

Romany English Words

"...The Romany spoken by English Gypsies today is best described as an English dialect that contains a certain amount of Romany, slang and old cant..."

- by Manfri Frederick Wood from **In the Life of a Romany Gypsy**

adoi - there
adrey, 'drey - in into, within
akai - here
av akai - come
 here **ambrol** -
 pear **arva**,
arvalie - yes
ateh, hatch - to stay
atchava - I stop,
 remain **atchen tan** -
 stopping place
av - to come (**avel, 'vel,**
'vel) avas - let us come
avree - away
jal avree - go away

bak, bok - Luck
bakalo - lucky (**baktalo** -
 happy)
kushti bak - good luck
balovas -
 bacan **bal**,
balum - hair
bar - a pound
 note
barrikanni -
 pheasant
barriipoari -
 peacock **bang**,
beng - the devil
baulo -
 policeman **bauri**
 - snail
bauromatchi -
 salman **bavol**,
havai - wind
becker - fruit
beebe - aunt
bender - tent; noose on a spring
berk - breast
bero - ship
besh - to sit;
 nest **bickin** - to
 seli **bister** - a
 summons
bistering mush - judge,
 magistrate
bitcher - to send, to transport
bitchado pardal - sent across,
 transported
bitti - little, small

bittikanni - partridge **bocklo** -
 hunger, hungry
si tut bocklo? - are you hungry?
bokro - sheep **boler** -
 wheel **boobi** - pea **booti**
 - work
bor - friend; hedge
boreen - a small country lane
bori, barri - big
bosh - violin
kel the bosh - play the fiddle;

-A-**- B -**

boshomengro - violinist, fiddler (**balanokosht** is the violin bow)

broller - pear

brembelia -

blackberry

brushindo - rain

bul - bottom, behind

bun - witch

bungy, bongo - lame

bi'.iriker, buteker -

shop **busno** - billigoat

- C -

chad - posterior

chai - girl, young woman

chaipani - seag

chal - chap, fellow, man**char** - ashes**charo** - bowl, plate**chat, chet, chete** - a thing**chaunt** - to sing**chav** - term of

endearment; child

'**chav** - to stop (from**atchav)** '**chava** - I

stop

'**chavaia!** -

stop 1

chavi - girl**chavo** -

boy

cheuri -

knife

chib - tongue,speech **chik** -

dust, dirt

chikchani -frog **chikly** -

dirty

chikni -

daughter

chikno -son **ehin** -

to cut

chingary -

a fight

chinner - a

hatchet

chiokers -boots **chir** -

to sing

chirilo, chiriko - bird**chitengro** - frog**chitries** - foliage, greens,

herbs, vegetables

chiving -

putting

ch6kalis -

shoes

chockas -

boots

chooma -

kiss

chooper -whip **chor** -

to steal

chori - poor **chover**- shop **choviar** -witch **ch6vihanni** -

witch

chuffa, chukka - coat**chuffas** - petticoats**churi** - knife**coaver** - these**c6okerell** - pot**conger** - match**dacker** - toad**dadrus, dadus, dad** - father**purodad** - grandfather **daia, dai** -mother **puridaia** - grandmother **dal,****del** - to give**dan** - to bite **dand** - tooth**danners** - teeth**delomeskro** - hammer**deram** - light **deriav** - sea, ocean**desh** - ten**deshshel** - thousand**Devel** - god**Develsko mush** - Jesus Christ**- D -**

didikai, didikoi - Gypsy outside the Romany tribes and of mixed blood
dik - to look, see
dikkornengro,
dikkoglimmer - mirror
dinilo's dikkamengro -
 a television set **diklo** -
 scarf
ding - to throw
dinlo, dinilo, dinili - silly, stupid ; an idiot , a fool
divio, divi, didlo - crazy
divvus - day
djilia - songs
dood - light, moon
doosta - enough, plenty
dordi, dordi - the most common exclamation
drab - poison
drabber - chemist
drabengro,
drabmengro - doctor
drabsap - adder, viper
(drabaneysapa)
drabaneysapa -
 poisonous snakes
drag - car (usually called
 a **motor**) **drom, drum** -
 road (plural: **droma**)
drummer - rabbit
 dui-two
dukker, drukker - to tell
 fortunes **dukking,**
drukkeriben - fortunetelling
drukkerebema - a
 prophecy
dunnick - cow
dur -
 far **duro**
 - long
durrel -
 berry
Duvvel
 - God

dwin - three
dyker - daffodil

eef -
 snow
efta -
 seven
emets -
 ants

faida - pegs
fake - to make or mend
faster - hand
fauni - ring
feeter -
 clothes-peg
filshinakos -
 deer **foggus**
 - tobacco
tonga - fark
foros - fair, market
folki - people

gad - shirt
gajikano -
 stranger
gatta,
gadda -
 beer
gav - a town; to hide
gavver, **gav mush** -
 policeman
Geyro, **Geyri** - non-Gypsy
 man and woman
gilli - song;
 (plural: **gillia**)
gilo - gone,
 departed
giv - corn
givengro - farmer
glaze, **glazey**, **glazer** -
 window **goodlo** -
 sugar; sweet
goodlokenner -
 beehive
gooi - pudding
goonna - bag,
 sack **Gorgio**,

Gaujo - non-Gypsy **grai** -
 horse
grannum - corn
grasni - mare **grauni**
 - gem **griddler** -
 bicycle **griga** -
 heather, ling **groi** -
 horse
groiengero, **graiengro** - horse-
 dealer
groovni - cow (also **gurni**)
grov - ox, bull (also **groovno** or
gurno) **grunter** - pig
gry - horse
gurli - cherry

hareef - ice
haw - to eat
herengro - crab, lobster
hero - leg; wheel of
 vehicle **hobben** - food
holeno - landlord, publican
holofer - sock, stocking
hookamen, **hockaben** - lie, fraud,
 deceit
hotchi - hedgehog
hotchimengri - frying pan
hummel - hair

inneon - nine

jarriger - apron
jass - run away
jaul - to go (**jel** is used for to come)
jib - language **jifro** - coat
jigger - door
jin - to know, to understand
jinnik - donkey **jivaben** - life
joob - louse **joobly** - lousy
joovi - woman

juckal, jook, jog,
dogue - dog
juvel, juvli - women

kaba - kettle
kackaratchi -
 magpie **'kai,**
'koi (akai) -
 here **kair** - to
 make, to do
kako - uncle
kal - cheese
kam - to love
kammoben - love,
 friendship
kang - taste
kanni - chicken,
 fowl **kanniechor** -
 chicken thief
kappar - blanket
kas - hay
kass6ni - bill-
 hook **kauli** -
 black
kaulochirilo -
 blackbird
kauloduros - bilberries;
 black-currants
kavvi, kharvi -
 kettle **kavvisaster**
 - kettle iron **kaydi**
 - hat
kek, kekka -
 no, not
kekavvi -
 kettle **kennick**

- house-dweller **kel** - to do, to
 play **kepsi** - basket
ker, ken, kenner - house
kerengro - house-dweller **ketter,**
ked - to gather, to pick **ki** - to
kil - butter **kin** - to buy
kipsi - basket **kliss** - to
 shut **klissin** - lock
klissimengero - trap
k6kkero - self **kokko** -
 uncle **kola** - things **kom**
 - love **konafni** - turnip
konengri - hare
konyo - peaceful, quiet
kooli - soldier **kor** - to
 fight **kora** - a fight
k6ramengro - boxer
koro - cup
kosh, kosht - wood, stick
kovva - a thing **kraftni** -
 turnip **kuriying** - fighting
kushi, kusi - a little
kushti - good, fine, nice, ali right

lacho - good **lalo, lala** -
 red **lalos** - cherries **laster**
 - to find **lav** - name word
lel - to take, to catch
levinor, livna, livena - beer

levinorkenna - pub, ale-house, inn

(also called **kitchima**)

levinormenqris - hops

lil - a book

161ochirillo -

redpole

161oduianchi

r - robin **lon** -

salt

the bori lon pani - 'the great salt water', the ocean

16overni - prostitute

luller - to arrest

mailo, moilo,

myla - donkey

mandi, man, me -

I, me; **mandi's** -

my, mine

mas - meat

masengro -

butcher

matchi - fish

matchko, matchiko - cat

mato - drunk

melali - smutty

melano -

canary

meski -

tea

meripen -

death

miltog -

shirt

misto - well, ali right

moaker - mule

m6kadi, m6kado, m6ggerdowie -

ritually unclean; impure; dirty

m6kadi j6ok - fox

mong - to beg

monisha, monishi, mollisher -

wife, girlfriend; used to mean

woman

monkri -

countryside

mooi - face,

mouth

m6oik6sht - a

whistle

moolyin

matchi - pike

moon - month

sixmoon - six

months

moosh - man

morgan

- hare

morler -

hand

mort -

woman

morum, moro, panum - bread

motto -

drunk

muk -

leave, let

mukka -

mule

muladi - haunted by a

dead person **mulesko**

dud - will-o'-the-wisp

mulla - corpse

mulo, muladi, moolo - ghost of Romany man or woman in

possession of a corpse at certain hours of the day and night ; the

devil in possession of a corpse

mulladip6ov - graveyard, cemetery

mumli - candle

mumper, mumpli, hedgemumper, hedgecrawler - tramp; traveller without

any Romany blood

mumpli - the ways of a mumper

mung - to beg

murengi -

berry

murengimatc

hi - trout

mush - man

mushgaying - to spy out the land

mushgro, musker - policeman

- N -

nafii, nasfalo - ill

nantee, nanti - don't

nappy - obstinate (used mainly to describe a horse)

narked, narkri - dark, dank, bad, unpleasant

nash - to

hang **nav**

- name

nogo -

own **nok**

- nose

nongo -

naked

odjus - lovely,
beautiful
ogrusela -
gooseberry
oito - eight
olivas - stockings
oprey, 'prey - up, upon
'prey o poov' - on the
ground, in the field
'prey o pani' - on the
river or lake
ora - clock, watch, time
orella - trout
ozi - heart

palesko -
nephew **panish**
- hungry
panish6k -
watercress
pansh - five
papin - goose
papingo -
gander
paramikri -
rabbit-snare
patrin - leaf
pattriensis - herbs used
in cures **pattrimishi** -
legend, story, fairy-tale
pauni, pani, parni -
water
pani, pan - to

rain **paurdal, pardal** -
across **ped** - to walk
peeve, pee - to drink
pen - sister; to speak
penyaki - niece **pester**
- to pay
pero - leg
petal - hoof

petlar - nut

pikie - Gypsy expelled from tribe

pir -

stomach

pirri -

foot

pishom -

bee

pishomgudlo -

honey **pobble**,

pobo - apple

pogger - to beat;

to break

poggered -

broken **p6kinyos**

- high-court judge

poodellas -

bellows

pooker - to ask, to tel1

the kosht that pookers the drom, the pookering-kosh - signpost

p6okersamengri - lawyer

p6orami -

leek

p6orano -

ancient

pooro,

poori - old

pootsi -

pocket

p6over, poovengro - potato

posh - half

poshes - money

poshrat - half-

Gypsy person

poshumesko -

woollen **povel** -

apple

pral -

brother

praster - to

run **pug** -

ferret ; to

hide

pugurus -

monkey

purchery - fish pond, fish farm

puro - old

purum - onion

pushka - gun (only used
fara flintlock) **putch**,

putcha - to ask, to

enquire **putcherlengro** -
smith

rai, rye - gentleman

rakli - girl

rakonis -

trousers

rap, rup -

silver

rashai - priest, parsan,
minister

rarti - night

rartigillichal - nightingale

rat - blood

ratvalo - bloody, bleeding

rattlers -

beans

rauni -

lady

rokker - to

talk

Rom - Romany man

rom, romer -

bridegroom, husband

romered, ramado - married

romni - bride, wife

r6manichirilo - water

wagtail **r6maniretchka** -

mallard **retchka** - a duck

retchko - a drake

rosela, ribisela -

redcurrant **rove, ruv** - to

cry to weep **ruk, rukker** -

tree **rukkersamengri** -

squirrel **rull** - spoon

rummer - to marry

rup, rupper - silver

ruppavo - chaffinch

rustler - flower

saliwesher - bridle

sap, sarp, sapper -

snake **sappeskomatchi** -

eel **saster** - iron; wire

sasterkabak6sh - kettle-

iron **seran** - food

-R-

scroops - hops

shant - pint

shav, shab, sherp, shev -

to go

sharo, sherro - head

shora, shura - head person,

foreman, gaffer

shel -

hundred

shoav -

six **shok** -

cabbage

sh611ivardo - trolley, light

cart

- S -

shoon - to

hear

shoshi -

rabbit **sim** -

to

resemble

simensa -

cousin

simmin - sauce, gravy, soup

skip - basket

sk6odalín - plate**slang** - license,

summons

slinger - dog

license

slaberias -

strawberries

smowrelias -

raspberries

snaff, shiv -snow **snokrel** -

Swede

s61ivardo -trolley **s6nnakai**

- gold

s6nnasaster - copper;

bronze

sootti - sleep**sor** - all**spingarús** -

skewer

spishi -

honey

splogger - toshoot **stagní**

- nanny-goat

stardi - hat**starní** - deer**stiggerús, stuggerús,****steggús** - gate**stiraben, sturaben** -prison, gaol **stoggers,****stoggrús** - stack**stook** - handkerchief**stor** - four**strangli, strangler** -

onion

summa - stink**swiggler** - pipe**ta** - and**desh ta yek** - eleven**tachiben** - truth **tarder** - to

pull

tarno, tauno, tauni - young**tatcho** - real, true **tatti** -hat **tattikovi** - pepper**tattipani** - spirits**tattitatti** - baked potato **tem** -countryside **grigatem** - heath**tiffi** - sailor**tikni, tikno, titno** - baby**tit** - old mare recently in faal**titlamengro** - snare**tober** - road**togs** - clothes**togram** - clothes-peg **tompad,****tonpad** - parsan **tood** - milk**tool** - to hold**toot** - brass**toov, tuv** - tobacco**toovlil** - cigarette paper**t6ovalo** - cigarette, a smoke**totting, tatting** - rag and bone dealing**tovar** - axe**trash** - fright, fear**trashd** - frightened, afraid**trin** - three**trindesh, trinanda** - thirty **trushul**- about; trail ; cross **tukali** - friendly**tulla** - fat **tullaben** -butter **tushni** - basket**tut6oti, tooti** - you**tuv** - tobacco; to smoke

twilers - trousers

valin - bottle

-T-

-V-

vardo, wardo - caravan, trolley, wagon, cart, covered vehicle

vast - hand

-W-

wafti, wafeti -

bad **wardis** -

playing cards

wast - hand

wavver - other

wel - to happen

welgora - a fair; market

wesh, besh, bos - forest, woodland, copse

weshengro -

gamekeeper

weshjook - fox

weshimulo -

owl

wiffler - pigeon

wongur - coal;

money

-V-

wongustrin - ring

on finger

woodrus - bed

wooshter - to

throw

yak, yeck

- one

yeckorus

- once

year, yurr

- ear **yog**

- fire

yogengri, yogger

- gun

yogestowasto -

tongs

yora, yoro, yaras

- egg, eggs

From **in the Life of a Romany Gypsy** by Manfri Frederick Wood, edited by J. A. Brune (Routledge and K. Paul, 1973) ISBN 0710075952 .



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