
Brook, J. (2010). "Your son is in the babysitter": An examination of some semantic issues faced by Swedish learners of English. *Hawaii Pacific University TESOL Working Paper Series 8* (1, 2), 25-32.
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the produced sentence means that the speaker did not buy the fruit (the infinitive indicates an unfulfilled action), the intended meaning of the sentence was

Obviously, the use of *should* in this case is not ungrammatical; however *should*, conveys an obligation, such as, *she really should walk the dog because it needs exercise*. *Would*, on the other hand, is used in lieu of *will* to express a future action in a past sentence. For example, *Yesterday she said that she would take the dog for a walk if no one else was home*.

Also, consider the foll

by other Germanic languages, and has many common roots with English. With this considered, it should not come as a surprise that Swedish and English share many cognates, or words with a common historical origin, such as *foot*, *son*, *grass*, and *house* for example, which may facilitate target language learning; however, there are also some cognates that can be used in different ways, as exemplified in the *kan/can* example above. False friends, which are words that are identical or very similar in orthography, yet have a different meaning in Swedish as compared to English are also numerous. In fact, English speakers are so amused by the false friends between English and Swedish that a *Chicago Sun-Times* article (2004), entitled, '*Fartful*' workbench, '*Jerker*' desk: *Is IKEA hiding a grin?*,³ explored the humor behind the transferred errors on some of

not only contributed to the normalization of some historically connected words (cognates), but also the wholesale adoption of English words into the Swedish lexicon. In fact, many contemporary English words have been incorporated into Swedish including, *baby, best-seller, check, deodorant, jeans, reporter* and *service* among hundreds of others (Holmes & Hinchliffe, 2008, p. 2). Although some English words have been adopted and remain cognates, many other adopted English words have evolved to take different meanings or connotations, which can cause confusion when Swedish learners of English then attempt to transfer them back to English. For example, *babysitter*, which is a common English word denoting a person who watches a child while his or her parents are away, has been adopted into Swedish to mean a specific type of baby or high chair, which can lead to sentences such as:

(10) *Your son is in the babysitter.

Din son sitter i babysitter

(Your son is in the high chair)

(my observation)

This sentence would most likely be misunderstood by an English-speaking listener, who, if the parent of the child,

Table 1
A List of Common False Friends Between Swedish and English

Word in Swedish/ English	Swedish Meaning	English Meaning	Lexical Category
<i>Gift</i>	Poison		

Notes

¹ Intended meaning is provided in parentheses following each learner's example. The Swedish examples in this paper come from various Swedish regional varieties from Östergötland, Örebro and Stockholm.

² This utterance, while slightly awkward, is used in some regional dialects of English, such as with some Canadian English speakers.

³ *Fartful* in Swedish roughly translates to "Ugly Speed" or jokingly