

CONDITIONALS IN ROMANI

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Name of the family Indo-European

Location mainly Europe + North, Central and South America

Number of speakers ca. 4 million (?)

Dialects 5 groups of dialects: Balkan, Vlax, Central, Northeastern, Northwestern (European)

Romani

latin alphabet - no unique standard

diasporic, in permanent contact

oral language, no State, no teaching

no standard norm nor spelling

NAME

Writing system

CATEGORIES OF HYPOTHETICAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Realis

(1) *If Miriam invites John, he will go to her party.*

+
•

Potentialis

(2) *If Miriam invited John, he would go to her party.*

Irrealis (future)

(3) *If Miriam had invited John, he would have gone to her party.*

Irrealis (past)

(4) *If Miriam had invited John, he would have gone to her party.* 3

(3) Miriam's party will take place tomorrow. She hasn't extended an invitation to John yet. She has decided not to invite John.

(4) Miriam's party took place yesterday. She didn't extend an invitation to John, who did not go to the party.

CATEGORIES OF HYPOTHETICAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Romani:

(1) *Te* + Present/Future,
Present/Future⁺

Realis

(1) *If Miriam invites John,
he will go to her party.*

(2) *Te* + Imperfect,
Imperfect

Potentialis

(2) *If Miriam invited John,
he would go to her party.*

(3) *Te* + Pluperfect,
Pluperfect

Irrealis (future)

(3) *If Miriam had invited John,
he would have gone to her party.*

(4) *Te* + Pluperfect
Balkan: *Te* + FUT + Imperfect,
Pluperfect

Irrealis (past)

(4) *If Miriam had invited John,
he would have gone to her party.* 4

DIALECTAL VARIATION IN ROMANI MORPHOLOGY

Present

a **short form**: verbal root + affix of person

a **long form**: verbal root + affix of person + unstressed final *-a*

Imperfect

a **synthetic form**: verbal root + affix of person + unstressed final *-as*

an **analytical form**: verbal root + affix of person (+ unstressed final *-a*) + copula.PERF
[= Present + copula.PERF]

Future

a **synthetic form**: verbal root + affix of person + unstressed final *-a*

○

an **analytical form**: invariable auxiliary *ka/kam/kama* + verbal root
+ affix of person (+ unstressed final *-a*)

DIALECTAL VARIATION IN ROMANI MORPHOLOGY

Present

- *ker-av* make-1SG 'I do'
- *ker-av-a* make-1SG-PRES 'I do'

• *ker-av-a* = verbal root + affix of present
 • *ker-av-a* a short form: *ve*

- Vlax, Central dialects
- Balkan, NE, NW dialects

Imperfect

- *ker-av-as* make-1SG-IMPERF 'I was doing'
- *ker-av-a sine* make-1SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG 'I was doing'

- Vlax, Central, NE, NW dialects
- Balkan, (NW) dialects

[= Present + copula.PERF]

Future

- *ker-av-a* make-1SG-FUT 'I will do'
- *ka ker-av(-a)* FUT make-1SG(-PRES) 'I will do'

• *ker-av-a* + affix of future
 • *ka ker-av(-a)* the auxiliary affix of future

- Vlax, Central, NE, NW dialects
- Balkan dialects

DIALECTAL VARIATION IN ROMANI MORPHOLOGY

Perfect

verbal root + affix of perfect (-t-, -d-, -l-) + affix of person
+
•

Pluperfect

a **synthetic form**: verbal root + affix of perfect (-t-, -d-, -l-) + affix of person
+ unstressed final *-as*

an **analytical form**: verbal root + affix of perfect (-t-, -d-, -l-) + affix of person
+ copula in the perfect tense
[= Perfect + Imperfect]

Grammatical morphological moods in Romani: Indicative, Imperative, Gerundive
No Infinitive, no Subjunctive, no Conditional

DIALECTAL VARIATION IN ROMANI MORPHOLOGY

Perfect

verbal root + affix of perfect (-t-, -d-, -l-) + affix of person

ker-d-om make-PERF-1SG 'I did'

Pluperfect

a **synthetic form**: verbal root + affix of perfect

- Vlax, Central, NE, NW dialects

an **analytical form**: verbal root + affix of perfect

- Balkan, (NW) dialects

copula in the perfect tense

- *ker-d-om-as* make-PERF-1SG-IMPERF 'I had been doing' [perfect + Imperfect]
- *ker-d-om sine* make-PERF-1SG COP.PERF.3SG 'I had been doing'

Grammatical morphological moods in Romani: Indicative, Imperative, Gerundive

No Infinitive, no Subjunctive, no Conditional 8

BOUND MORPHEMES

Factual
Non-factual

unstressed, invariable final **-a** = PRES, FUT or PRES/FUT
retention: Indic origin

Used only for the present (Balkan), only for the future (Vlax, Central)
... or for both (NE, NW) → no morphological marking of the future

Remoteness, Counterfactual
contextual distance to real-world events
inaccessible, detached from factual validity

unstressed, invariable final **-as** = IMPERF, PLUPERF
retention: Indic origin

Contraction of the OIA copula *asi-*

Actually several forms depending on the dialects: *-as*, *-ys*, *-sas-*, *-sa*, *-a*, *-s*, *-ahi*

Perfective

-t-, -d-, -l- = PERF
retention: Indic origin

OIA past-participle marker *-it-*.

Depending on the verb: *su-t-om* (I slept), *ker-d-om* (I made), *xa-l-om* (I ate)

FREE MORPHEMES

Counterfactual

+

•

Invariable conditional auxiliary *bi*

Borrowing: Slavic origin (*bi, by, бы*)

Used by Balkan, Central, Northeastern dialects

Non-factual

Invariable future auxiliary *ka*

Contraction of the OIA verb *kam-* 'to love, to want'

Innovation in the Balkan dialects. Secondary (Ottoman-time) areal feature.

Actually several forms depending on the dialects: *ka, kam, kama*

○

FREE MORPHEMES

Non factual,
Counterfactual

Non factual complementiser **te**

retention: Indic origin

+ Very stable through all dialects – none has lost *te*.

Introduces conditional, infinitive, inchoative, optative, purpose clauses
= non factual subordination, non indicative, context-dependent predication

Its semantic = pragmatic, to relativise the truth-value of a predication

Syntactical constraint: the verb must immediately follow *te* → VS order

Can be replaced by borrowings:

an (Greek), *se* (Turkish), *esli, jesli* (Slavic), *ako, kada* (South Slavic) in the sense of 'if'
mi (Turkish), ***li***, *dali* (Slavic), *či, čy* (Western Slavic), *op* (German) in the sense of 'whether'

Part of a dichotomous system with the factual compl *kaj* (not stable through the dialects)

This dichotomy = innovation. Primary areal Balkanic feature. 11

Realis (1)

(1) *Te na piesa o drab, na ka lačhardos.*

If NEG you.drink the medicine, NEG FUT you.recover

pi-es-a = drink-2SG-PRES

'if you do not drink the medicine, you will not get better'

ka lačhar-do-s = FUT improve-PASSIVE-2SG

(2) *Ti manges, vurtinesa les xoraxanes.*

If you.want/ask, you.translate it in.Turkish

mang-es = want/ask-2SG

'if you wish, translate it into Turkish'

vurtin-es-a = translate-2SG-PRES

(3) *Te adala adaj ale, me mange fuat džav.*

If these here they.came I for.me away I.go

a-l-e = come-PERF-3PL

'if they come here, I will go away'

dž-av = go-1SG

Vlax,
Greece

Sepeči,
Turkey

Roman,
Austria

Realis (1)

(1) *Te na piesa o drab, na*
If NEG you.drink the medicine, N
pi-es-a = drink-2SG-PRES 'if you do not drink

ka lačhar-do-s = FUT improve-PASSIVE-2SG

(2) *Ti manges, vurtinesa les x*
If you.want/ask, you.translate it in
mang-es = want/ask-2SG 'if you w

vurtin-es-a = translate-2SG-PRES

(3) *Te adala adaj ale, me mar*
If these here they.came I for.r
a-l-e = come-PERF-3PL

dž-av = go-1SG 'if they com

Te Present, Future

Ti Present, Present

Te Perfect, Present

Vlax,
Greece

Sepeči,
Turkey

Roman,
Austria

Realis (2)

(4) *Te krel miri čaj kova, dan leli daba.*
If does my daughter that then takes blows

Sinti,
Austria

kr-el = make-3SG

l-el-i = take-3SG-F

'if my daughter does this, she will get blows'

(5) *Te dela kana, vē sapno.*
If it.rains now, you.are wet.

Sinti,
Austria

d-el-a = give-3SG-PRES

v-ē = be-2SG

'if it rains now, you will get wet'

(6) *Mukes les gār te džal, dan his faiābent,*
you.let him NEG COMP he.goes, then it.was all.over,
ende, džāso buter gār.
the.end, it.would.go more NEG

Sinti,
Austria

muk-es = let-2SG

dž-ās-o = go-3SG-IMPERF

*'if you don't let it go, then it was all over,
the end, it would not go any more.'*

Realis (2)

(4) *Te krel miri čaj kova, dan le*
If does my daughter that then ta

kr-el = make-3SG

l-el-i = take-3SG-F

(5) *Te dela kana, v̄e sapno.*
If it.rains now, you.are wet.

d-el-a = give-3SG-PRES

v-ē = be-2SG

(6) *Mukes les gār te džal,*
you.let him NEG COMP he.goes, th

ende, džāso buter gār.
the.end, it.would.go more NEG

muk-es = let-2SG

dž-ās-o = go-3SG-IMPERF

Te Present, Present

Te Present, Present

∅ Present, Imperfect

Sinti,
Austria

Sinti,
Austria

Sinti,
Austria

Realis (3)

(7) *Na keresa dava, meresa.*
NEG you.will.do this, you.will.die

Xaladytka,
Russia

ker-es-a = make-2SG-PRES/FUT

'if you do not do it, you will die.'

mer-es-a = die-2SG-PRES/FUT

(8) *Phenesa te džav tutyr avri, me lava dova*
you.will.tell COMP I.go from.you out/away, I will.take that
so me kamam.
what I want/love.

Xaladytka,
Russia

phen-es-a = say-2SG-PRES/FUT

*'if you tell me to go away from you,
I will take what I like.'*

l-av-a = take-1SG-PRES/FUT

(9) *Kajekhvar tu tradesa man javri, me lava dova*
some.day you will.throw me out/away, I will.take that
so me kamam butyr.
what I want/love more.

Xaladytka,
Russia

trad-es-a = drive-2SG-PRES/FUT

*'if one day you throw me out,
I will take what I like best.'*

l-av-a = take-1SG-PRES/FUT

Realis (3)

(7) *Na keresa dava, meresa.*
NEG you.will.do this, you.will.die

ker-es-a = make-2SG-PRES/FUT

mer-es-a = die-2SG-PRES/FUT

'if you do

(8) *Phenesa te džav tutyr*
you.will.tell COMP I.go from.you
so me kamam.
what I want/love.

phen-es-a = say-2SG-PRES/FUT

l-av-a = take-1SG-PRES/FUT

'if you te

I will tak

(9) *Kajekhvar tu tradesa man*
some.day you will.throw me
so me kamam butyr.
what I want/love more.

trad-es-a = drive-2SG-PRES/FUT

l-av-a = take-1SG-PRES/FUT

'if one o

I will tak

∅ Present, Present
(∅ Future, Future)

∅ Present, Present
(∅ Future, Future)

∅ Present, Present
(∅ Future, Future)

Xaladytka,
Russia

dova
e that

Xaladytka,
Russia

dova
that

Xaladytka,
Russia

Realis (4)

(10) *Mang-l-as li tutar pani, ka phenes lake...*
she.asked if from.you water, FUT you.say to.her

Erli,
Bulgaria

mang-l-as = ask/want-PERF-3SG

ka phen-es = FUT say-2SG

"If she asks you for water, you will tell her..."

(11) *Poftorno som a-l-jan, ka čhinav tut.*
again as.soon.as you.came, FUT I.cut you.

Erli,
Bulgaria

a-l-jan = come-PERF-2SG

ka čhin-av = FUT cut-1SG

"If you come again, I will kill you'.

(12) *Poftorno som av-es, ka čhinav tut.*
again as.soon.as you.come, FUT I.cut you.

Erli,
Bulgaria

av-es = come-2SG

ka čhin-av = FUT cut-1SG

"If you come again, I will kill you'.

Realis (4)

(10) *Mang-l-as li tutar pani, ka*
she.asked if from.you water, FUT

mang-l-as = ask/want-PERF-3SG

ka phen-es = FUT say-2SG

"If she asks y

(11) *Poftorno som a-l-jan, ka*
again as.soon.as you.came, FUT

a-l-jan = come-PERF-2SG

ka čhin-av = FUT cut-1SG

"If you come

(12) *Poftorno som av-es, ka*
again as.soon.as you.come, FUT

av-es = come-2SG

ka čhin-av = FUT cut-1SG

"If you come

Perfect /i, Future

∅ Perfect, Future

∅ Present, Future

Erli,
Bulgaria

Erli,
Bulgaria

Erli,
Bulgaria

Realis (5)

(13) *Te mange[s], khel!*
If you.want, dance!

'If you want, dance!'

Arli,
Macedonia

mang-e[s] = want/ask-2.SG

khel = dance [bare verbal root]

(14) *Te si tut nieci bori mangibaske, mang!*
If it.is you some bride for.asking, ask!

Arli,
Macedonia

si = be.3SG

'If you have the intention of seeking a bride, seek!'

mang = ask/want [bare verbal root]

Realis (5)

(13) *Te mange[s], khel!*
If you.want, dance!

'If you

mang-e[s] = want/ask-2.SG

khel = dance [bare verbal root]

(14) *Te si tut nieci bori mangib*
If it.is you some bride for.asking

si = be.3SG

If you have the int

mang = ask/want [bare verbal root]

Te Present, Imperative

Te Present, Imperative

Arli,
Macedonia

Arli,
Macedonia

Potentialis (1)

(15) *Te sas man love!*
If was me money

sas = be.3SG-IMPERF

'if I had money!'

Vlax,
Romania

(16) *Aver romni t' avelas!*
Other woman if it.was

av-el-as = be/come-3SG-IMPERF

'if it were another woman!'

Vlax,
Greece

(17) *Kamas kerav les, te pučhes mandar.*
AUX I.do it, if you.ask from.me

kam-as ker-av = want-IMPERF make-1SG

pučh-es = ask-2SG

'I would do it if you asked me.'

Vlax,
USA

Potentialis (1)

(15) *Te sas man love!*
If was me money

sas = be.3SG-IMPERF

(16) *Aver romni t' avelas!*
Other woman if it.was

av-el-as = be/come-3SG-IMPERF

(17) *Kamas kerav les, te pučhe*
AUX I.do it, if you.as

kam-as ker-av = want-IMPERF make-1SG

pučh-es = ask-2SG

Te Imperfect

Te Imperfect

kamas Present, *te* Present

Vlax,
Romania

Vlax,
Greece

Vlax,
USA

Potentialis (2)

(18) *Te avelas man vreme, ka džavas me da.*
If it.was me time FUT I.went I too

Vlax,
Bulgaria

av-el-as = be/come-3SG-IMPERF

'if I had time, i would go too.'

ka dž-av-as = FUT go-1SG-IMPERF

(19) *Ko đanol so kama ćerdol, te na puravon e manusa.*
who knows what AUX it.is.done if NEG they.grow.old the people

kama ćer-do-l = want-IMPERF make-PASSIVE-3SG

Gurbet,
Kosovo

purav-on = grow.old-3SG

*'Who knows what would happen
if people did not grow old.'*

(20) *Te o grencn cuj ojan ahi, feder ovl ahi.*
If the borders shut they.are COP, better it.is COP

Roman,
Austria

o-jan ahi = be-3PL COP.PERF.3SG

ov-l ahi = be-3SG COP.PERF.3SG

*'if the borders were closed,
that would be better.'*

Potentialis (2)

(18) *Te avelas man vreme, l*
If it.was me time

av-el-as = be/come-3SG-IMPERF

ka dž-av-as = FUT go-1SG-IMPERF

(19) *Ko đanol so kama ć*
who knows what AUX it

kama ćer-do-l = want-IMPERF ma

purav-on = grow.old-3SG

(20) *Te o grencn cuj o*
If the borders shut th

o-jan ahi = be-3PL COP.PERF.3SG

ov-l ahi = be-3SG COP.PERF.3SG

Te Imperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

kama Present, *te* Present

Te Imperfect, Imperfect

Vlax,
Bulgaria

manusa.
people

Gurbet,
Kosovo

Roman,
Austria

Potentialis (3)

(21) *Te cingarea man, me bi avava.*
If you.invite me, I AUX I.came

Gurbet,
Macedonia

cingar-e-a = invite-2SG-PRES

“if you were to invite me, I would come.”

bi av-av-a = AUX.COND come-1SG-PRES

(22) *Te khelela, me bi avava.*
If he.danced, I AUX I.came

Gurbet,
Macedonia

khel-el-a = dance-3SG-PRES

‘if he were to dance, I would come.’

bi av-av-a = AUX.COND come-1SG-PRES

(23) *Emen so rakilo sine, a o vakti*
as.soon.as COMPL it.got.dark it.was but the weather
kerela sine pes te rumungjol.
it.makes it.was REFL COMPL it.gets.bad

Arli,
Macedonia

rak-il-o sine = get.night-PERF-3SG COP.PERF.3SG

‘as soon as it got dark, the weather
looked like it was going to get bad.’

kerela sine = make-3SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

Potentialis (3)

(21) *Te cingarea man, me bi*
If you.invite me, I AUX

cingar-e-a = invite-2SG-PRES

bi av-av-a = AUX.COND come-1SG-PRE

(22) *Te khelela, me bi av*
If he.danced, I AUX I.c

khel-el-a = dance-3SG-PRES

bi av-av-a = AUX.COND come-1SG-PRE

(23) *Emen so rakilo*
as.soon.as COMPL it.got.dark

kerela sine pes te
it.makes it.was REFL COMPL

rak-il-o sine = get.night-PERF-3SG COP.

kerela sine = make-3SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

Te Present, *bi* Present

Te Present, *bi* Present

COMPL Pluperfect, Imperfect

Gurbet,
Macedonia

Gurbet,
Macedonia

arli,
Macedonia

weather
'to get bad.'

Irrealis (future)

(24) *Dikhav kadava so keres, thaj soto ka keresa akana.*
I.see this REL you.do and what FUT you.do now

Vlax,
Bulgaria

ker-es = make-2SG

ka ker-es-a = FUT make-2SG-PRES

*'I see what you are doing and
what you would have done now [again].'*

(25) *So bi vakerela pes sine kaj to dad*
what AUX it.says REFL it.was COMPL your father
thaj me sijam dembelija.
and I we.are lazy

Arli,
Macedonia

bi vaker-el-a sine = AUX.COND say-3SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

s-ijam = be-1PL

'that would be to say that your father and I were lazy.'

Irrealis (future)

(24) *Dikhav kadava so keres, t*
I.see this REL you.do a

ker-es = make-2SG

ka ker-es-a = FUT make-2SG-PRES

(25) *So bi vakerela pes sine*
what AUX it.says REFL it.w
thaj me sijam dembelija.
and I we.are lazy

bi vaker-el-a sine = AUX.COND say-3SG-P

s-ijam = be-1PL

(Present,) Future

Vlax,
Bulgaria

COMPL *bi* Imperfect, Present

arli,
Macedonia

'that would be to say that your father and I were lazy.'

Irrealis (past) (1)

(26) *Te cingarea man sine, me bi avava sine.*
If you.invite me it.was, I AUX I.came it.was

Arli,
Macedonia

cingar-e-a sine = invite-2SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

*“if you were to invite me,
I would have come.”*

bi av-av-a sine = AUX.COND come-1SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

(27) *Te avea sine javinate, ka lea sine thud.*
If you.come it.was in.the.morning, fut you.take it.was milk

Arli,
Macedonia

av-e-a sine = come-2SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

*‘if you had come in the morning,
you would have gotten milk.’*

ka l-e-a sine = FUT take-2SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

(28) *Te khelela sine, ka avava sine!*
If he.danced it.was, FUT I.came it.was

Arli,
Macedonia

khel-el-a sine = dance-3SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG *‘if he had danced, I would have come.’*

ka av-av-a sine = FUT come-1SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

Irrealis (past) (1)

(26) *Te cingarea man sine*

If you.invite me it.was

cingar-e-a sine = invite-2SG-PRES

bi av-av-a sine = AUX.COND COP

(27) *Te avea sine ja*

If you.come it.was in

av-e-a sine = come-2SG-PRES

ka l-e-a sine = FUT take-2SG-PRES

(28) *Te khelela sine,*

If he.danced it.was,

khel-el-a sine = dance-3SG-PRES

ka av-av-a sine = FUT come-1SG-PRES COP.PERF.3SG

Te Imperfect, *bi* Imperfect

Te Imperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

Te Imperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

Arli,
Macedonia

ne,

Arli,
Macedonia

ing,

Arli,
Macedonia

have come.'

Irrealis (past) (2)

(29) *Te khelelas, ka avavas!*
If he.danced, FUT I.came

Vlax,
Macedonia

khel-el-as = dance-3SG-IMPERF

'if he had danced, I would have come.'

ka av-av-as = FUT come-1SG-IMPERF

(30) *An te andamosaonas, kamas te džuvdon.*
If if would.have.met, AUX that they.are.lived

Vlax,
Greece

andamosa-on-as = meet-3PL-IMPERF

*'Had they met [each other],
they would have come to life.'*

kam-as te džuv-do-n = want-IMPERF COMPL live-PASSIVE-3PL

(31) *Ama in arakhadinaonas nefra,*
But NEG would.have.been.found kidneys
na ka kerdolas lacho o raklo.
NEG FUT it.was.done good the boy

Vlax,
Greece

arakha-d-ina-on-as = find-PASSIVE-PERF-3PL-IMPERF

ka ker-do-l-as = FUT make-PASSIVE-3SG-IMPERF

*'if no kidneys had been found,
the boy would not have recovered.'*

Irrealis (past) (2)

(29) *Te khelelas, ka avavas!*
If he.danced, FUT I.came

khel-el-as = dance-3SG-IMPERF

ka av-av-as = FUT come-1SG-IMPERF

(30) *An te andamosaonas, kamas*
If if would.have.met, AUX

andamosa-on-as = meet-3PL-IMPERF

kam-as te džuv-do-n = want-IMPERF CO

(31) *Ama in arakhadinaonas*
But NEG would.have.been.fo

na ka kerdolas lacho
NEG FUT it.was.done good

arakha-d-ina-on-as = find-PASSIVE-PERF-

ka ker-do-l-as = FUT make-PASSIVE-3SG-IMPERF

Te Imperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

Te Imperfect, *kamas* Present

∅ Pluperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

Vlax,
Macedonia

Vlax,
Greece

ner],
to life.'

Vlax,
Greece

if no kidneys had been found,
the boy would not have recovered.'

Irrealis (past) (3)

(32) *Te avava korkorre, goda kama aračhol ma.*
if I.was alone that AUX it.is.found me.

Gurbet,
Kosovo

av-av-a = come/be-1SG-PRES

*'If I had been alone,
that would have happened to me.'*

kam-a aračh-o-l = want-IMPERF find-PASSIVE-3SG

(33) *Ma ti khelavkerasas la, ka xalas amen sarimiz.*
NEG if we.made.dance her, FUT she.ate us all.of.us

Sepeči,
Turkey

khelav-ker-as-as = dance-make-1PL-IMPERF

ka x-al-as = FUT eat-3SG-IMPERF

'if we hadn't made her dance, she would have eaten us all.'

(34) *Manglal ahi, dijom ahi tut.*
You.asked COP I.gave COP you

Roman,
Austria

mang-l-al ahi = ask-PERF-2SG COP.PERF.3SG

d-ij-om ahi = give-PERF-1SG COP.PERF.3SG

'if you had asked, I would have given you.'

Irrealis (past) (3)

(32) *Te avava korkorre, goda ka*
if I.was alone that A

av-av-a = come/be-1SG-PRES

kam-a aračh-o-l = want-IMPERF fin

(33) *Ma ti khelavkerasas*
NEG if we.made.dance he

khelav-ker-as-as = dance-make-1P

ka x-al-as = FUT eat-3SG-IMPERF

(34) *Manglal ahi, dijom ahi*
You.asked COP I.gave COP

mang-l-al ahi = ask-PERF-2SG COP.P

d-ij-om ahi = give-PERF-1SG COP.PERF.3SG

Gurbet,
Kosovo

Te Present, *kama* Present

'to me.'

Sepeči,
Turkey

Ti Imperfect, *ka* (FUT) Imperfect

'eaten us all.'

Roman,
Austria

∅ Pluperfect, Pluperfect

'have given you.'

FINDINGS

Free order of the clauses
usually Antecedent/Prostasis + Consequent/Apodosis

Antecedent/Prostasis usually introduced by non factual complementiser *te*
Or a loan complementiser *//i*, or nothing

Consequent/Apodosis non introduced
Optionally by a borrowing (*dan* in Sinti dialect < German *dann*)
→ Romani behaves like a European language (≠ Hindi)

Extreme dialectal variation
Extreme flexibility in the choice of the TAM categories
→ Romani uses its grammaticalised TAM system to build hypothetical constructions.
No difference between both Irrealis constructions

CATEGORIES OF HYPOTHETICAL CONSTRUCTIONS

A variety of constructions in Romani:

(1) *Te* + **Present/Future** (/Perfect),
Present/Future[†] (/Imperfect, Imperative)

Realis

(2) *Te* + **Imperfect/Present** (/Pluperfect),
Imperfect (/*bi*, *kamas* + Present, *ka* + Imperfect)

Potentialis

(3) *bi* + **Imperfect** (/ Future)

Irrealis (future)

○ (4) *Te* + **Imperfect/Pluperfect** (/Present),
Pluperfect /*bi*, *ka* + Imperfect (/*kamas* + Present)

Irrealis (past)

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