

A Word List of the German Dialect of Caramurat

Written by Dr. Hans Ternes

My ancestors –who in all likelihood came from various regions of Germany - left Germany around 1800. They spent some time in Poland and then continued to Bessarabia where they settled in a place called Krasna; they soon founded neighboring villages, such as Emmental.

Around 1870 a group of settlers from Krasna bought land in the Dobrudscha and founded a village that was named Caramurat (the name is Turkish and thus indicates that there was already a previous Turkish community in the area). The name was later changed to Ferdinand I. Today its name is Mihail Kogolniceanu. My great grandfather, my grandfather, my father, and I were born there. It was one of the most beautiful German villages in the Dobrudscha. The king of Romania visited Caramurat on one of his tours. The outstanding landmark of the village is a Gothic church which still stands there in all of its glory.

I have always been curious about the dialect we spoke in our village. It is very similar to the dialect that was spoken in Krasna and the surrounding German villages, and yet it is different.

When I sent my wordlist to Josef Gross, who was born in Emmental, he was surprised by the number of words he did not know. Since languages are similar to organisms, they grow and expand. Thus, the German dialect of Caramurat –while basically similar to the dialect spoken in Krasna – has its own character. It is in some ways very unique, and thus when people from our village meet and hear some of these peculiar words, it connects them and gives them a very nostalgic feeling and at the same time a sensation of great loss.

In order to find out what sort of German dialect we spoke in our village, I submitted my story entitled “Heimat”, written in the Caramurat dialect, to Prof. Nils Kammenhuber, an expert in the field of German dialects. Here is his conclusion: “Also, der Dialekt ist entweder Saarländisch aus einer mir dialektal unbekanntem Gegend . . . oder aber ein sehr nahe verwandter Dialekt aus einer unmittelbar ans Saarland angrenzenden Region; vielleicht unmittelbar angrenzendes Rheinland-Pfalz . . . oder aber Lothringisch.“ (Nils Kammerhuber: hirvi@net.in.tum.de) (The dialect is either from a dialect region of the Saarland which I don't know . . . or a closely related dialect from a region bordering the Saarland . . . or a dialect from Lothringen [German for Lorraine].”)

My word list is ultimately an homage to the linguistic creativity of my ancestors who lived in a multiethnic environment and took from various German dialects and from the foreign tongues that surrounded them to create a distinctive dialect that bound them together as a closely-knit community.

The list is obviously incomplete! I invite “Landsleute” (fellow countymen) from the general region of my birthplace to contribute words to my list!

Caramurater Deutsch

Baschtan	[türk. bostan], Garten / engl. garden
Caise	[türk. kayisi], Aprikosen / engl. apricot

Kopitze	[russ. 'kopit' (an)sammeln], Heuhaufen / haycock
Fliejer	Flugzeug / engl. airplane
Flitsche	Flügel / engl. wing
Flitscheboe	(Pfeil) Bogen / archery bow
griddlich	in schlechter, irritierter Stimmung / engl. irritable
Haihoppert	Eisenstange mit Widerhaken
Harbuse	[türk. Karpuz(s)], Wassermelone / engl. watermelon
Huppup	Wiedehopf / engl. hoopoe
Ikri	[russ. ikra], Kaviar / engl. caviar
iwierzwerich	quer / engl. oblique, cross, diagonal
Kantschuk	Knute, Lederpeitsche / whip, lash
Kerscheltjer	knusprige Seite bei Mehlspeisen / crispy side of dumplings
Klauntsch	Schaukel / engl. swing
Kiapott	Getue / engl. affectation
Knutsje	Schwalbenart / engl. a species of swallows
Kormaus	Hamster / engl. Hamster
Kraddl / Graddel	Raum zwischen den Beinen, Hosenboden / engl. crotch
in de Kraddl trede	in den Hintern treten / to kick s.b. in the behind
Krawasch	französische Pfeife / engl. French pipe
kreilich/greilich	ausgesprochen häßlich / very ugly
Kruschki/Gruschki	[russ. Gruscha], Birne
Krusele/Grusele	Locken / engl. locks
Kumeme/Gumeme	Gurken / cucumber
Kwaddl	rief herunterhängender Hosenboden (Türkenhose)
Läppsch	nicht gewürzt, fade / engl. tasteless
Leuschtjan	[rum. leustean], Maggikraut, Liebstöckel / engl. lovage
Nachtkrapsch/Nachtgrapsch	Nachtschreck / engl. bogeyman
Néts/Nétz	Zwirn / engl. Thread, twine
Ockl	[türk. okul, Schule; wahrscheinlicher rum. ocól, Koppel] Pferch für Schafe / engl. pen for sheep
Paddtschanne	[türk. patlıcan - Aubergine; rum. patlageá rosie - Tomate; rum. patlageá vînata], Aubergine
Pantofflstoppert	Flaschenkork / engl. kork
Papusche	[rum. papuci], Pantoffel / engl. slippers
Pastram	[türk. pastırma, rum. pastrama], gewürztes, geräuchertes, getrocknetes Fleisch / engl. pastrami
Pedruschki	[russ. Petruschka], Petersilie / engl. parsley
Pepche	Käferchen / engl. little bug
Pfeffere/Peffere	Paprikaschote / engl. peppers
Plitt	russ., Herdplatte / engl. Top of kitchen stove
Plindermaus	Schmetterling / engl. butterfly
Plospalke/Blosbalke	diatonische (zweitönige) Ziehharmonika / engl. accordion
Popschoi	[rum. papusoi] (nur in der Moldova), Mais/ engl. corn

Porscht/Borscht	russische Gemüsesuppe
Poias	russ., Gürtel
Primelseier	Auberginen / eggplant
Primert	Stechahle
Primus	Spirituskocher / engl. (methylated) spirit stove
Priml	Bulle / engl. bull
puddlich	zerzaust (Haare) / engl. tousled
Pumeranse	süddt./österr. Pomeranze, Apfelsine / engl. orange
prudle/brudle	brodeln / engl. bubble, simmer, seethe
Sawod	russ. Werk, schlechte Gesellschaft
Schair	[türk. tschair], Grünland, Heuwiese / engl. meadow
Schardak	[türk. tschardak], Vorbau, Terrasse
Schelke	Hosenträger / engl. suspenders
Schlopp	Krawatte / engl tie
Schweweltjer	Streichhölzer / engl. matches
Schweinsgezierer	unsaubere Gesellschaft,
Schlose	Hagel / engl. hail
schmolle	rauchen, qualmen / engl. to puff (smoke)
Schnepperkapp	Schirmmütze / engl. peaked cap
Schlutzer	Schnuller / engl. pacifier
schorrich	rauh, spröde / engl. rough
selle(s)	Fr. celle, das da, jenes / engl. This or that
Spautz	Spucke / engl. Spit, saliva
Stambuß	Kartoffelpüree / engl. mashed potatoes
Stupperte	gebratener Stambuß / engl. mashed potaoes fried
Spingeltjer	Stecknadeln / engl. pin
Speckmaus	Fledermaus / engl. bat
Strehl	Kamm / engl. comb
Stremble	abgeerntete Maisstauden / engl. corn shrubs
tortich	eingebildet, eiel / engl. vain
Torsche	[türk. tursu], eingelegtes Gemüse (Saures), engl. pickled vegetables
Tschuschki	scharfe Peperoni / hot peppers
tschut	russ. ein wenig, kaum / engl. a bit, hardly anything
Tschudertje	Bachstelze / engl. wagtail
termelich/dermlich	schwindlig / engl. dizzy
thorwe	türk. Torba, Futterbeutel für Pferde
Tuddl/Duddl	Trompete / engl. trumpet
Tule/Dule	zweideutiges Zeichen mit dem Daumen
Tudderwentje/Dudderwentje	Motorrad / engl. motorcycle
Reitwentje	Fahrrad / engl. bicycle
Truscheltjer	Stachelbeeren / engl. gooseberries
Tutze/Dutze	Beule