linguistic atlas of central romani

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context of the project

• since 1990 descriptive boom
• since 1998 databases RMS + ROMLEX
• since 2001 questionnaire elicitation (RMS)

• 2008–10 documentation of central european (central, vlax, sinti) romani
• 2011–13 linguistic atlas of central romani
central romani

cerhari-type
central romani

core area

plaščuno
previous documentation

• 5 reliable grammars (1821, 1853, 1877, 1963 – textbook, 1998)


• 5 extensive text collections (1889, 1921, 1941, 1985, 1998)
sources of data

1. audio-recordings of *elicited* speech

2. audio-recordings of *spontaneous* speech
   (narratives, conversations etc.)

3. **published** sources
   - grammatical descriptions
   - lexical descriptions
   - text collections
fieldwork

- short field trips
- questionnaire elicitation in a number of local varieties of romani
  - extensive but relatively superficial documentation
  - highly economical method
  - basic description of the sociolinguistic situation
  - naturalistic texts
linguistic questionnaire

- lqcr = *linguistic questionnaire for the documentation of central european romani* (2008–)

  – partly derives from *RMS questionnaire* (Matras *et al.* 2001)
  – 1500 sentences
  – covers all essential grammatical structures & extended basic vocabulary
  – several lg. mutations
linguistic questionnaire

• lexicon
  – cca. 1900 lexemes per variety
  – basic vocabulary
  – targets all etymons with a meaning reconstructable for early romani
  – selected semantic fields (modern life etc.)
quantification

- 25 researchers, 11 regular ones, 4 core ones
- ca. 450 days spent in the field
- ca. 1500 hours of recordings (elicitation)
- ca. 320,000 transcribed questionnaire sentences
- ca. 450 idiolects documented
- ca. 300 local varieties documented
linguistic features

• all levels of language structure and use:
  – lexicon
  – phonology
  – morphology
  – syntax
  – semantics
  – pragmatics

• ca. 500 phonological and grammatical features
• ca. 700 lexical and semantic features
yesterday
initial /a/ in *axaljov-
infinitive
prose chapters

• **introductory & background** chapters
  – romani population of east central europe
  – sociolinguistics of central romani
  – structure of central romani

• **feature** chapters
  – related to the individual feature maps (or a set of related feature maps)

• **summary** chapters
  – internal dialectological division of central romani
  – dialectological position of central romani within romani
feature chapters

1. comments on the extent of *attestation* of a given feature in the data
2. a list of the cross-dialectal *variants* of the feature
3. diachronic comments on the *origin and development* of the variants
4. comments on the *geographical distribution* of the variants in (and beyond) central romani
5. an historical linguistic *interpretation* of the cross-dialectal variation