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## **Preliminary notes on a Romani etymological dictionary**

Since the beginning of Romani studies and the identification of Romani as Indo-Aryan language (cf. Augustini ab Hortis 1775, Grellmann 1783, Puchmajer 1821, Pott 1844-1845, Miklosich 1877/78, Turner 1926) a considerably high amount of works dealing with lexicon (e. g. Wolf 1960, Boretzky–Igla 1994) and etymology of the Romani languages has appeared (e. g. Lesný 1941-1942, Tálóš 1999: 215-268, Vekerdi 2000, for further references see Bakker 2003). The etymological treatises are however dispersed in specialized, often hardly accessible periodicals. This is one of the reasons, why a comprehensive etymological dictionary of the Romani languages is still desideratum.

Despite the long history of Romani studies, it is striking, nevertheless, to what a high degree information concerning e. g. the number of inherited lexemes from the Indo-Aryan lexicon still differs in single publications. The aim of the present paper is to give a brief overview of the current state of our knowledge and to present the divergent opinions about loanwords from various contact languages. Selected lexemes from single contact languages will be analysed. These include the inherited lexicon from Indo-Aryan, lexemes from Iranian languages such as Kurdish, Ossetic or Persian (Hancock 1995, Matras 2002: 23), words borrowed from Armenian (Boretzky 1995, 2012), and Greek (Tzitzilis 2001, Matras 2002: 22).

Furthermore, some problems and disputable cases which emerged while compiling an etymological dictionary of Romani will be presented. These concern first and foremost the choice of the specific dialect and the specific material to be included in the *Romani Etymological Dictionary (RED)*, the selection of sources, which have up to now been analyzed in the planned *RED*, and some peculiarities of Romani phonology.

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