Verbal syntax in Rromani: Diathesis

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Topics

- Morphosyntax in Rromani
- Diathesis in Rromani
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- Reflexive or non-reflexive?
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Morphosyntax in Rromani

- Basic word order in Rromani: (S)VO.

- The verb agrees with its subject in number, person and gender. The gender concerns only the 3rd person singular in the past-tense of some verbs.

  - Daral. (He/She) is afraid.
  - Daràndilo. (He) was afraid.
  - Daràndili. (She) was afraid.

- The subject is often deleted.

  - Makhes i mez. (You) paint the table.
  - Tu makhes i mez. You (that is not other persons) paint the table.
  - YOU paint the table.
Diathesis in Rromani

- Two types of diathesis at the morphological level: active and medio-passive (MP).

  - Active: the action that the object undergoes.
    
    **Makhes i mez.** *(You) paint the table.*

  - MP: the action that the subject undergoes, either by his own fact or by other persons.
    
    **Makhlős.** *(You) do makeup yourself.*
    
    *(You) are done makeup (by someone else).*
    
    = reflexive
    
    = passive

=>Ambiguous!?
Medio-passive (MP)

- MP in Romani consists of one of the two morphemes (-d- and -l-) of past participle passive (PPP) and the ending, which agrees with its subject in number, person and gender. The gender concerns only the 3rd person singular in the past-tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IND+PRS</th>
<th>PPP</th>
<th>MP+PRS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>makhel</td>
<td>makhlo</td>
<td>makhlodol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khosel</td>
<td>khoslo</td>
<td>khoslodol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bičhalel</td>
<td>bičhaldo</td>
<td>bičhalddol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kerel</td>
<td>kerdoo</td>
<td>kerdool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Medio-pasive (MP)

NooJ inflectional grammar for the E-class verbs with -I-
Medio-passive (MP)

NooJ inflectional grammar for the medio-passive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SG</th>
<th>PL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Pers.</td>
<td>makhlövav</td>
<td>makhlövas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Pers.</td>
<td>makhlöves</td>
<td>makhlöven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>makhlös</td>
<td>makhlön</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Pers.</td>
<td>makhlövel</td>
<td>makhlöven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>makhlöl</td>
<td>makhlön</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reflexive or non-reflexive?

- Two analytical forms of the passive: reflexive and non-reflexive.
- Reflexive: V+active - patient(=agent)+oblique.
  
  Makh-es tu-t.
  to_do_makeup-PRS.2SG you.SG-OBL
  (You) do makeup yourself.

- Non-reflexive: copula - V+PPP - agent+oblique+ablative.
  
  Sin-an makh-l-i tir-e sas-a-θar.
  be-PRS.2SG to_do_makeup-PPP-F.SG.DRT your-F.SG.OBL mother_in_law-F.SG.OBL-ABL
  (You ‘female’) are done makeup by your mother-in-law.

=> No risk of confusing about the agent.
Reflexive or non-reflexive?

- Two forms of personal pronoun of the 3rd person in the oblique: reflexive and non-reflexive.
  - Reflexive: pes *himself/herself*, pen *themselves*.
    - Makhel pes. (He/She) *does makeup himself/herself*.
  - Non-reflexive: les *him/her*, len *them*.
    - Makhel la. (He/She) *does makeup someone else (female)*.

=> No risk of confusing about the patient.
Transitivity in Rromani

- Two types of transitivity in Rromani: transitive and intransitive.
  - Transitive: Phabares o kašt. (You) burn the wood.
  - Intransitive: O kašt phablől. The wood burns.
- Verbs in Rromani cannot be both transitive and intransitive.
- In fact, phablől smth burns is the MP form of phabarel to burn smth.
Causative in Rromani

- Causative in Rromani means: to make smb/smth do smth or to become such.

- Causative affixes: -av-, -ăr- and -ăkăr-.
  
  - A-class verb + -av-: daral to be afraid > daravel to scare
  
  - E-class verb + -ăr-: makhel to paint > makhărel to let paint
  
  - Adjectival stem + -ăr/-ăkăr-: baro big > barărel/barăkărel to bring up
  
  - MP + -ăr-: sikelől to learn > sikelărel to teach (lit. to make learn)
Lexical resource

- *Morri angluni rromane čhibǎqi evroputni lavustik* "My first European dictionary of Rromani language" (Courthiade, M. et al., 2009) includes the four main dialects of Rromani and translation in 10 languages (Croatian, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Spanish, Ukrainian).

- The lexical part of the NooJ module for Rromani is mainly based on this dictionary.
NooJ syntax for diathesis

- **Active:**
  - Makhel e borā.  (He/She) does makeup the bride.
  - Makhel i mez.  (He/She) paints the table.
  - Makhel la.   (He/She) paints/does makeup her/it (bride or table?)

- **Passive reflexive:**
  - Makhes tut.   (You) do makeup yourself.
  - Makhel pes.   (He/She) does makeup himself/herself.
Reflexive: Makhlōl.
(He/She/It) paints/does makeup himself/herself/itself.

Non-reflexive: Makhlōl.
(He/She/It) is painted/done makeup (by smb/smth).
Makhlōl laqe sasaθar.
She is done makeup by her mother-in-law.
Makhlōl laθar.
(He/She/It) is painted/done makeup by her/it.
Si makhli.
She is done makeup.
Si makhli laθar.
She is done makeup by her/it.
Conclusion and perspective

- This time, I have programmed some grammars for verbal syntax especially about diathesis. These are just a prototype. It would be necessary to see other syntactic phenomena to improve the syntax of the Rromani module.

- Previously, I presented the grammars for noun phrases. The coherence and the compatibility between all syntactic grammars should be examined.

- In the near future, I would like to finish the NooJ dictionary at first, then improve NooJ syntax so that the module Rromani is more efficient.
References


*CEuropean Dimension* ourthiade, M.: *Xaca dùme - but godi*. MS.


*R.E.D.-RROM (Restoring the of Rromani language and culture)*, [www.red-rrom.com](http://www.red-rrom.com).
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Te oven saste! Hvala! Thank you!

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