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entered the language. The definite article was probably developing in Greece, the infinitive was being dropped according to the model of Balkan languages as well, and *f* and the suffix *-os*, which is very common in Romani, were making their first appearance in the same area. The vocabulary was overwhelmed by loans from European languages. The internal structure of Romani was also affected.

A prominent trait in Finnish Romani is the increasing number of Swedish loan-words. I have encountered more than 80 of them since the appearance of Thesleff's dictionary, which comprises about 1800 basic words. One would suppose that loans would be taken from Finnish rather than Swedish. This is the case in the Lower Style or present-day common Romani but the gypsies who make a literary use of Romani, for instance, without exception make loans from Swedish instead of coining new words or using periphrases. It may be that this is dictated by considerations of secrecy within the Romani speaking community. Even words as common as *at* and *om* (Sw. *att* and *om*) are not to be found in Thesleff's dictionary. Peculiarly enough, most gypsies, even in the east of Finland, seem to understand these new Swedish loans. On the western coast, however, this would be quite natural.

Borrowing from Swedish has caused Romani to develop in the same direction as prevails nearly everywhere else: original words are given up and loan-words with adopted inflexion are used. Let us take two examples. In the Romano Song Book (London 1972) you can meet with Romani verses like the following:

"Can you *rokker* Romani?
Can you fake the *bosh*?
Can you *dick* the *vesher*,
While *mandi chins* the *kosh*?"

A similar hybrid language is the Swedish tattarspråket, which has an original Romani substratum: *Min devel, de' asjar gräcko du kerar tjakis* 'My God, it is a sin if you act thus' (original words in italics).

Such will be the fate of Finnish Romani too, if effective measures are not taken. This isolated branch of the language family of India would well deserve to be preserved.

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