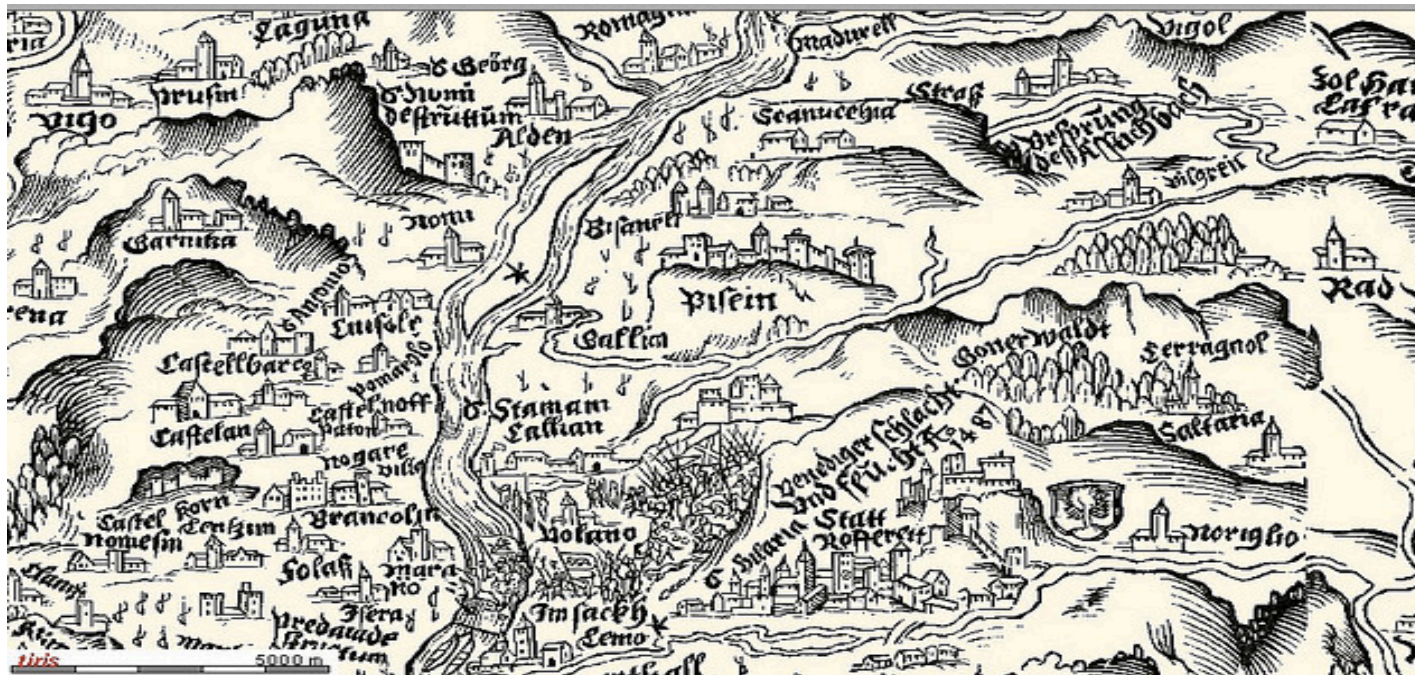


Romance and German toponyms in a border area. An inquiry on some alpine place names in *Dizionario toponomastico trentino*

Patrizia Cordin - Trento



Völker und Sprachen

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI TRENTO

Outline

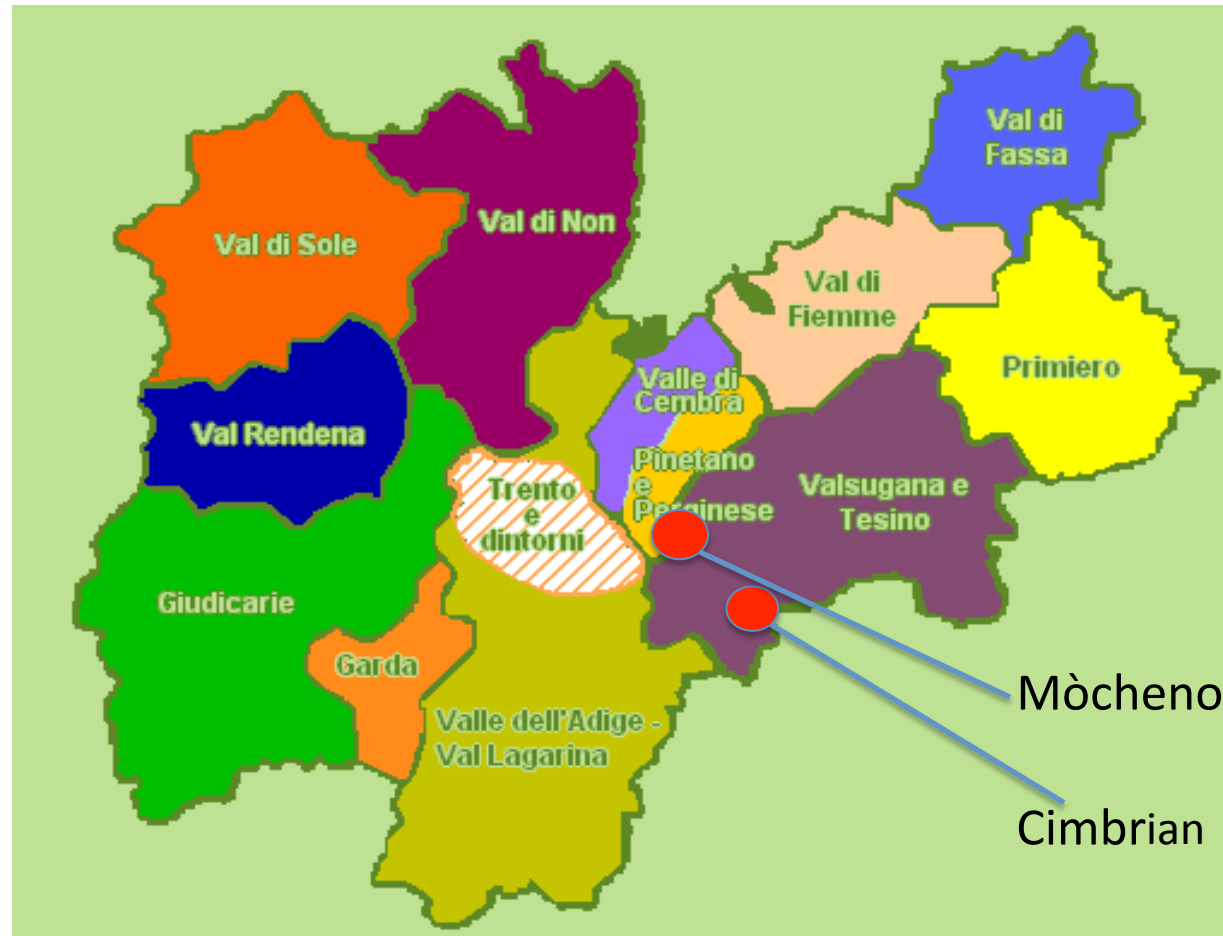
1. German varieties and German place names in Trentino
2. *Dizionario Toponomastico Trentino - DTT*
3. A research on German place names in *DTT*



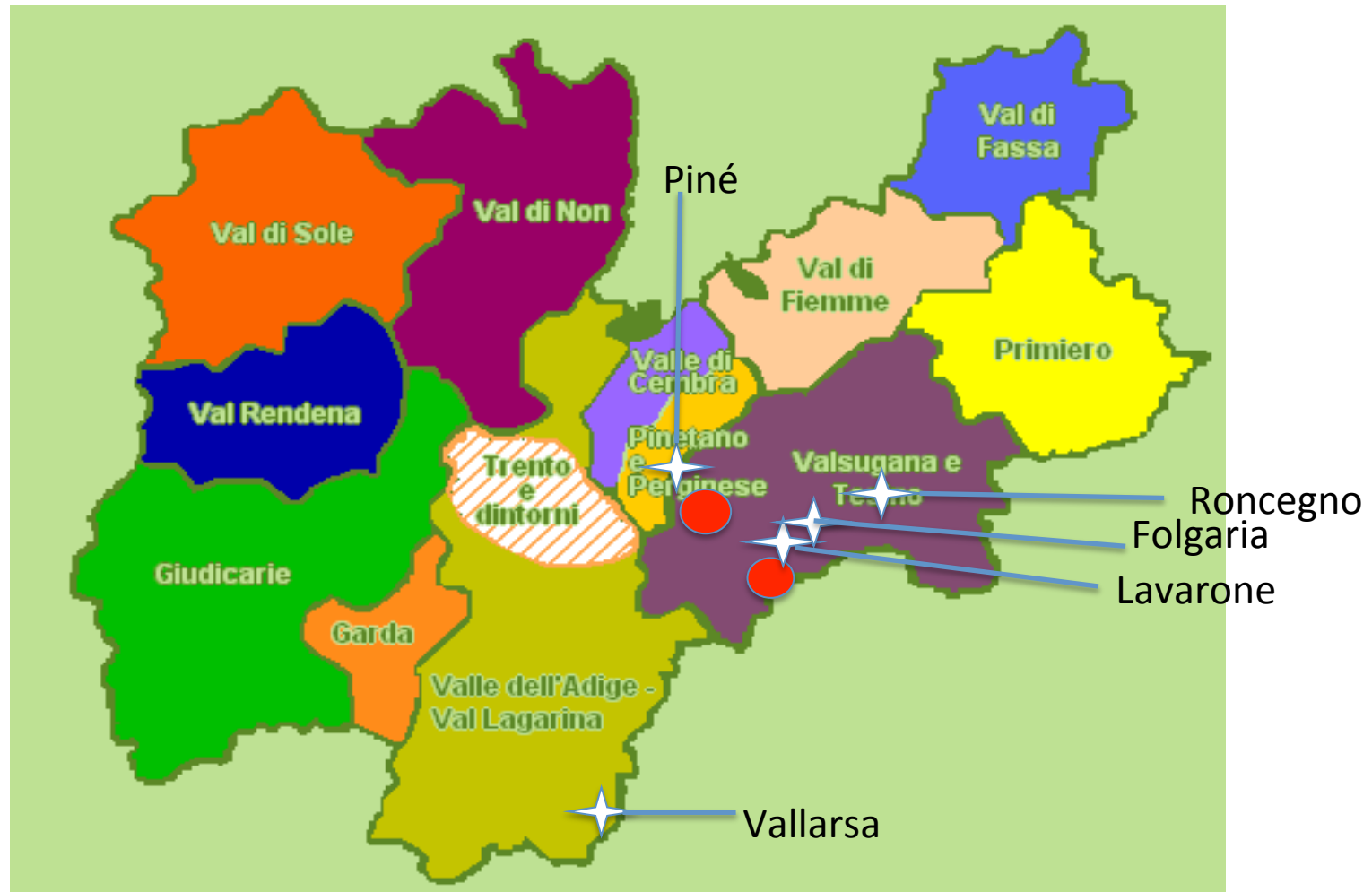
1. German varieties and German place names in Trentino



German varieties spoken today in Trentino



German place names in Trentino



Previous studies

ERNESTO LORENZI, *Toponomastica Mòchena*, 1930.

BERENGARIO GEROLA, *Gli stanziamenti tedeschi sull'Altopiano di Piné nel Trentino orientale*, 1932.

GIULIA MASTRELLI ANZILOTTI, *Stanziamenti tedeschi nel Trentino*, 1995.

LYDIA FLOESS, *I toponimi cimbri di Centa S. Nicolò*, 2002.

LYDIA FLOESS, *Principali caratteristiche della toponomastica di Vallarsa con particolare attenzione ai nomi di luogo di origine tedesca*, 2009.



2. Dizionario Toponomastico Trentino



DTT: planning, implementation and management

- Provincial law 2/1980: *Nuove disposizioni in materia di catalogazione del patrimonio storico, artistico e popolare del Trentino*
- Provincial law 16/1987: *Disciplina della toponomastica*
- Soprintendenza per i Beni culturali, Ufficio Beni archivistici, librari e Archivio provinciale
- Provincial committee for toponymy



DTT: phases

1. Geographical research, based on fieldwork
2. Historical research, based on documents
3. Etymological research

The geographical research has been given priority, since interviewing elderly speakers and collecting oral data was the most urgent task.



DTT: geographical research

- A collection of microtoponyms has been conducted by 180 researchers in all municipalities of Trentino (223).
- For each toponym a schedule has been filled out, following precise criteria.
- The pronunciation of every toponym has been recorded.
- Most schedules have been published in an online database.



DTT form

Name in the dialectal form

Place type (geographical categories)

Place description

Coordinates for the collocation on the official map CTG

References to other maps

Informants



DTT results

- **205.687** place names have been collected and scheduled; they correspond to **158.472** places, in **223** municipalities (now 217).
- Only 20% of these place names were already present on existing maps.
- **126.389** place names have been published in an online database.
- **40.000** place names of 51 municipalities have been published in **15** volumes of DTT series.



DTT: volumes

*Dizionario Toponomastico
Trentino* - Collana ricerca
geografica, Trento,
Provincia Autonoma di
Trento, Soprintendenza
dei Beni culturali. Ufficio
beni archivistici, librari e
Archivio Provinciale.



DTT: volumes



DTT online

126.238 place names are published in the database

[http://www.trentinocultura.net/portal/server.pt/
community/dizionario_toponomastico_trentino](http://www.trentinocultura.net/portal/server.pt/community/dizionario_toponomastico_trentino)



3. A research on German place names in *DTT* online



Research objectives

1. Compare data from the whole province
2. Highlight diachronic variation
3. Highlight diatopic variation

NB

The results that I will show represent only a partial, initial sample of a research that could be conducted on the DTT database systematically.



Four steps for the data search

- Selection of four semantic groups of toponyms;
- for each group, selection of some key words (from previous studies);
- insertion of key words in the section “toponimo”;
- selection of all the municipalities

NB Lusern

is not present in the database

Ricerca avanzata

Comune

Toponimo nella scrittura semplificata

Indicatore geografico

Fonti cartografiche

Presenza foto

☒ Tutti ☐ Si ☐ No

Invia

Reimposta

Selected semantic groups

1. Ground place names
2. Water place names
3. Paths and streets names
4. Plants place names



Key words for group 1: ground place names

eben eiben eim em

CLAF

podem

ech eich

loch

Raut

puel puvel pubel pufel

perg perch per

vand bant

spiz

Tal lait

lon lan

lomb lamb lamp

STOE

cling tling

grob groib grub

lont rant

prac prec

sam zam



Some results for ground place names

occurrences	forms	areas and municipalities	meaning	notes
315	Lait/laita/laite	widespread	Path, slope	Laita: Aneggi 'costa dirupata' <i>slope</i> ; Tissot 'sentiero' <i>path</i>
171	Raut	widespread	field	Raut: Quaresima 'novale' <i>new field</i>
62	Loch/loich/ logh	widespread	hole	Loca: Groff, Tissot, Aneggi 'fango' <i>mud</i> ; Pozzanghera; Tissot, Aneggi 'pozza' <i>puddle</i> ; Locia: Quaresima 'fango' <i>mud</i>



Some results for ground place names

occurrences	forms	areas and municipalities	meaning	notes
58	Tol/tal	Riva (1 tol)  	valley	
33	Eben/eiben/ eim/em	Levico (1 eiben)  	flat ground	
20	Grob/groib/ grub	Ala, Cavedago  	hole	
12	Claf/clef	Arco (1 clef)  	plot	



Key words for group 2: water place names

prun prin pron

vasser bosser

pac pech

mos



Some results for water place names

occurrences	forms	areas and municipalities	meaning	notes
137	Prun/prin/ pron	Mezzocorona, Faedo  	fountain, source	
82	Pach/pech	widespread	brook, creek	
27	Vasser/bosse	Ziano, Moena  	water	
11	Moser	Val di Non  	marsh	



Key words for group 3: paths names

Gostech

Beche veg pec

Chier chir

rest



Some results for path place names

occurrences	forms	areas and municipalities	meaning	notes
50 (about)	Rest/rèstel/ ràstel	widespread	pause > place for resting	≠ rastèl (rastellum, Radere)



Key words for group 4: plant place names

pierch birch
lind lint larch lerch
poch puech puc puich buche erle
baide tan stand fore
rauss
aibe



Some results for plant place names

occurrences	forms	areas and municipalities	meaning	notes
57	Larch/lerch	widespread	larch	
26	Poch/puec/ puch/puich	Bezzecca (1 Puchelina)  	beech tree	
17	Lint/lind	widespread	linden	
11	Erl	widespread	alder	



Summary

- For place names the DTT database confirms the existence of a linguistic contact in the Province between German and Romance varieties.
- For place names the linguistic contact is attested also in some areas that linguistically have always been Romance.
- Here, however, the traces of the German influence are limited, since
 - there are only few German place names;

OR

- there are several German place names, but only where we find the corresponding common names (loan words) in the dialect.



A wish as a provisory conclusion

A more detailed and extended research in the DTT database could lead to edit a glossary of German toponyms attested in the whole Province.



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Floess L., *I toponimi cimbri di Centa S. Nicolò*, in Floess L. (ed.), *I nomi locali dei comuni di Bosentino, Centa San Nicolò, Vattaro, Vigolo Vattaro*, Trento, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Servizio Beni librari e archivistici, 2002, 45-47.

Floess L., *Principali caratteristiche della toponomastica di Vallarsa con particolare attenzione ai nomi di luogo di origine tedesca*, in Floess L. (ed.), *I nomi locali del comune di Vallarsa*, 2009, 47-57.

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