



Project Presentations URPP Language and Space, 5 March 2020  
*Language and Space in Switzerland*

# Francoprovençal at the Crossroads

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## Outline

1. DiFuPaRo: An overview
2. The data
  - ALAVAL
  - New fieldwork data
3. Tagging the data
4. Exploring the data

# 1. DiFuPaRo: an overview



## The project

### DiFuPaRo:

- Title: “**D**istribution and **F**unction of ‘**P**artitive articles’ in **R**omance: a microvariation analysis”.
- Project leaders: E. Stark (UZH) & C. Poletto (Frankfurt-am-Main)
- Funding:               SNSF (Swiss National Science Foundation)  
                                  DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
- Duration:               3 years (2018-2021)
- Website:

<https://www.rose.uzh.ch/de/seminar/personen/stark/DiFuPaRo.html>



## Goals and research question

- Study so-called '**partitive articles**' (PAs) in their **indefinite** interpretation  
→ i.e. elements like Fr. *du/des* and It. *del/dei* (= **historically DE + def. art.**)
- Focus on the **spatial distribution** of PAs
- Investigate **Gallo- and Italo-Romance varieties** (standard French/Italian, colloquial Swiss French, Northern Italian Dialects (**NIDs**) and Francoprovençal)
- **Research question:**

**Can we identify a pattern in the geographical distribution of 'types of PAs' in our Romance varieties and explain their existence, e.g. based on observed internal correlations or as a result of language contact (or both)?**

→ Zoom on Francoprovençal

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### Francoprovençal:

- Non-standardised
- Nearly extinct: total users in all countries (2011): 227'000
- Crossroads between e.g. NIDs and oil dialects (e.g. French)

Source: Holtus, G./ Metzeltin, M./ Schmitt, C. (ed.). 1990. *Lexikon der Romanistischen Linguistik*, V. 1.

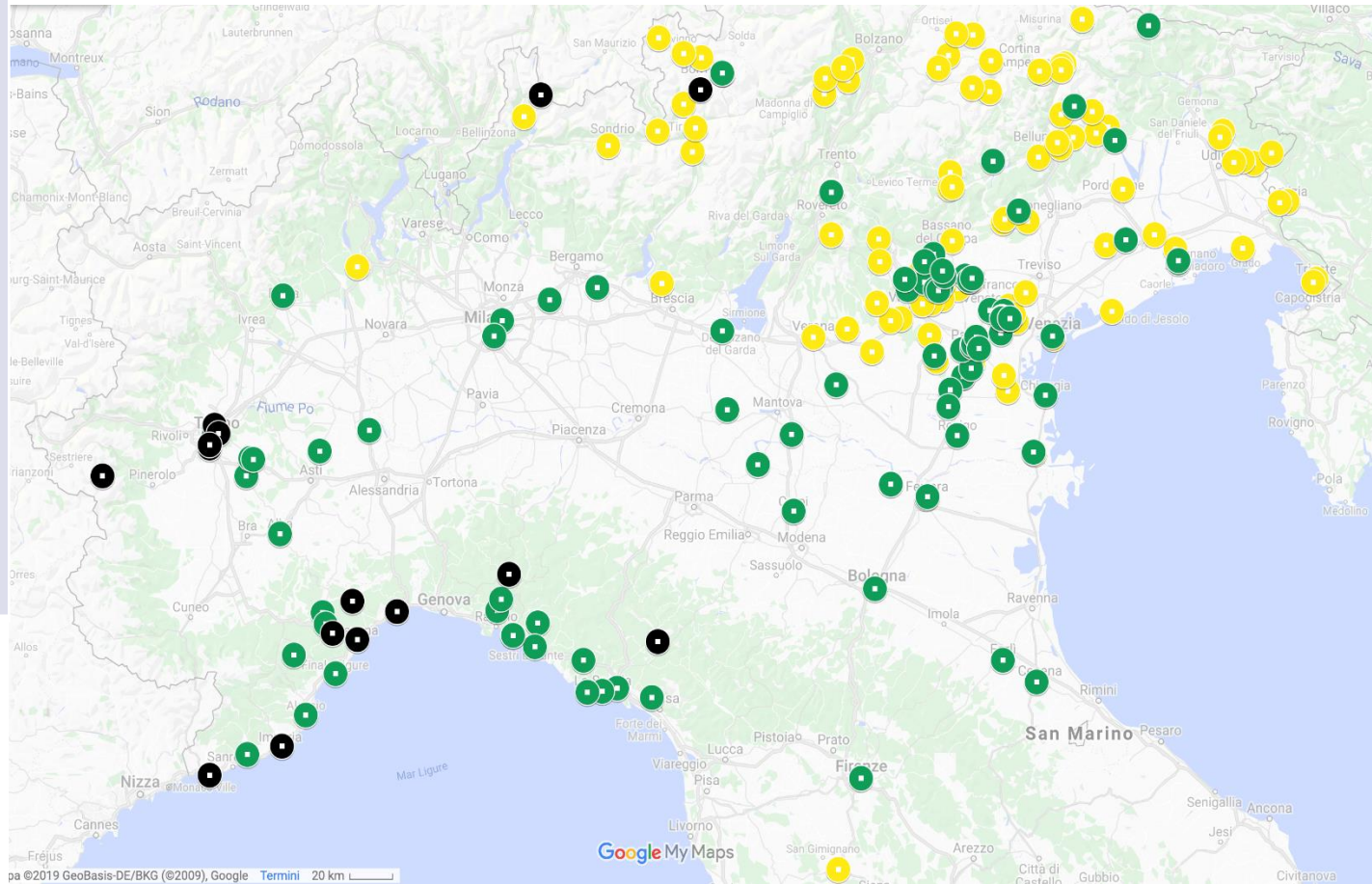


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### NIDs Realizations

- **Yellow:** Bare Nouns  
no lejes mai Ø libris  
(Aquileia, UD)
- **Green:** PA  
lesi maj di liber  
(Alba, CN)
- **Black:** DE (= PA  
without the def. art.)  
I lese maj ed liber  
(Torino2)

Source:  
Pinzin/Poletto 2019. *The distribution of Partitives and related phenomena in Northern Italy.* Talk given at the University of Frankfurt. November 2019.



## 2. The data





## **ALAVAL: a Francoprovençal database**

- *Atlas linguistique audiovisuel des dialectes francoprovençaux du Valais romand* (UNINE)
- data collection: 1994 – 2001
- elicitation by translations and open questions
- 21 different Swiss varieties (42 speakers)
- 51 relevant input sentences
- <http://alaval.unine.ch/>



## New fieldwork data

### Location

- Evolène (Valais); 7 speakers (July 2019) → 455 nominals
- Bulle (Fribourg); 6 speakers (November 2019) → 390 nominals
- ...

### Questionnaire

Part 1: translation task (from French); 15 contexts, fillers, 65 sentences

Part 2: Grammaticality Judgement Test; 20 contexts, 24 sentences

### 3. Tagging the data



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attribute macrogroup	attribute subgroup	attribute	attribute description	value
Sociolinguistic information	general	variety	variety to which the data belong	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	region	administrative region to which the speaker belongs	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	province	administrative province to which the speaker belongs	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	municipality	administrative municipality to which the speaker belongs	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	language family	language family to which the data belong	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	language group	language group to which the data belong	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	language subgroup	language subgroup to which the data belong	FREE TEXT
Sociolinguistic information	general	gender	gender of the speaker	female
Sociolinguistic information	general			male
Sociolinguistic information	general			other
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE	DE	there is a DE element introducing the nominal group (deriv	YES
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			NO
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE	number DE	morphological marking of the DE with respect to number (s	singular
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			plural
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			∅
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			??
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE	gender DE	morphological marking of the DE with respect to gender (s	masc
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			fem
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			neut
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			masc-fem
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			masc-neut
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			fem-neut
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			∅
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			??
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE	form of DE	morphological form of the DE element (subattribute of [DE	P+def
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			P
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			other
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			??
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE			
Linguistic properties related to the nominal group	DE	optionality of P+def	DE with the form P+def is optional (dependent attribute of	YES

## 4. Exploring the data



## The DiFuPaRo Database

- Data from
  - ALAVAL,
  - OFROM (*Corpus Oral de Français de Suisse Romande*, UNINE),
  - ASIt (*Atlante sintattico d'Italia* for **NIDs**),
  - (+ own fieldwork)
- Currently consisting of **9108 NPs** (3307 from the ALAVAL) for different (morpho-)syntactic properties  
<https://pub.cl.uzh.ch/projects/partitivity/interface/difuparo>
- The francoprovençal data **need to be transcribed into IPA** to be added to the database.



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INTERFACE ABOUT / HELP

Attribute Connector AND OR

Search Attributes

- DE
- case DE
- number DE
- gender DE
- form of DE
- optionality of P+def
- optionality of P
- optionality of other
- DEFINITE ARTICLE
- DEICTIC
- INDEFINITE ARTICLE
- POSSESSIVE
- QUANTITY

VIEW SELECTED VALUES VIEW SELECTED SENTENCES (3307)

Group

??

P

P+def

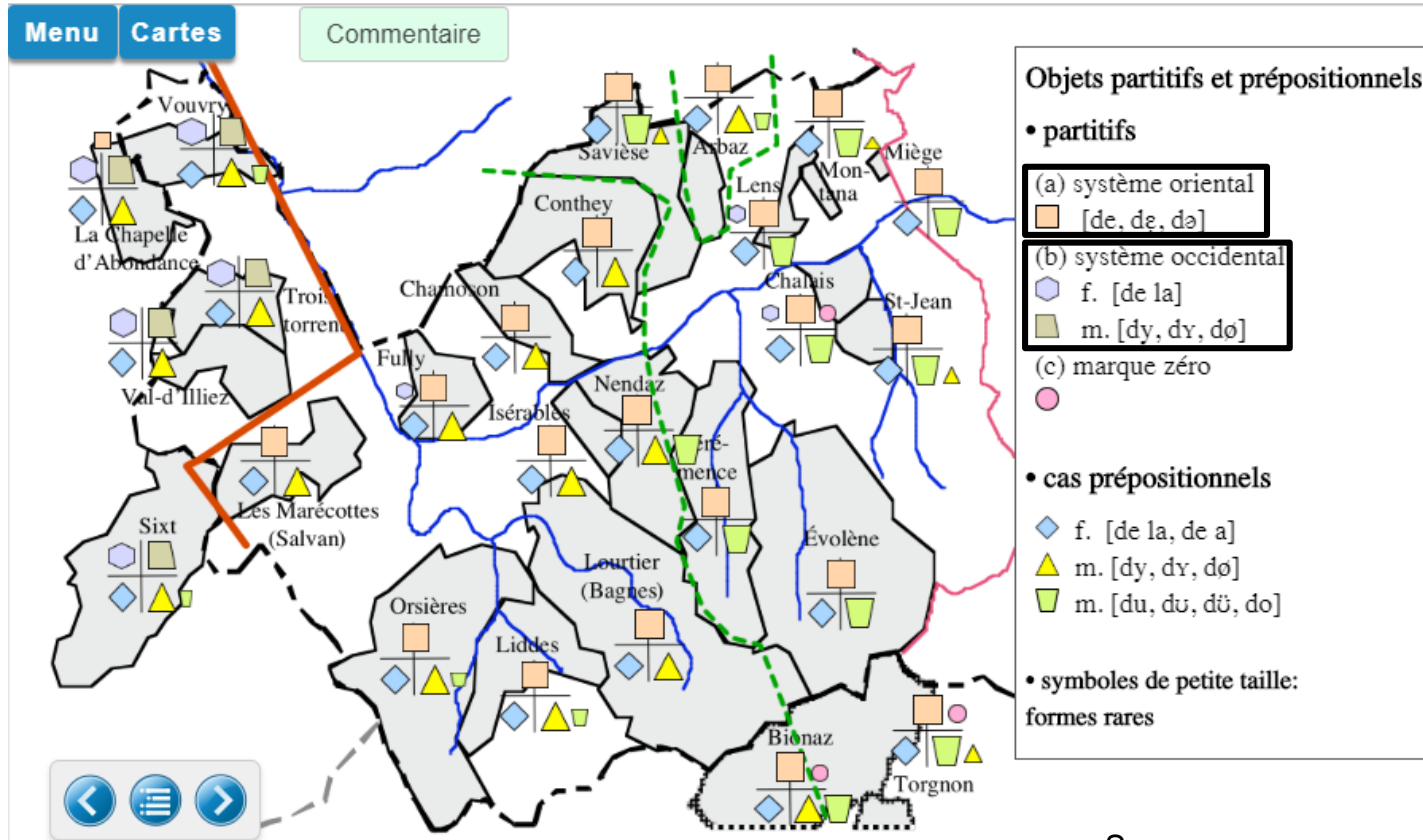
other

Enter numeric values

id

Funding:  
URPP  
Language  
and  
Space;  
SNFS

## URPP Language and Space



Source:  
<http://alaval.unine.ch/atlas?carte=21062>





## Relevance to *Language and Space in Switzerland*

### Issues

1. Little information on PAs in FrPr, an understudied minority language: no real spatial analysis
2. Very few maps: only ALAVAL maps
3. Existing maps are limited: too fine-grained, not fine-grained enough

### DiFuPaRo provides:

1. a detailed analysis of PAs: 104 attributes in the database
2. the possibility to combine the attributes for more or less fine-grained analyses
3. the possibility to create maps based on these combinations for a detailed spatial analysis



## Relevance to *Language and Space in Switzerland*

### DiFuPaRo: focusing on the distribution of PAs

Different types of 'PAs': - with the 'definite article' component or without

- Francoprovençal vs. NIDs
- Francoprovençal vs. oral French

### DiFuPaRo: investigating correlations

Does the **distribution** of the different types of 'PAs' correlate with some **morpho-syntactic features**? E.g. Number/gender marking on the noun

Type of number marking on the noun

Etc.



## Conclusion

- The tagging system and the database can be exploited in many ways.
- The different features can be combined to create maps.
- The more data we have, the better.

### Important cost: transcriptions

1 minute of speech = 1 hour of transcription

1 hour of transcription = 60 CHF

55 min of speech = 55 hours of transcription → **3'300 CHF needed**



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