

# Influences of other languages on Romanian



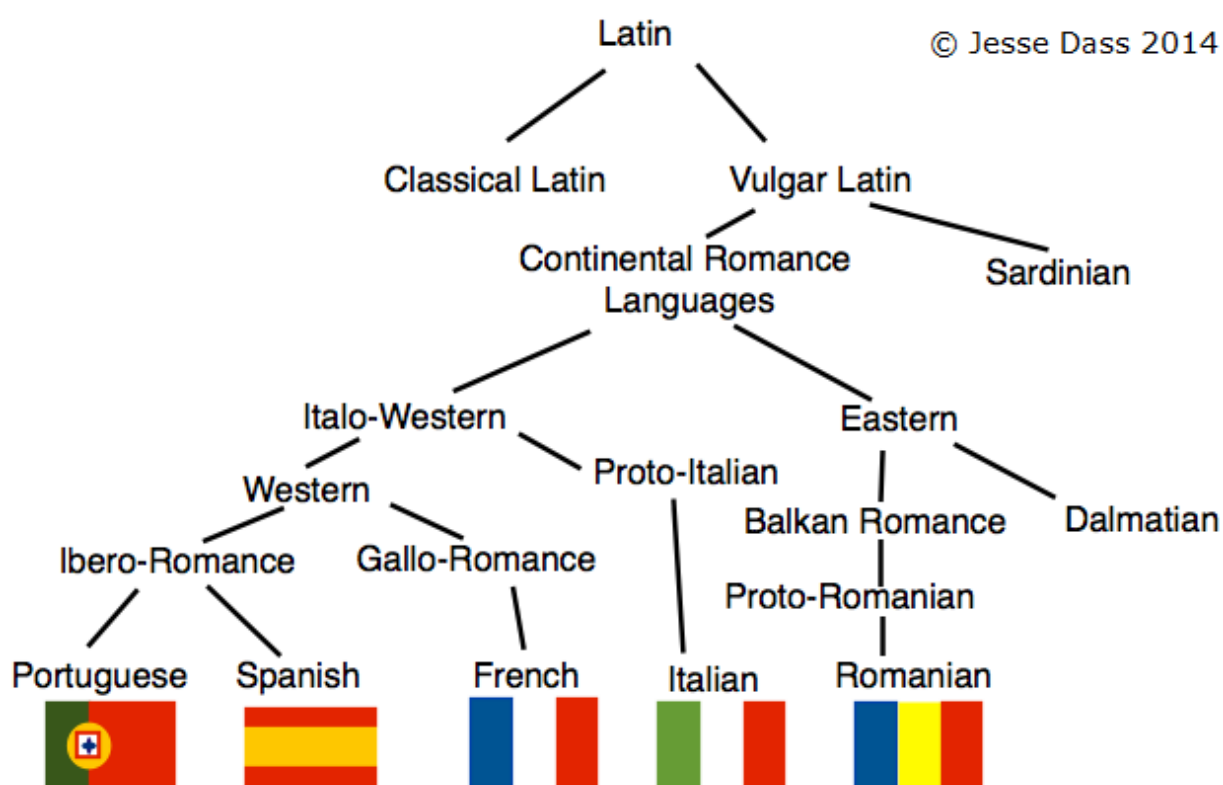
This e-book aims to inform readers about Romanian language and also its interaction with the other languages. The history of Romanian can be traced through different periods of outside influence on the language. The first period we will look at is the Dacian period. The Dacians were the first known civilization to live in the area where Romania is now situated. The second period is the Romanization— following the Roman conquest of the Dacians. After, the Romanization was a period of Slavic influence on the Proto Romanian of that time, followed by a re-latinization movement during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Romanian reflects the history of its native speakers. It illustrates the story of a nation of survivors.

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Romanian is a Romance language

Few know that Romanian is a Romance language, similar to French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese; however, due to the country's geographical position in Eastern Europe, surrounded by Slavic-speaking countries, people think that Romanian is part of the Slavic family. The language does have Slavic roots, but they represent only 10% of the vocabulary. With words originating from ancient Slavic and other words coming from Bulgarian, German and Turkish, Romanian is a unique Romance language.



Fiore		Italian	
Floare		Romanian	
Flor		Portuguese	
Flor		Spanish	



Spoken in both Romania and the Republic of Moldova

Not only is Romanian the official language in Romania, but also in the Republic of Moldova. A former region of Romania, lost in 1940 as a consequence of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Moldova (at that time named Basarabia) was ceded to the Soviet Union. Later, it gained its independence. Nevertheless, the Romanian language has remained the national language ever since.



The Romanian language is 1,700 years old

Romanian started forming at the beginning of the second century when the Romans conquered the territory of Dacia, located in the territory that would become Romania. Roman culture and language influenced the Dacian community, which eventually started using Vulgar Latin (common Roman) as their language.

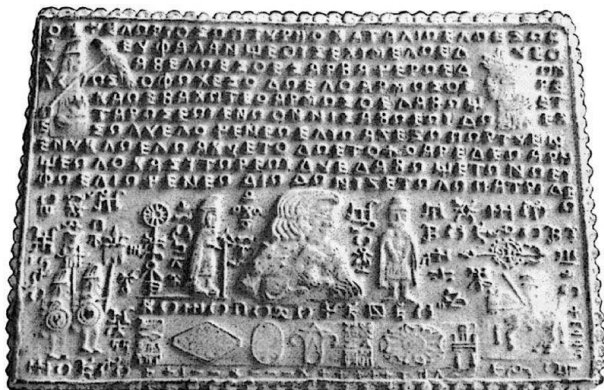


The Dacians lived in what are today Romania and Moldova (and quite a substantial territory around them). They were an Indo-European people. The Dacian language has long been lost;

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all we have from it is one inscription, as well as some personal names, plant names, and a mere 160 Dacian words that have survived into modern Romanian.



The influence of Dacian on Romanian



buză = lip;

ceafă = nape;

grumaz = neck;

gușă = goitre);

copil = child;

prunc = baby;

zestre = dowry);

brânză = cheese;

mazăre = peas;

baci = shepherd making cheese;

strungă = small gate through which sheep are passed to be milked;

țarc = enclosure

gard = fence;

barză = stork;

balaur = dragon);

măgură = standalone hill;

mal = bank;

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brad = fir-tree;

copac = tree.

It's the only Romance language that prevailed in Eastern Europe

It's still unclear how the Romanian language and most of its Latin roots survived in a territory invaded and occupied by Slavic and Uralic populations like the Hungarians, Turks and Bulgarians. However, Roman and Latin influences were so strong that Slavic populations managed only to affect, not transform the language.

The influence of Slavic on Romanian




**MOST SLAVIC WORDS WERE ACQUIRED THROUGH EVERYDAY CONTACT WITH SLAVIC MERCHANTS, PEASANTS AND SOLDIERS.**

чорапи – ciorapi	билет - bilet
панталони – pantaloni	гара - gară
блуза – bluză	колега - colega
гума – gumă	фотьойл - fotoliul
градина – grădină	канapé - canapea
капак – sacac	этаж - etaj
маса – masă	душ - duș
телевизор – televizor	гараж - garaj

The influence of Turkish on Romanian



	#1. Cafea- Kahve (tc)	
#2. Buzdugan- Bozdoğan (tc)	#3. Bacșiș- Bahşiş (tc)	#4. Basma- Basma (tc)
#5. Belea- Belâ (tc)	#6. Bursuc- Borsuk (tc)	#7. Halva- Halva (tc)
#8. Rachiu- Rakı (tc)	#9. Ciorbă- Çorba (tc)	#10. Chioșc- Köşk (tc)
#11. Moft- Müft (tc)	#12. Ciorap- Çorab (tc)	#13. Cusur- Kusur (tc)
#14. Farfurie- Farfuri (tc)	#15. Fes - Fes (tc)	#16. Lalea- Lâle (tc)
#17. Habar - Haber (tc)	#18. Iaurt- Yoğurt (tc)	#19. Catifea- Kadife
#20. Capcană- Kapkan (tc)	#21. Chibrit- Kibrit (tc)	#22. Chiveci- Güvec (tc)
#23. Cântar- Kantar (tc)	#24. Magiun- Macun (tc)	#25. Hamal- Hamal (tc)
#26. Chef- Keyf (tc)	#27. Haimana - Haymana (tc)	#28. Cascaval- Kaşkaval (tc)
#29. Tarabă- Tarab (tc)	#30. Odaie- Oda (tc)	#31. Lighean- Liğen, Legen (tc)
#32. Tavan- Tavan (tc)	#33. Tutun- Tütün (tc)	#34. Maimuță- Maymun (tc)
#35. Musafir- Misâfir (tc)		

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The influence of Hungarian



on Romanian



acaț - akác

ademeni- adomány

alcătui - alkot

altoi -oltani

beșug - bőség

birui -birni

bădăran- badaró

bănui- bănni

cheltui - költeni

chin- kin

chip - kép

cizmă - csizma

făgădui - fogadni

hotar - határ

iobag- jobbágy

labă - láb

locui - lakni

Timișoara - Temesvár

toc- tok

vamă - vám

The influence of Bulgarian



on Romanian



buză –cheek

zestră - wealth

brânză - cheese

măgură - hill

țarc - pen

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You can understand Romanian if you have studied other Romance languages

If you know some Italian, Spanish or French, you can comprehend Romanian. Several basic words are very similar to their Western European counterparts: *bine* is almost the same as the French and Spanish *bien* or the Italian *bene*; *bun*, same as *bon*, *bueno*; *cu plăcere* is similar to *con piacere* and *avec plaisir*.

Latin ananas



Polish ananas



Italian ananas



Finnish ananas



Turkish ananas



Swedish ananas



Romanian ananas



Romanian is a phonetic language

Actually, once you learn the vocabulary, Romanian is easy to read or speak. Being a phonetic language, all the words are pronounced exactly as they are spelt.

The Romanian alphabet

## THE ROMANIAN ALPHABET

UPPERCASE	LOWERCASE
A	a
Ă	ă
Â	â
B	b
C	c
D	d
E	e
F	f
G	g
H	h
I	i
Î	î
J	j
K	k
L	l

UPPERCASE	LOWERCASE
M	m
N	n
O	o
P	p
Q	q
R	r
S	s
Ș	ș
T	t
Ț	ț
U	u
V	v
W	w
X	x
Y	y
Z	z

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There are 5 special letters in Romanian

What makes Romanian a little bit difficult for foreigners, are the special letters called 'diacritics'.

These are:

### Romanian diacritics

- Ă - /ə/ - pronounced like "a" in "above"
- Â - /i/ - pronounced like "e" in "roses"
- Î - the same as Â
- Ș - /ʃ/ - pronounced like "sh" in "shopping"
- Ț - /ts/ - pronounced like "zz" in "pizza"

*Multumesc!*

There are four dialects of Romanian spoken in the Balkanic countries

Due to the Roman occupation south of the Danube river (today's border between Romania and Bulgaria), a mix of Latin and Balkan languages developed as Romanian dialects. These are Daco-Romanian, Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian and Istro-Romanian, spoken in countries like Serbia, Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Bulgaria and Croatia.

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