

## A Comparative Analysis of Conditional Clauses in English and Persian: Text Analysis

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### ABSTRACT

*This article compares the application of conditional clauses in English and Persian. Based on two classical literary works, East of Eden by John Steinbeck (1952) and Missing Solooch (In Persian Ja-ye Khali-ye Solooch) by Mahmood Dolatabadi (1979), conditional clauses were retrieved and analysed. The findings indicated that Persian and English have some similarities and differences in terms of the type of conditionals and conjunctions. English seems to employ more conditionals than Persian does. Among the different types of conditionals, type one shows to be more frequent in both languages, while Persian type 2 is mostly representative of type 3 concept. Persian appears to freely employ the subject-fronting strategy to place emphasis on the subject by assigning the subject to an initial position before 'if'. In both languages, the if-clause is mainly initial in imperative and declarative statements. Reverse conditionals and the deletion of 'if' in certain types suggesting high formality do not exist in Persian. Unlike English, Persian does not combine 'if' with adjectives and past participles and hence contracted conditionals and the courtesy-bearing structure of English are not common in Persian conditionals. Compared to Persian, the high frequency of English conditionals is also supported by the corpus of Hamshari, an Iranian newspaper, the Time Magazine corpus and Corpus of Contemporary American English.*

*Key words: conditional clauses; corpus; hypothetical statements; Persian; subject-fronting; syntax*

### INTRODUCTION

As a linguistic and cognitive complex structure, the conditional sentence expresses a myriad of meanings and functions via various manifestations. It is considered complex since its realization is dependent upon the occurrence of another event. Conditionals can convey logical arguments, especially in academic debates to introduce or develop an argument (Example 1). They also express cognitive reasoning, semantic nuances through factual, nonfactual or hypothetical events (Example 2). Conditional sentences can be used to mitigate the force of suggestion or command, making it the hearer's choice (Example 3):

*Example 1: If aggression and violence are part and parcel of what it means to be human, then why is it that there exist societies where aggressive or violent behavior is*

*conspicuous by its absence?* (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Conrad, and Finegan., 1999: 824)

*Example 2: If you heat water to 100 degrees C, it boils.*

*Example 3: Well, you can stop being a fussy spot if you don't mind.* (Biber et al., 1999: 821)

Among the most difficult grammatical structures for ESL learners, conditionals stand fifth after articles, prepositions, phrasal verbs, and verbals (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman 1999). The learners usually find problems with form and meaning. The form causes problems because conditional sentences consist of two clauses (i.e., if and result clauses) which can switch places. The conditional or rather the dependent clause can start with words such as *if, unless, provided (that), providing (that), even though, even if, whether or not, as long as, and on condition that*. In some types (e.g. hypothetical), the concessive conjunction can be dropped on the users' desire:

*If he should come here, I'll let you know.  
Should he come, I'll let you know.*

Even certain pro-forms such as *so* or *not* can be used after 'if' to replace the entire dependent part (Halliday and Hasan, 1976):

*Would you like to join us? If so, please write your name here.*

Conditional sentences are multi-fold structures:

Conditional sentences directly reflect the language user's ability to reason about alternatives, uncertainties, and unrealized contingencies. An understanding of the conceptual and behavioral organization involved in the construction and interpretation of these kinds of sentences, therefore, provides fundamental insights into the inferential strategies and the cognitive and linguistic processes of human beings. (Traugott, 2009: iv)

The meaning of conditionals can vary from structure to structure. It can convey the sense of possibility, wish or regret, and volition. Generally, conditionals can express three types of semantic relationships: (1) factual, (2) future or predictive and (3) imaginative.

Each type of conditionals is subdivided into several subsets:

- a) Generic: Generic conditional refers to the relationship which is true and unchanging. This type is usually expressed in present simple tense in both clauses:

*If you heat water to 100 degrees C, it boils.*

- b) Habitual: Habitual conditional is just similar to the generic condition except for the type of relationship which is not based on physical law. It relies upon habits. In this kind, it is possible to replace 'if' with 'when' or 'whenever':

*If I open the door in the morning, I see the neighbor.  
When I open the door in the morning, I see the neighbor.  
If I opened the door in the morning, I saw the neighbor.  
Whenever I opened the door in the morning, I saw the neighbor.*

- c) Implicit inference: An inference is indirectly made about specific time-bound relationships. Both clauses have the same tense and aspect.

*If anyone made a noise, it was Tom.*

- d) Explicit inference: In explicit inference conditionals, neither of the clauses has parallel tenses and aspects. The result clause contains an inferential modal such as *must* or *should*.

*If he is driving now, he must be over 18 years old.*

The second type of semantic relationship is the future or predictive one which expresses future plans or contingencies. The common pattern consists of an if-clause in the simple present tense, and a result-clause with ‘will’ or ‘be going to’ to express future time. The effect of the condition clause can be made weak by using the modal ‘should’ or the verb ‘happen’ (or both together) in the if-clause. In addition, the result-clause can also be weakened by the insertion of such modals as ‘should’, ‘may’ or ‘might’ in place of ‘will’ or ‘be going to’:

*If he should come here, I will let you know.*

*If Tom (should) happen to bring the money, I may let you know.*

The third type of semantic relationship is the imaginative conditional, subdivided into hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals. The former deals with events or conditions supposed to be unlikely but possible by the speaker, while the latter has to do with events or conditions considered impossible by the speaker both in present and past time references.

*If I had money, I could take a vacation.* (Present hypothetical)

*If our ex-president were in office, the country wouldn't face such a crisis.* (Present counterfactual)

The negative quality of the if-clause in hypothetical conditionals can be intensified by the application of ‘should’, ‘happened to’, or ‘should happen to’, which will then result in the strengthening of the possibility of the result:

*If I should have the money, I would take a vacation.*

*If I happened to have the money, I would take a vacation.*

*If I should happen to have the money, I would take a vacation.*

In counterfactual conditionals, the if-clause is not weakened, because it is strongly negated and the condition remains impossible. Another difference between hypothetical and counterfactual conditionals has to do with time reference. Hypothetical conditionals can refer to the future as well as the present.

*If I had the money, I would travel to America.* (Present)

*If I were to have the money, I would travel to America.* (Future)

## BACKGROUND

According to Biber et al's (1999: 820) corpus, condition clauses are most common in conversation, and moderately common in academic prose. However, in comparison to fiction and news contexts, academic prose has a higher level of conditional clauses both as a semantic category and a syntactic adverbial clause, reaching about two million (Biber, et al, 1999). In Fulcher's (1991) study, the traditional types 1, 2, and 3 of conditionals accounted for 20.4% of the 299 occurrences of ‘if’ forms. Type 1 alone took 45.15% of occurrences, while the share of type 3 was only 3%. The degree of occurrence of different types of

conditionals varies from major to major. In this study, it is indicated that students studying English for academic purposes consider types 1 and 2 less significant; believing that type 2 largely occurs in narratives suitable for general English courses rather than other purposes (Fulcher, 1991).

According to the study conducted by Ford and Thompson (1986), if-clauses account for nearly 80% of conditional sentences in their corpora, encompassing four functions in both oral and written discourses: offering options for future follow-up activities, introducing contrasts, providing examples for generalizations and making inferences.

As social functions, initial if-clauses can also be used to give directives, speak humorously and sarcastically, and offer apologies, commands, advice, and instructions (Celce-Murcia & Larsen-Freeman, 1999). Regarding sentence final if-clauses, 23% is found in the written and 18% is observed in the oral corpora collected by Ford and Thompson's (1986). They found that most of the written corpus lies in three categories:

1. When a conditional clause occurs within a nominalisation, an infinitive, or a relative clause, it tends to occur in final position.
2. English speakers sometimes prefer to introduce strong arguments and interesting topics in the main clause, which may necessitate final position for the subordinate conditional clause.
3. Long and involved conditional clauses tend to occur in final position.

In spoken discourse, Ford (1997) examined conditionals and their functions based on 55 conditionals from casual conversations of adult native speakers of English, coming up with several social discourse functions of conditionals:

1. Initial If-clauses may connect a comment to the statements said earlier, so it plays a connective role.
2. Conditionals introduce new understanding to the previously spoken stuff which focused on a single idea.
3. If-clauses usually moderate the tone of the message, moving it away from disagreement toward being less confrontational by using softening hypothetical information.
4. If-clauses usually express requests and suggestions rather than commands. They can be used after directives, proposals and offers to bring about effective actions.

Conditional sentences can also express desirability. According to Mayes's (1994), findings, conditionals help us explore the relationship between language and the human mind reflecting the psychological thoughts and the state of the speaker (e.g., sorrow, regret, disbelief, cynicism). The study also showed that Japanese, Korean, and English-speaking American parents most commonly used predictive and future temporal conditionals, both of which illustrate the importance of desirability of outcomes in their expressions. Predictive conditionals mainly contain warnings and threats (e.g. 'You will be grounded if you don't do your homework.) in which an undesirable premise results in an undesirable outcome. In contrast, future temporal conditionals tend to express a desirable sense taking place later (e.g., plans and promises: *When you grow up, you'll be able to speak well.*).

Berent (1985) worked on the order of acquisition of conditionals to predict learners' difficulties. Two experiments were conducted to compare the production and comprehension of real, unreal, and past unreal (i.e., types 1, 2 and 3) conditional sentences for 55 advanced and low-advanced adult ESL learners. The findings showed that despite the complexity of structure in type 3, the learners had less difficulty in comprehension than in production.

However, the experiment indicated a more relative ease in production than in comprehension of real conditionals.

Recording a sample of 100 conditionals from U.K. television, Maule (1988) found that the three traditional forms taught do not represent the forms commonly in use. Only 7% of the recorded samples were in conditional type 1. The collection included 40 real non-past forms with present tense, the imperative, modals, *be to*, *have to*, *have got to*, and *going to*. It is suggested that the learners' understanding of type 1 needs to be developed to include other real non-past forms.

While agreeing to Maule's (1988) suggestion to expose students to a wider range of possible conditional combinations, Ur (1989) explains that the conditional type 1 is not just non-past: the present tense after 'If' actually refers to the future, and the past form in type 2 refers to unreal present or at least non-past time, and finally type 3 deals with past time. The students need to know about the oddities of these particular types of conditionals.

## METHODOLOGY

### MATERIAL

This study is based on two novels *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck (1952) and *Missing Solooch* (In Persian *Ja-ye Khali-ye Solooch*) by Mahmood Dolatabadi (1979). *East of Eden* tells the story of a wayward young man who, while seeking his own identity, vies for the affection of his deeply religious father against his favored brother, thus retelling the story of Cain and Abel. *Missing Solooch* is the story of poor people dwelling in a remote arid area in Iran, striving for their daily meal and tangled in the consequences of poverty and negligence. The reason for the selection of these two books lies in their being distinguished literary works in both American and Iranian cultures. Both of them deal with realistic issues with more or less similar themes: people's routine lives full of struggle to survive and attain their identities. Both contain dialogs that can be representative of common speech sufficiently suitable for text analysis. The characters in both novels are ordinary people from illiterate to half-literate. And more important for the Iranian novel is its style of writing which is less affected by the 'flavor' of 'imported' translated language.

### PROCEDURE

Using the AntConc (Version 3.2) and Wordsmith (version 5) software tools, the texts were analyzed and cases of conditional clauses were identified. In some cases, especially in the case of imperative structures, or where cursing and warning were made, the analysis was manually done to retrieve the required samples. The data both in English and Persian, were supported by another novel, *The Book of Jinni* (in Persian, *Jen Nameh*) by Hoshang Golshiri, (1997) the corpus of *Hamshari*, an Iranian newspaper, with a size of more than three million words (1923-2006), and Time Magazine Corpus and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), (1990-2011) with a bank of 100 million and 425 million words, respectively.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study focused on three research questions:

1. What are the main types of conditional sentences employed in these novels as representatives of daily language?

2. How are the conditional sentences arranged to convey the intended meanings?
3. Is there a difference between conditional clauses in English and Persian?

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The text of *East of Eden* and *Mission Solooch* were analyzed by means of software tools, namely AntConc (Version 3.2) and Wordsmith (version 6). Table 1 gives an overall overview of the application of conditionals appeared in *East of Eden*.

According to Table 1, there are 611 instances of conditionals in *East of Eden* manifested through different conjunctions. The conjunction ‘if’ alone as the main conditional marker has a frequency of 579 cases while other conjunctions such as ‘unless’ and ‘in case’ have 29 and 3 occurrences, respectively, throughout the whole novel. The low occurrence of ‘in case’ can tentatively mark the low occurrence of extremely cautious remarks in the framework of conditional structure in the text. The findings indicated that in 465 pages of the book, conditional type 1 ranked first with a frequency of 293 followed by conditional type two with an occurrence of 242 instances, and type three with a frequency of 73. The analysis also indicates that most of the instances of if-clause occupied an initial position with a score of 355, while in 224 instances it took the final position in the sentence. However, the combination of ‘if’ with ‘even’ indicates that in all of the occurrences (16 cases), ten of which were in the final position and only 6 instances belonged to the initial position.

Another conditional conjunction used in the novel was ‘unless’ which was used 29 times. It was mostly used in conditional type one (16 instances) closely followed by type two with a frequency of 13 and never employed in type three. Contrary to the conjunction ‘if’, the word ‘unless’ occupied only the final position in the sentence. The analysis indicated the if-clause has also been accompanied by modal auxiliary verbs as representatives of polite expression in 11 instances, eight of which were expressed by ‘will’ and three by ‘would’. The use of imperative structures in conditional sentences shows a frequency of seven.

TABLE 1. Analysis of conditional clauses in *East of Eden*

Total occurrence of ‘if’	579	
if-initial	355	
if-final	224	
and + if	58	
even + if: initial	6	
even + if: final	10	
if not	1	
if + adjective	2	
if + Past Participle	2	
if only	3	
what if	1	
unless	29 :	present tense: 16
		Past tense 13
		initial:0
		final: 29
in case	3	
Type 1	293	
Type 2	242	
Type 3	75	
politeness	if you will	8
	If you’d	3
imperative		7
if + happen to + Verb		1
if + should + Verb		15

*Missing Solooch* was also analyzed for the occurrence of conditional clauses. Table 2 gives an overview of the result of the analysis.

TABLE 2. Analysis of conditional clauses in *Missing Solooch*

Total occurrence of 'if'	150	
if-initial	124	
if-final	16	
and + if	0	
even + if: initial	0	
even + if: Final	0	
if not	1	
if + adjective	0	
if + Past Participle	0	
If so	1	
if only	0	
what if	0	
unless	2	
in case	0	
Curses/ warnings	if-initial	10
	if-final	
Type 1	71	
Type 2	34	
Type 2 for type 3	18	
Type 3	3	
Zero Type (facts)	2	
if + should	6	
if + type 3, result + type 2	4	
if + type 2, result + type 3	2	
if + type 1, result + type 3	1	
Subject-fronting	34	
imperative	if-initial	15
	if-final	
Miscellaneous	6	

Based on the analysis of the 497 page novel *Missing Solooch* (In Persian *Ja-ye Khali-ye Solooch*), the conditional sentences used throughout the book amounted about 150 instances. Of this sum, about 140 cases were expressed by the application of 'if' and 10 conditional sentences were expressed by substitute words. The conjunction 'if' stood in two major positions. It appeared as an initial if-clause with a frequency of 124 and a final if-clause with 16 instances. The table also shows that conditional sentences were used for the expression of curses and warnings with a frequency of 11 cases. The imperative structure in conditional sentence occurs 16 times throughout the novel. Regarding the type of conditional sentences, there are 71 instances of type 1, 34 of type 2, 18 instances of type two used as substitutes for type 3, three cases of type 3 and 2 instances of zero conditional. The application of 'should' correspondence in type one was 6 instances. There are also instances of mixed conditionals. There are 4 instances of conditionals having type 3 in the if-clause and

type 2 in the result-clause. Furthermore, there are 2 instances of the combination of type 3 in the if-clause and type 2 in the result-clause. There is only one example of mixed conditional with type 1 in the if-clause and type 3 in the result-clause.

Another important feature appeared in the novel was the strategy of subject-fronting which occurred 34 times. The occurrence of imperative conditional sentences had a frequency of 16 out of which 15 instances of the imperative sentences occupied an initial position in the sentence. And finally, there are 6 instances of conditional sentences expressed not by conventional conditional markers but by a special arrangement of the sentence elements or the insertion of the relative pronoun ‘that’ after verbs plus direct objects followed by a ‘RA’ marker, which is used to mark a direct object. This substitute conditional can be seen in a sentence like this:

NAXORAM KE DONBALE SHOTOR NEMITONAN BERAM (*Missing Solooch*: 88)  
 not eat that follow came can't I go  
 ‘If I don’t eat, I can go to collect the camel at all.’  
 DAMAGHASH RA (KE) BEGIRI, JANESH DARMIAD (*Missing Solooch*: 175)  
 his nose object-marker (that) get, his life come out  
 ‘If/ when you hold his nose, he’ll pass out.’

A comparison between the occurrence of ‘if’ (AGAR in Persian) in *Hamshahri* newspaper corpus and the corpus of Time Magazine indicated that there were about 5000 instances of ‘if’ in the Persian corpus while in the Time magazine, the frequency was about 147,000 cases, suggesting a ratio of 1:5. In COCA, there were about 1012700 instances of occurrence of ‘if’ and the share of fiction was about 233600 instances.

A passing glance can indicate that although both novels had almost the same size, and nearly the same theme, *East of Eden* enjoyed a far more application of conditional clauses than *Missing Solooch* did. The number of conditional clauses containing the conjunction ‘if’ was three times that in *Missing Solooch*. However, both works had a great number of initial if-clauses. For *East of Eden*, there were 355 instances of initial if-clauses and 224 final if-clauses, while *Missing Solooch* had 124 initial if-clauses and only 16 final if-clauses. This unequal proportion may be attributed mainly to the writing style and the pragmatic characteristics of end-focus and end weight. According to the English principle of end-focus, the important part of a message is usually moved to the final position of a sentence and so is the long and heavy part of a message (Greenbaum & Quirk, 2003). Regarding subordinate clauses and conditional clauses in particular, the place of the if-clause and the result-clause is determined by the content of each. If the if-clause carries the new information, it is placed in the second part of the sentence, but if the result clause bears the new information, it comes after the if-clause. However, Biber et al’s (1999) findings indicate that conditional clauses have no strong preference for either position in conversation, while in written academic contexts, they are usually inclined for the initial position. As for Persian, however, there is a tendency to place the important or new and heavy information of a sentence in the initial clause. This may partially be accountable for the Persian’s higher frequency of initial if-clauses compared to those in English.

The verbless conditional clauses (e.g. if necessary, if any, if so, etc.) are almost rare in Persian since in this language it is usually preferred to make use of a whole sentence which can be presented either by subject and verb or by a verb plus an enclitic. An enclitic is one type of clitic, which itself is a type of morpheme without an independent application, but like the affixes, it is attached to a word and unlike them, it is not part of the word (Kalbassi, 2005). Clitics are in two types: the first one is called proclitic which is prefixed to a root, especially verbs, to denote the aspect of the verb and the other type is called enclitic. This one



is attached to the end of the word to denote number and subject pronoun (Abdollahi-Guilani, Mohamad Subakir Mohd Yasin & Tan 2012) Among the different forms of reduced conditionals, Persian uses AGAR NA (i.e. ‘if not’), only.

English can have the conjunction ‘if’ deleted and the sentence inverted in certain circumstances such as when the if-clauses have an auxiliary verb like ‘should’ in type one, ‘were’, in type two and ‘had’ in type three:

- 1a. *If she should join us, we can start the game.*
- 1b. *Should she join us, we can start the game.*
- 2a. *If she were here, I would be very happy.*
- 2b. *Were she here, I would be very happy.*
- 3a. *If the professor had explained the lesson in details, we would have passed the test.*
- 3b. *Had the professor explained the lesson in details, we would have passed the test.*

However, Biber et. al. (1999) believe that the occurrence of types 2 and 3 of conditionals in inverted order is low in fiction and high in news and academic settings, but the frequency of inverted conditional with ‘should’ is about 5-15 occurrences per million. So it is mostly restricted to formal expository registers (Biber et al, 1999: 852). To confirm their report, no inverted conditional was spotted throughout *East of Eden*, but the structure with ‘should’ had at least 15 occurrences such as the following instances:

*If I should go up to a lady or a gentleman, for instance, and speak as I am doing now, I wouldn't be understood.’ (East of Eden, P. 124)*

*If you should ever get an itchy tongue, before you tell anybody, even your wife, why, you think about those little boys finding out their mother is a whore.’ (East of Eden, P. 164)*

One of the outstanding features of Persian conditionals can be the subject-fronting feature. This characteristic refers to the preposing of the subject of the if-clause to the beginning of the sentence to install emphasis upon the subject. According to the analysis of the Persian novel, there were 34 instances of subject-fronting throughout the book through which the writer placed stress on the subject. As a supplementary supportive source, the novel *The Book of Jinni* (1997) (in Persian, *Jen Nameh*) by Hoshang Golshiri, indicated that there were 518 occurrences of conditional clauses with the conjunction ‘if’ which is comparably greater than the number of if-clauses in *Missing Solooch*. This simple difference may be attributed to the theme of the story or the style of the writer (which requires a separate investigation).

With respect to the issue of fronting, it was noticed that out of 518 occurrences of if-clauses, there were 49 instances of subject-fronted if-clauses in *The Book of Jinni*. The remainder can be shared by two other types of if-clauses. On the one hand, there are 186 instances of ‘if’ with the subject following ‘if’ just like the conventional English conditionals. On the other hand, there are 283 cases of encliticised verbs. As a synthetic language, Persian verbs receive enclitics to represent number and person, so it is not always necessary to insert subject pronouns again; that is to say, the verbs alone can represent both. For example, RAFTAM (i.e. I went) is composed of the past stem RAFT (i.e. went) plus the enclitic –AM which can stand for the first person singular pronoun. The supporting analysis showed that most of the conditional clauses had encliticised verbs and it is not definitely easy to

determine the true function and purpose of the enclitic: to avoid the repetition of the subject pronoun or to avoid placing stress on the subject.

With reference to the principle of end-focus, Persian is usually front-focus. That is to say, the most important information as well as the weightiest part of the message lies in the initial piece of the whole sentence. For example, it was noticed that all the curses used in *Missing Solooch* had the if-clause at the initial position since the condition is more important to the speaker than the result. This is also true for the imperative sentences. The analysis of the text spotted 16 imperative conditionals in which 15 instances had initial if-clauses to indicate that condition is more cared about to the Persian speaker than the result is.

Regarding the first research question, *What are the main types of conditional sentences employed in these novels as representatives of daily language?*, it was found that in *East of Eden*, conditional type one is of prior use in daily speech closely followed by type two, but type three had less application than the other two types. On the contrary, *Missing Solooch* used conditional type one twice many as type two and even type two was also employed to serve as type three. The frequency of conditional type three was by far the least in the novel.

As for the second research question, *How are the conditional sentences arranged to convey the intended meanings?*, the analysis illustrated that English used initial if-clauses more than final-if clauses; In comparison, Persian resorted more to initial if-clauses not only in declarative statements, but also in giving curses and warnings and conditional imperative structures. This is probably because it is the focus of attention to the Persian speaker unlike the English speaker putting the important part at the final position in the sentence.

For the third research question, *Is there a difference between conditional clauses in English and Persian?* it was found that Persian does not practically differentiates between the second and third types of conditionals to a considerable extent. That is to say, type two can most freely be used in place of type three. Related to this question lies the issue of subject-fronting which seems to be specific to Persian and was not spotted in the English text.

## CONCLUSION

The text analysis of *East of Eden* and *Missing Solooch* (In Persian *Ja-ye Khali-ye Solooch*) on the use and behavior of conditional sentences has shown that both languages make use of conditional clauses to varying degrees. Although the themes of both novels may have some features in common and the characters have some roughly similar literacy and personalities, it seems in *East of Eden*, people (or in fact, the writer) would like to express their uncertainty more than that presented by the Iranian writer. Three tentative guesses can be made in this regard: one group of educated people put their ideas in the format of conditional clauses to reserve their directness and openness. Another walk of people resort to conditional sentences to conceal their lack of knowledge. Finally the third group is in dilemma to speak openly or reservedly. In the first two groups, conditional clauses are observed abundantly prevailing in *East of Eden* and the third group can be spotted in *Missing Solooch*. Furthermore, the impact of the writer's style is never deniable, which is somehow rooted in the cultures of West and East, respectively. To support the final idea, some strong proof can possibly be attributed to *The Book of Jinni* (1997) (in Persian, *Jen Nameh*), which was written in 1980s by an Iranian writer residing in Germany. The abundance of conditional clauses may be by some chance the result of the exposure of the writer to the foreign culture (with 20 years of difference from the date of *Missing Solooch* in 1979) to lead to a profuse number of conditional sentences in his work.

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