

Variant values

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|---|-----|
| 1 | avo |
| 2 | a |
| 3 | o |

Diachronic explanation of variants

(1) Retention. The variant <avo>, including its long subvariant /ávo/, represents maintenance of the final segment /avo/ in the Proto-Romani etymon *_čhavo_ ‘son; Romani boy’, which continues MIA _chāpa_ - (Pali), _chāva_ - (Prakrits) ‘young of an animal’ (CDIAL 5026).

(2) Innovation. The variant <a>, including its long subvariant /á/, has developed through apocope of the final segment /vo/ in the etymon *_čhavo_, leading to forms such as _čha_ or _čhá_ in respective dialects.

(3) Innovation. The variant <o> has developed through syncope of the segment /av/ in the etymon *_čhavo_, leading to a form _čho_ in respective dialects.

Attestation of forms

LQCR, RMS, some publications

Geographical distribution of variants in Central Romani

(1) The variant <avo> is attested throughout the whole Central area, including the Plaščuno dialect. The variant is especially absent in the eastern and southwestern periphery of Central Romani, and sporadically attested in the Eastern Transitional subgroup.

(2) The variant <a> occurs in three discontinuous areas: a) in the eastern periphery of Central Romani, b) in the historical Gemer county with an overlap to the historical Zvolen county and c) in the southwest of Central Romani. The eastern area comprises all varieties of the Central Galicia region, the overwhelming majority of the Eastern North Central varieties (absent in Northern Šariš) and a few varieties of the adjacent Southern Šariš and Abov regions. The second, transitional, area consists of all varieties of the Western and Southern Gemer regions, almost all varieties of the Northern Gemer and Eastern Horehronie regions and some adjacent varieties of the Western Horehronie region. Finally, the southwestern area comprises some varieties of the Eastern and Middle Podunajsko regions, a single adjacent variety of the Žitný ostrov region (viz. Dunajská Streda), the western varieties of the Pest region (viz. Tinnye and Páty), the Versend variety (Baranya) and the overwhelming majority of varieties of the Southwestern South Central subgroup.

(3) The variant <o> occurs in a single contiguous area consisting of a few varieties of the Abov region, viz. Bačkovík, Ťahanovce and Zdoba.

Geographical distribution of variants in neighbouring dialect groups

(1) Only the Central Romani variant <avo> is attested in the neighbouring dialect groups, being found in almost all of these groups (Lovari, Transylvanian, Northeastern, Sinti, Dolenjski and Arli Romani).

Variant values

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|---|-----|
| 1 | eve |
| 2 | e |

Diachronic explanation of variants

(1) Retention. The variant <eve> represents maintenance of the segment /eve/ in the Proto-Romani etymon **_devel_* ‘God’, which continues the OIA abstract noun *_devatā_* - ‘godhead, divinity’ (< *_deva_* - ‘god’) via MIA *_devadā_* -.

(2) Innovation. The variant <e>, including its subvariants /é/, /ej/, and /i/, has developed through contraction of the segment /eve/ in the etymon **_devel_*, leading to forms such as *_del_*, *_dél_*, *_dejl_* or *_dil_* in respective dialects.

Attestation of forms

LQCR, RMS, some publications

Geographical distribution of variants in Central Romani

(1) The variant <eve> is attested in four discontiguous areas: a) in the Plaščuno dialect, b) the variety of Zakopane of Western Malopolska region, c) in the southern varieties of the Galicia region and d) in the northwest of Central Romani. The smaller, northeastern, area comprises individual southern varieties of the Central and Western Galicia regions, viz. Topyl’nicja and Kulaszne. The much larger, northwestern, area consists of almost all varieties of the Western North Central subgroup, a single adjacent variety of the Liptov region (viz. Ružomberok) and all varieties of the Western Horehronie region.

(2) The variant <e> is the most dominant in Central Romani. The variant is only absent or unattested in individual varieties of the Central and Western Galicia and Liptov regions, in all varieties of the Western Horehronie region and in almost all varieties of the Western North Central subgroup.

Geographical distribution of variants in neighbouring dialect groups

Both Central Romani variants are attested in the neighbouring dialect groups:

(1) The variant <eve> is found in the neighbouring dialect groups to the north, west and south of Central Romani, viz. in Northeastern, Sinti, Dolenjski and Arli Romani.

(2) The variant <e> occurs in the neighbouring dialect groups to the east and southeast of Central Romani, viz. in Transylvanian, Lovari and Gurbet Romani. These dialect groups constitute a dialect continuum with the eastern and southern varieties of Central Romani.