

STANDARDIZED LANGUAGE AS A WAY TO SUPPORT A COMMON IDENTITY: THE CASE OF ROMA COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

This paper analyses the case of Roma communities in some East and Central European countries concerning language standardization. While the different Roma groups speak different Romani dialects, Roma elite members and activists consider a standardized language as a key issue in defending and supporting the cohesion of a Roma united ethnic group. The already ancient equation one people = one language is updated to support their aspiration of being recognized as a nation without territory.

Key words: Roma communities, standardized language, ethnicity, nationalist theories.

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