

Buzek, Ivo (editor)

## Summary

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# SUMMARY

This book is a collective monograph and contains a series of papers that deal mainly with the extent of influence between the Spanish variety of Para-Romani, generally called Caló, and the Spanish language in general, or with other languages spoken as well in the Spanish speaking areas in particular. Some authors pay attention in their papers to the process of genesis of the Spanish Para-Romani in relation with other dialects of Romani and Para-Romani, others study closely the interaction between Caló and Spanish and other languages that have come in contact with them and finally, some authors analyze social functions of Spanish Para-Romani in the context of Hispanic societies. Some papers are historically oriented, while others deal with contemporary situation.

## **The Romani people of Spain and the possible origin of Caló**

Jorge M. F. Bernal

The paper pretends to testify a possible multi-group origin of the Romani people of Spain and the authors present a series of arguments that speak for the poly-genetic origin of Caló. It would imply that the Spanish Para-Romani has derived, in fact, from various dialects of Romani and not only from one historical dialect of the Romani language, as it has been supposed. It is based on the result of a comparative study of various dialects of Romani and varieties of Para-Romani in Spain and Latin America and on documenting the strategy of usage of different lexical and grammatical items coming from different Romani and Para-Romani varieties according to register and pragmatic factors in the act of communication (inter-Romani and inter-Para-Romani diglosia today). Other arguments are based

on testified lexical borrowings from other languages that work here as proofs of migratory routes in the past and witnesses of the fact that different groups of Roma people were coming to Spain in different times and their own dialects have had different function in the process of forming of Spanish Para-Romani (inter-Romani diglossia in the past).

### **Romani lexicon documented in Caló dictionaries**

Zuzana Krinková

It is a historically oriented paper as well. It is based on a relatively large corpus of documents of the Spanish Para-Romani, mainly Caló dictionaries, shorter vocabularies included in books on Spanish Roma people, flamenco, bull-fighting, etc., and finally other minor documents of different proceeding. The paper is centered on analysis of oldest layers of Romani lexicon, mainly hereditary vocabulary of Indian origin and the oldest groups of loanwords of pre-European origin (Iranian languages or Armenian) as well as on the oldest layer of European loanwords, which came generally from Greek.

### **Literary sources for the study of Caló in the 18th century**

Javier Fuentes Cañizares

Research into the Spanish literary sources that help illustrate the presence of the lexical Romani component has already been carried out by scholars with fairly comprehensive studies. However, the presence of Caló in most of these studies show an abundance of examples drawn mainly from 19th century literary works. Since the profusion of lexical items of Romani origin from 19th century sources contrasts sharply with the scarcity of the Romani lexical stock from 18th century literary works, an attempt has been made in this article to provide a detailed analysis and an overview on the literary sources from the 18th century that illustrate the use of Caló. This contribution aims to offer a reliable information on authors, literary works and motivations that lie behind the emergence of Caló lexical items documented mainly in 18th century dramatic works.

### **A never-born 19th century Spanish Gypsy dictionary: *Rotañulario dor Sersén al Calorró y de andalló al Sersén* by Joaquín Simán (Pero Grullo)**

Ignasi-Xavier Adiego

The paper presents an interesting story of a failed lexicographical project of a serial Spanish Para-Romani dictionary in the middle of the 19th century. All evidences point to the fact that the project did not come from any philological interests of its author but it was instead meant as a sources of financial support for political purposes that had nothing to do with Roma people or even philology. The project failed but the sample that was meant to attract possible subscribers was used a couple of years later by other author for his own dictionary.

### **Criminological studies and internal documents of Spanish Police and Civil Guard: sources to study Romani loanwords in the criminal jargon during 19th and 20th centuries**

Ivo Buzek

The aim of the paper is to study a philological value of documents that were never intended to serve to such purposes. In this case these are criminological studies and internal documents of Spanish Police and Civil Guard that belong to the lexicographic genre (vocabularies and wordlists). The hypothesis is that as they were never meant to be sold at the book market but were rather intended to be used for the education of policemen and members of Civil Guards in their daily work in the streets of Spanish towns and in the country, it sounds probable that they could reflect rather well the real usage and vitality of Romani loanwords in the Spanish criminal jargon in their times (19th and 20th centuries).

### **A *Caló* Lexicon with data about its knowledge by a group of Spanish *Gitanos* or *Calé***

Juan F. Gamella, Ignasi-Xavier Adiego, Cayetano Fernández Ortega

For the last two centuries, most evidences show that the use of *Caló* has been withering away from the Spanish Roma community (*Gitanos*). It is a well-known fact. But there are few data on the actual knowledge and use of *Caló* by *Gitanos* themselves. To study these processes we developed a questionnaire that included a *Caló* wordlist with 360 key terms from 16 major semantic fields, and we applied it to an intentional sample of 68 *Gitano* persons in Andalusia. As far as we know, this was the first extended and comprehensive study to consider usage patterns

and the knowledge base of a large sample of potential speakers. The results have been published elsewhere (See Gamella et al. 2015). Here we present the vocabulary used in this study with its 290 Spanish and English translations. We also present the number and percentage of Gitano persons who recognized each of the Caló items, and the main lexical variations offered by users themselves. The list could be compared with other recent and past Caló vocabularies to establish the losses and remaining items of this agonizing language.

### **On the origin of the word *chingar* in the Mexican Spanish: an opened debate**

Laura Hernández Martínez

The paper proposes a new hypothesis on the origin of the word *chingar* in Mexican Spanish and postulates a fusion of the Spanish Caló term *chingar* –which includes “to fornicate” as one of its meanings– with the Nahuatl locative *tzinco*, that means: “in the anus”. This linguistic crossbreeding gave place to an expression that relates to the humiliating domination of the other through sexual transgression. Since *chingar* is lexically and semantically highly productive in Mexican Spanish, and neither of its meanings is referred to the sexual act, it is considered that its primary meaning is underlying (as symbolization of excess) in all the usages of the field, which most relevant characteristic seems to be that of working as intensifiers of the experiences they allude to.