

Romani in Britain

The Afterlife of a Language

YARON MATRAS

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of Figures, Tables and Maps</i>	vii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
1 Angloromani: A Different Kind of Language?	1
1.1 Gypsies and Travellers in Britain	1
1.2 Language contact, language change and dialects	3
1.3 'Mixed' Romani dialects and Para-Romani	9
1.4 Creoles and pidgins	12
1.5 Mixed languages	16
1.6 In-group lexicons, argots and 'secret' languages	20
1.7 Language shift and language loss	26
1.8 Towards an integrated scenario: The functional turnover model	27
2 The Roots of Romani	31
2.1 Pre-European origins	31
2.2 Innovations acquired outside the Indian subcontinent	34
2.3 The impact of Greek	35
2.4 Towards a chronology of Romani migrations	37
2.5 Dialect differentiation in Romani	40
2.5.1 The period of dialect formation	40
2.5.2 Variation within Early Romani	43
2.5.3 Local and regional changes	45
2.5.4 Territorial developments and major isoglosses	47
3 The Historical Position of British Romani	57
3.1 The sources	57
3.2 A structural overview of British Romani	60
3.2.1 Lexicon and word formation	60
3.2.2 Phonology	65
3.2.3 Nominal inflection	68
3.2.4 Verbs	75

3.2.5	Grammatical vocabulary and morphosyntax	79
3.2.6	The impact of English	81
3.3	The position of British Romani among Romani dialects	82
3.4	The decline of inflected Romani in Britain	89
4	The Structural Composition of Angloromani	95
4.1	The data corpus	95
4.2	Phonology and phonological variation	99
4.3	Word formation and word classes	102
4.3.1	Word derivation	103
4.3.2	Grammatical vocabulary	111
4.3.3	Retention of grammatical inflection	116
4.4	Morphosyntactic characteristics	119
4.5	Lexical composition and lexical distribution	122
5	The Conversational Functions of Angloromani	130
5.1	Back to 'linguageness'	130
5.2	Angloromani as a speech-act device	133
5.3	Angloromani in narration	141
5.4	Speakers' perspectives on language loss and revitalisation	149
5.5	The prospects of a 'language revival'	157
6	Conclusions: The Decline, Death and Afterlife of a Language	167
6.1	The historical decline of inflected Romani	168
6.2	Bilingualism after language shift	171
	<i>Appendix I Lexicon of Angloromani</i>	176
	<i>Appendix II Predecessor expressions by origin</i>	218
	<i>References</i>	232
	<i>Author Index</i>	242
	<i>Subject Index</i>	244