

The documentation of Romeyka ten years on

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Romeyka, an endangered Greek variety still spoken in North-East Turkey, has maintained the infinitive, which as such does not exist in Modern Greek. Thanks to the infinitive, we created a chronology of the evolution of Proto-Pontic to which Romeyka belongs, and identified its split from other Greek varieties as being at least 500 years earlier than previously thought namely, in Hellenistic times, rather than during the medieval period thus putting forward a new phylogeny of Asia Minor Greek.

In this talk I explain how this was made possible thanks to current field working and documentation of Romeyka in Turkey. In particular, I discuss the aims, goals, methodologies, and ethics of the project as well as what we have managed to map out syntactically so far and what remains to be done. In doing so, I will be discussing issues of micro- and nano-variation as well as why Romeyka is not just a Greek dialect, but another Greek language instead.