و بازسازی رمان!



### فقط از اصل استفاده کن.

در متون کلاسیک به همان زبان اصلی تکیه کن، با همان زبانی این متون را از همان اول نوشته شده بودند، متنی که به واسطه یادگیری که افرادی مثل تو در ایجاد آن همکاری کرده‌اند، بهتر و دقیق‌تر.



### با بازی راه خود را در دنیای یونان پیدا کن.

مهارت‌های یونانی خاص خود را از طریق بازی توسعه بده و راه خود را به سمت شکوه یونان که متشکل از سنگ و آجر است، خودت است. انتخاب کن.

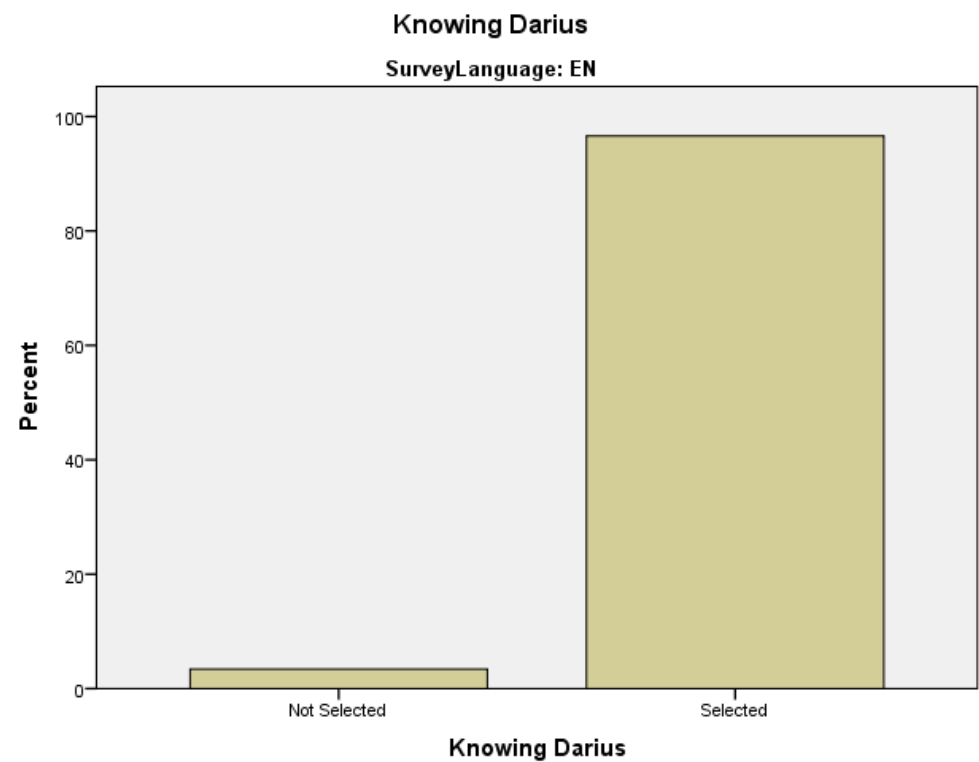
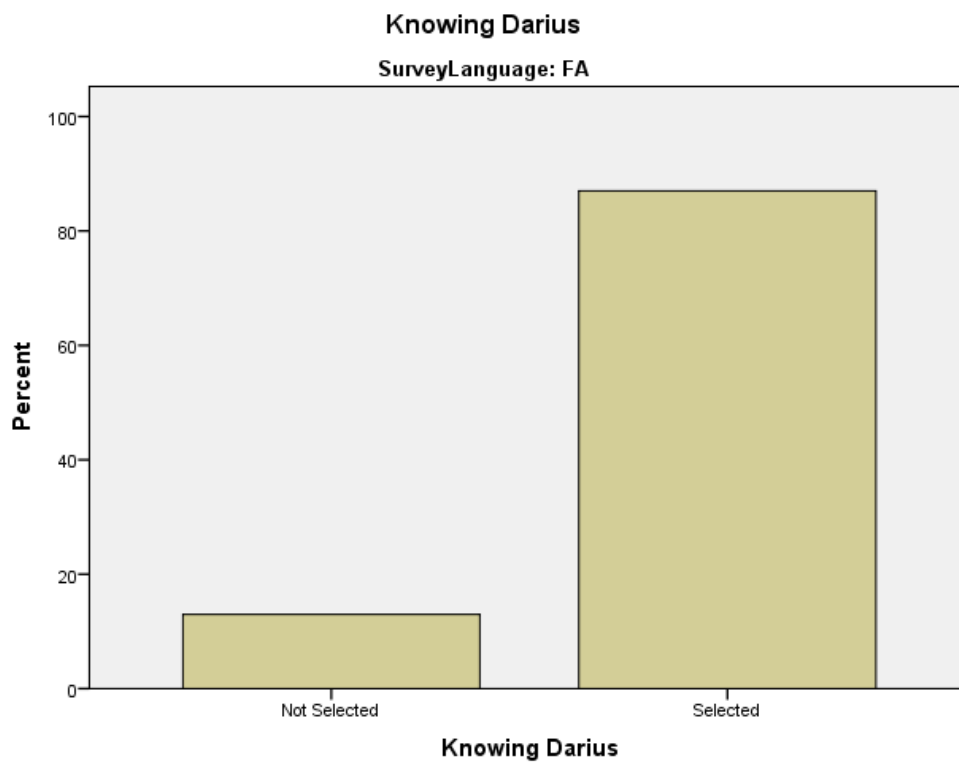
# How well is Darius known?

(Comparing two groups based on Survey Language)

Survey Language		Frequency	Percent
FA	Don't Know	37	13.0
	Know	248	87.0
EN	Don't Know	3	2.8
	Know	85	80.2

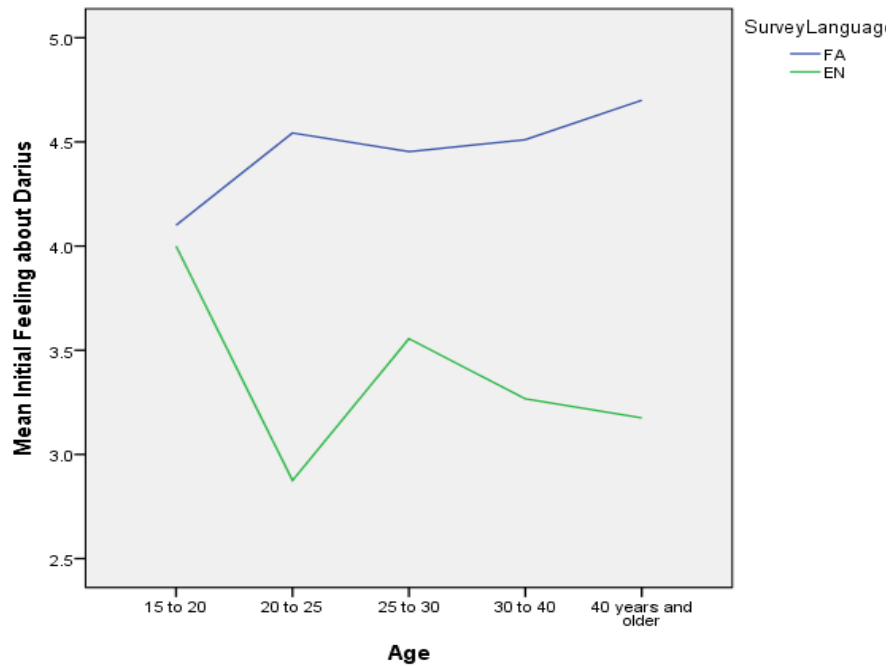
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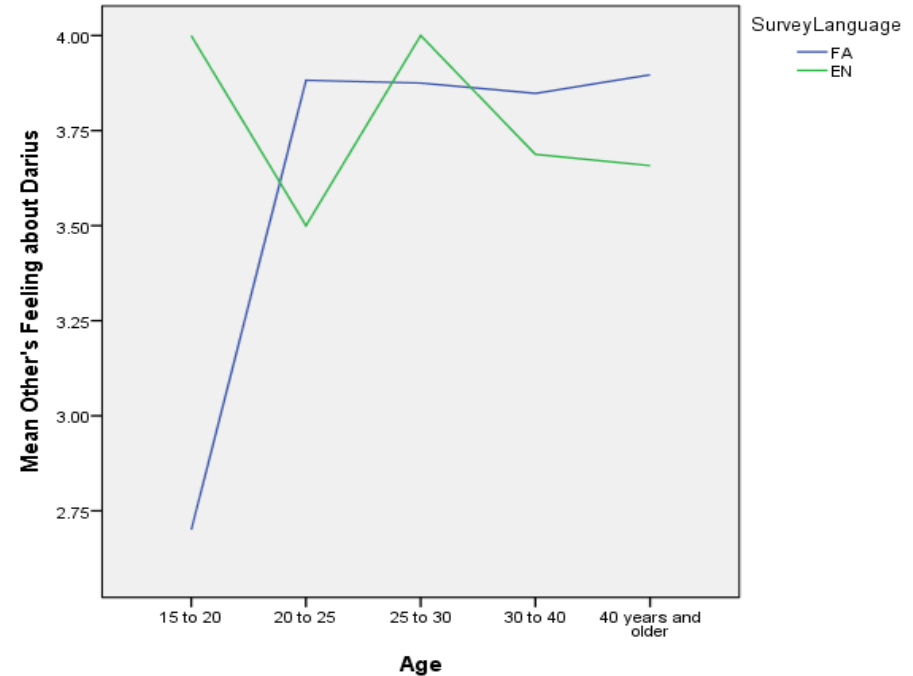


# Comparing different cultural perceptions

## Initial Feeling about Darius



## How other Culture thinks about Darius



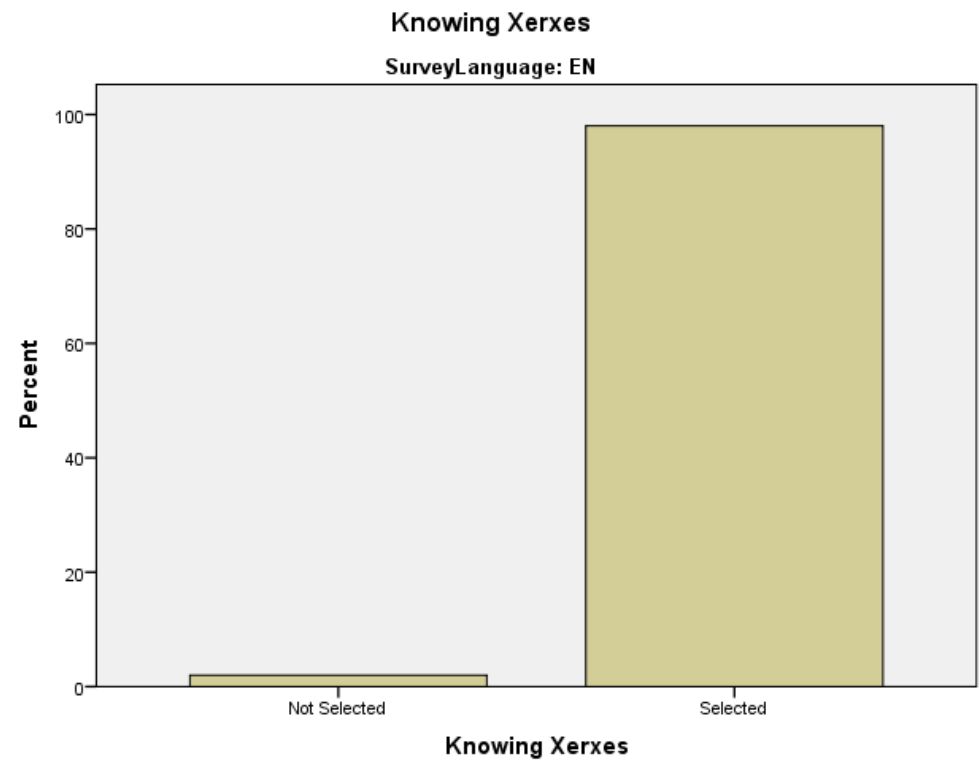
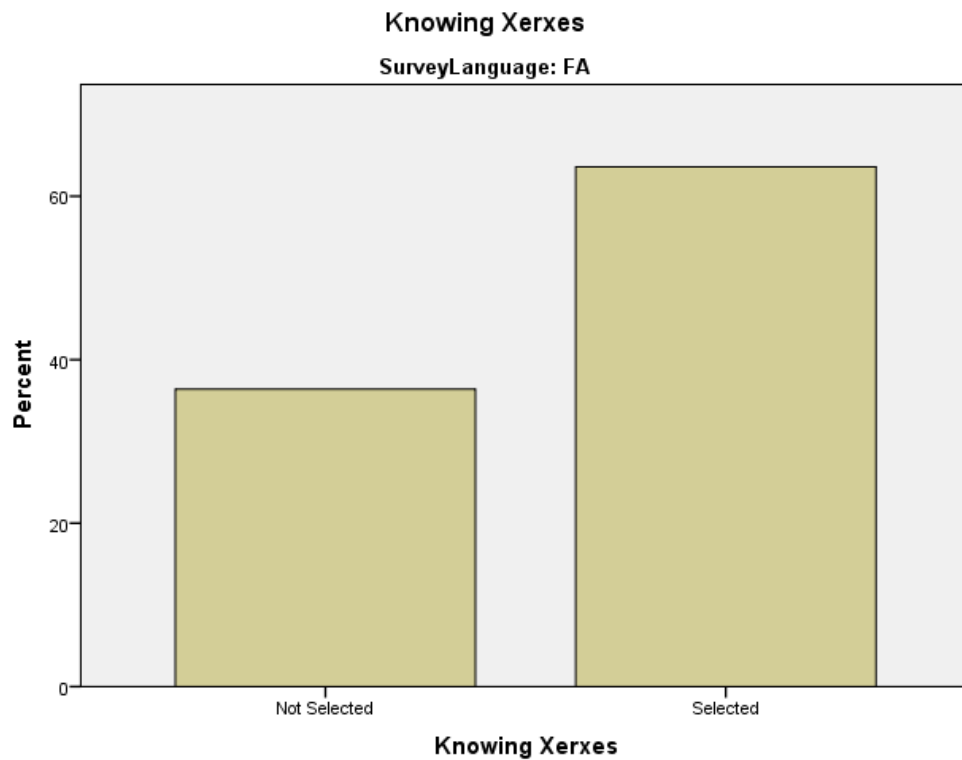
## How well is Xerxes known?

(Comparing two groups based on Survey Language)

Survey Language		Frequency	Percent
FA	Don't Know	103	36.1
	Know	180	63.2
EN	Don't Know	2	1.9
	Know	99	93.4

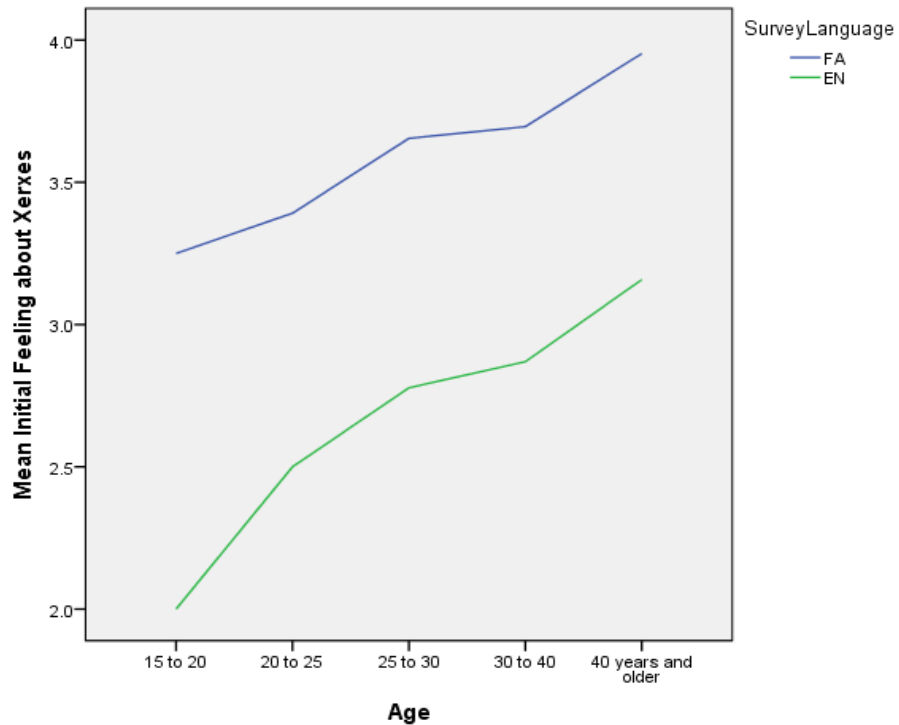
# How well is Xerxes known?

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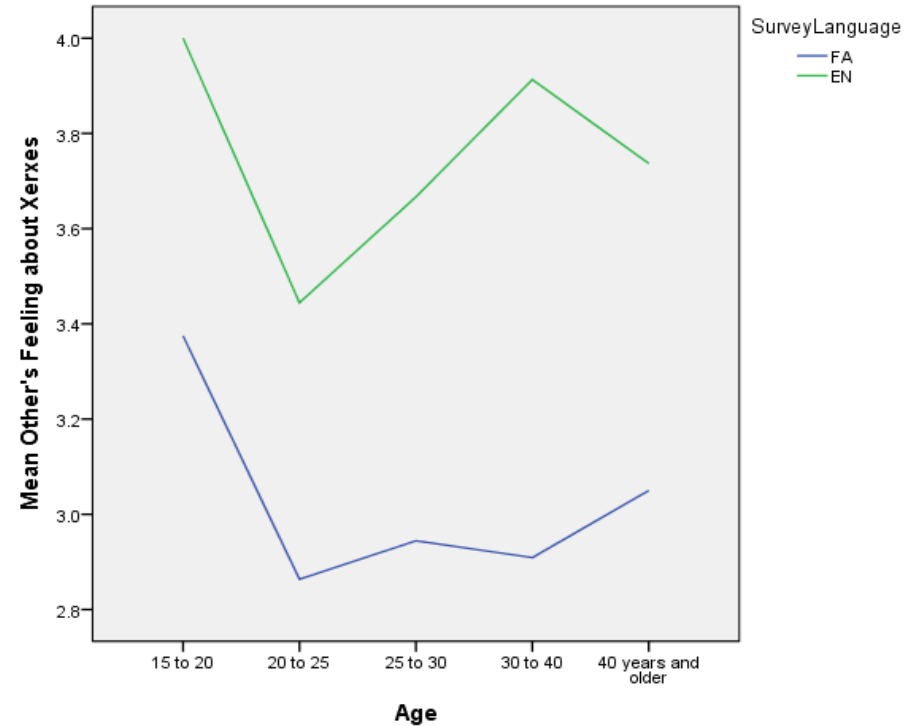


# Comparing different cultural perceptions

## Initial Feeling about Xerxes



## How other Culture thinks about Xerxes





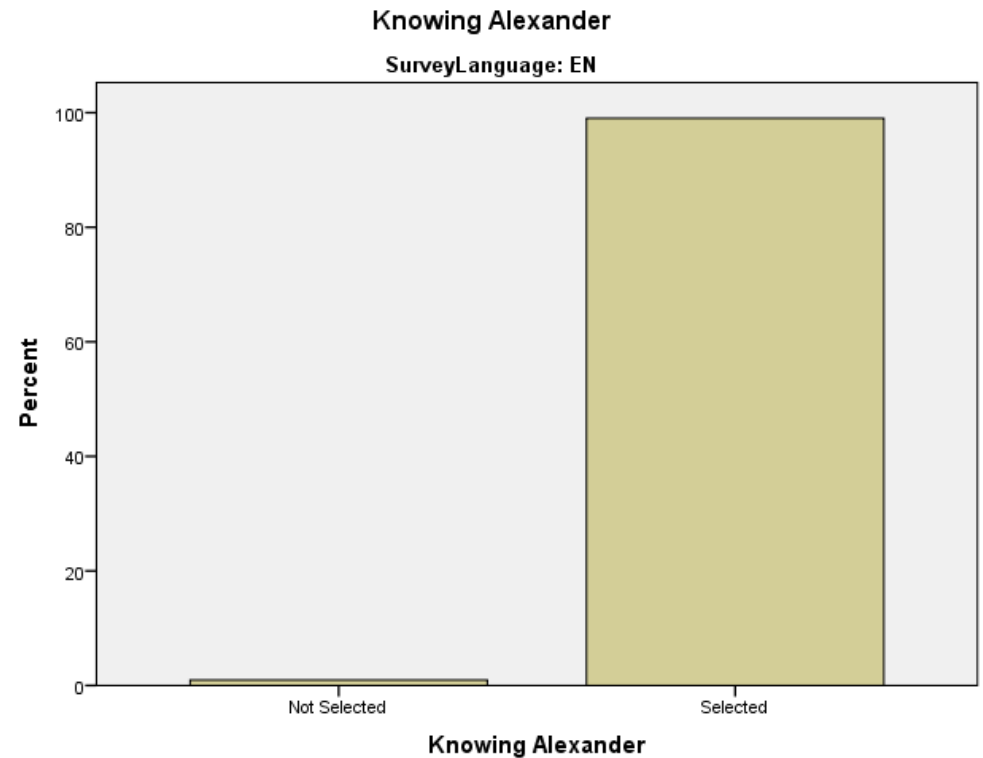
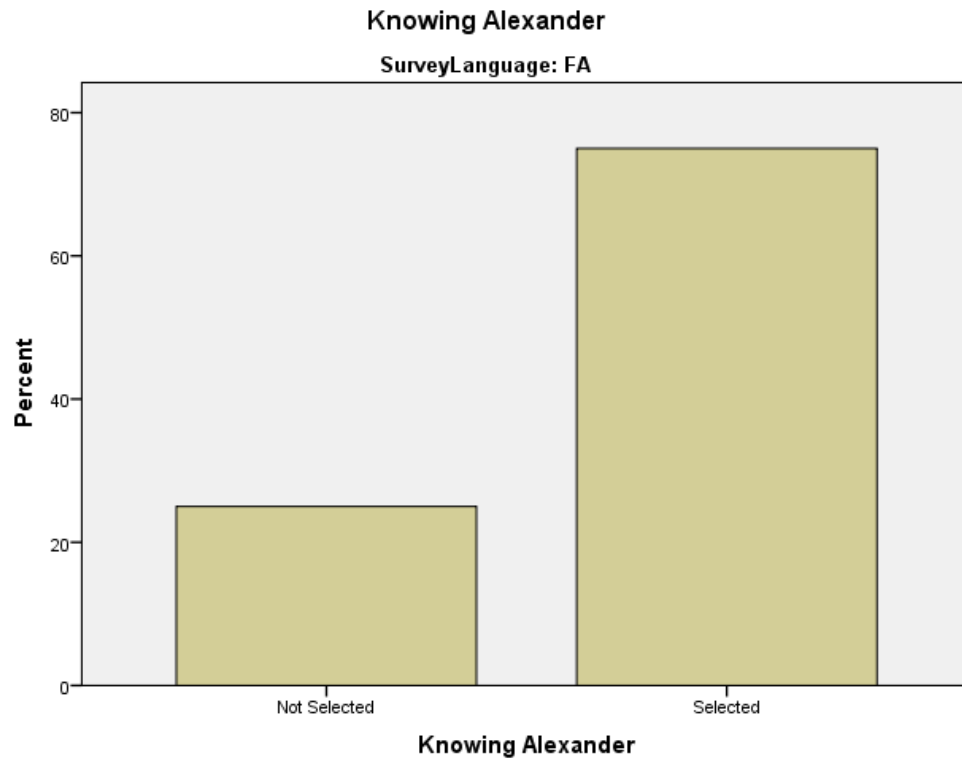
# How well is Alexander known?

(Comparing two groups based on Survey Language)

SurveyLanguage		Frequency	Percent
FA	Don't Know	71	24.9
	Know	213	74.7
EN	Don't Know	1	.9
	Know	103	97.2

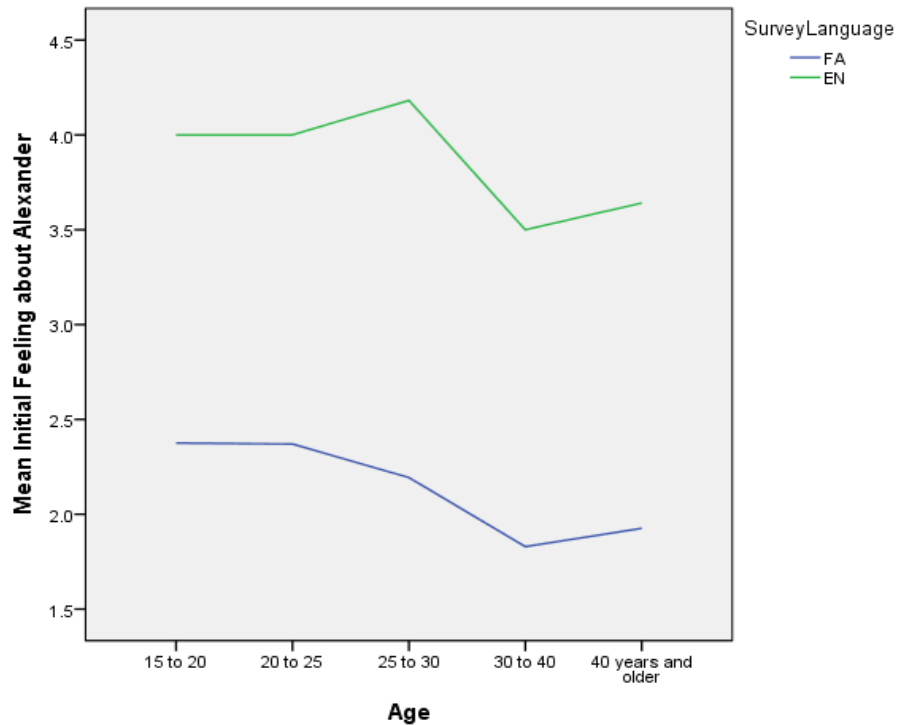
# How well is Alexander known?

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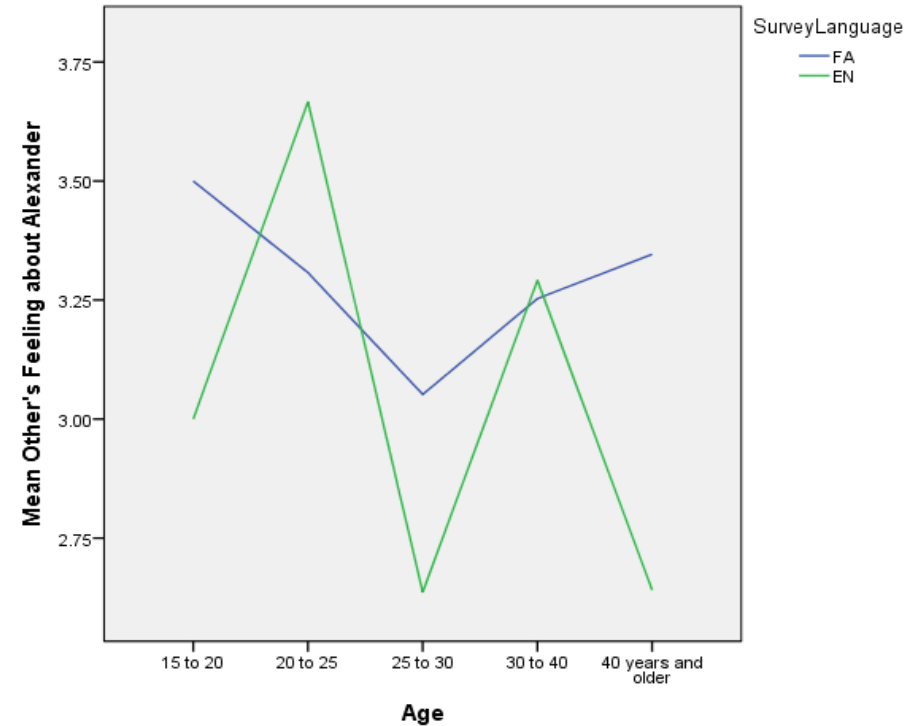


# Comparing different cultural perceptions

## Initial Feeling about Alexander



## How other Culture thinks about Alexander

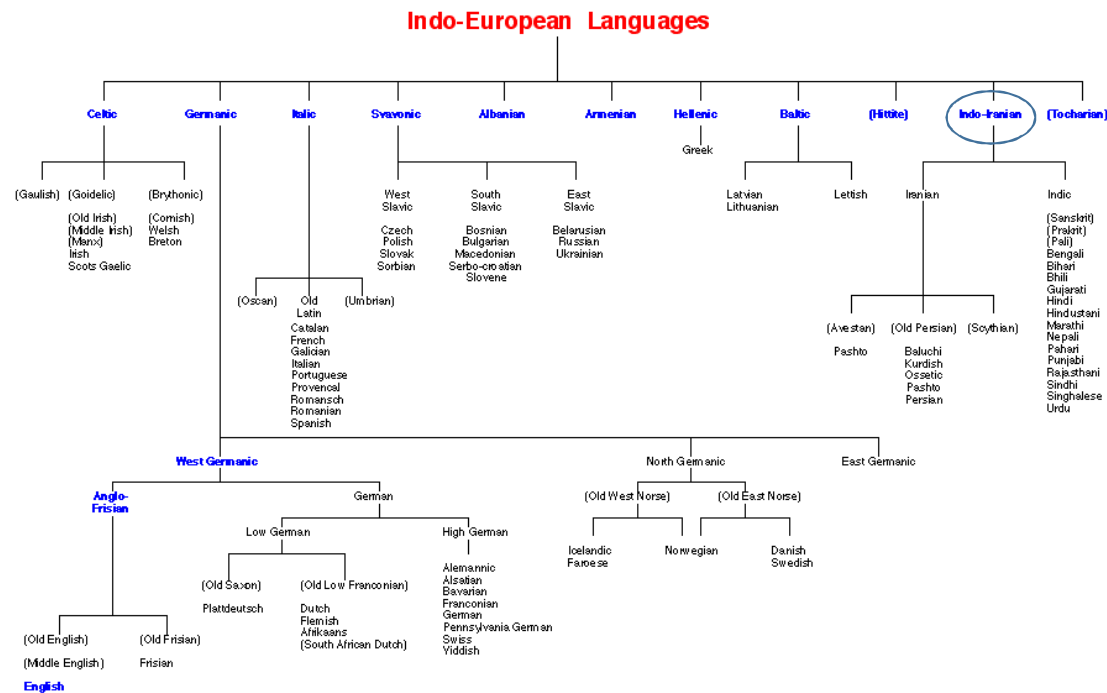


Persian

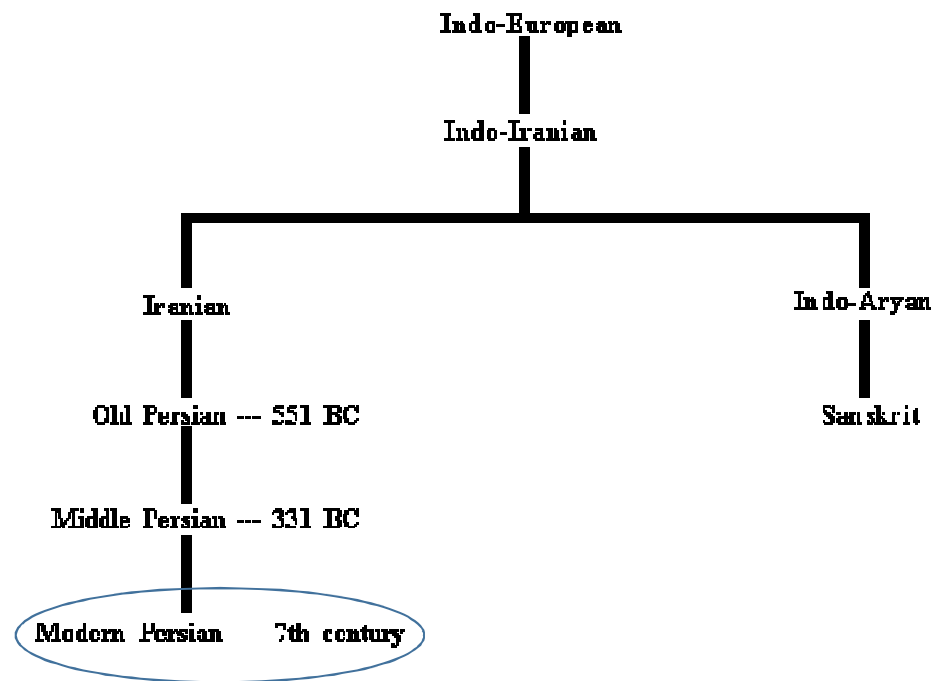
# Persian is an Indo-European Language

[www.vaughns-1-pagers.com](http://www.vaughns-1-pagers.com)

Language Summaries



# Modern Persian



# Language Features

- Old Persian had a complex morphology with a rich case and agreement system
- Middle Persian has lost most of its cases and agreements after conquest of Persia by Alexander
- Modern Persian (New Persian) starts after Arab's conquest of Persia and Islamization of the region in 7<sup>th</sup> Century

# Some Facts

- Arabic is a Semitic Language
- Persian has adopted Arabic alphabet into the writing system and Arabic adopted 4 letters from Persian (P, ZH, CH, G)
- Many Arabic word have been imported into Persian, but the language structure is not affected
- The root of the words are Arabic, but the Plural form or the conjugation is based on Persian conventions



# Morphological Ambiguities

• مردی

- *mardy* → a man, noun + indefinite marker
- *mardy* → masculinity, noun + derivational morpheme
- *mardy* → you are a man, noun + short form of the verb “to be” in 2<sup>nd</sup> person sing.
- *mardy?* → are you really a man?!
- *mordy* → you died, past form of the verb in 2<sup>nd</sup> person singular
- *mordy?* → did you die? (Why don't you come?)

# Even worse!

- Most verbs are compound verbs:

*zamyn xordan*

"floor eat"

to fall

*fekr kardan*

"thought do"

to think

*dust dâshtan*

"friend have"

to like/love

*gush dâdan*

"ear give"

to listen

*jâru zadan*

"broom hit"

to sweep

- New verbs are formed with the same pattern: "hit the email"

# Sentence structure

- Subject, object, predicate
- No cases
- If the accusative object is a definite noun or if it is a pronoun, there will be an accusative marker
- The enclitic pronoun may attach to any other part of speech (noun, adjective, preposition, verb)

Hafez

# Classical Persian Literature

- The language is New Persian
- It refers to the aesthetic and cultural concerns expressed in Persian between the ninth century and the mid-nineteenth century (Encyclopedia Iranica)

# One of the most famous poets

- Born between 1317 and 1326 in Shiraz
- Death 1390/1391 in Shiraz
- The collection of his poems is called "Divan"
- His fame roots in his lyrics (Ghazal)
- He is the master of amphibology

# Ghazal

- Ghazal is Arabic and means “flirting”
- Hafez was the first one, who used the genre for lyrical themes, and philosophical, mystical, political concepts and ethics
- The main themes of his ghazals is love, beloved one, wine, pains of separation, pleasure of union

# How Ghazal looks like

x \_\_\_\_\_  
x \_\_\_\_\_  
x \_\_\_\_\_  
x \_\_\_\_\_  
x \_\_\_\_\_

x \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
x \_\_\_\_\_



# Genderlessness of the beloved one

- The gender of 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular pronoun is not clear
- What is the gender of the beloved one?
- What does the translator do?
- Is he Sufi? Is that a divine love? Is the beloved one a young man?

# Open Persian

# Goal

- Making Persian literature accessible for everyone
- Annotating the digital Persian corpus
- Finding the translations into different languages
- Aligning the translations with the original text
- Helping interested people to read and to understand the original text

# Current Status

- Starting with Hafez' Divan with about 77,000 words
- The English translation by Wilberforce Clarke, fully aligned with the source text
- The German translation by von Hammer-Purgstall, used for the experiment

# English Translation

- The first translation by Sir William Jones (1777)
- Colonel Wilberforce Clarke, officer in India, translated the complete Divan, which has been published in 1891
- Word by word translation for teaching purposes
- Believing on mystical meanings

# German Translation

- Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall, Austrian orientalist and diplomat
- Translation of the complete Divan
- Published in 1812
- Goethe read this translation

# Problem!

- Different editions
- Different order of the poems
- Different order of the verses
- No internal coherence in poems

# Observations of German students

- Wow, each translator has picked different thing for translating the gender
- Ah, I see that Persian is right to left language
- Well, it seems, there is no article there
- Is that right that the predicate comes always in the end?
- I see there are shorter forms for the preposition “از”, is there anything else like this?
- I feel that this word has a deeper meaning. Each translator has tried to express it differently



# Align the poems

- Create data for others
- Enjoy reading Persian
- Ask new research questions

What is really the Gender of the beloved one?