Abstract. Let $\nu$ be a henselian valuation of any rank of a field $K$ and $\bar{\nu}$ be the unique extension of $\nu$ to a fixed algebraic closure $\bar{K}$ of $K$. In 2005, it was studied properties of those pairs $(\theta, \alpha)$ of elements of $\bar{K}$ with $[K(\theta):K] > [K(\alpha):K]$ where $\alpha$ is an element of smallest degree over $K$ such that

$$\bar{\nu}(\theta - \alpha) = \sup \{ \bar{\nu}(\theta - \beta) | \beta \in \bar{K}, [K(\beta):K] < [K(\theta):K] \}.$$ 

Such pairs are referred to as distinguished pairs. We use the concept of liftings of irreducible polynomials to give a different characterization of distinguished pairs.