

Hungary and Central Eastern Europe: What languages in which social strata?

Sándor, Klára (Szegedi Tudományegyetem)

The historical period in which the *Alma Mater Rudolphina Vindobonensis* had been founded was also one of the brightest periods of the history of the Hungarian Kingdom. At that time the realm's borders had reached the furthest, from Moldavia to near Vienna, from the Adria up to Poland, including practically the whole East Central Europe. On this large territory there were plenty of languages spoken, e.g. Germanic dialects, Slavic languages, and, of course, Hungarian, too. In the multilingual Hungarian Kingdom most probably the local languages were spoken by the lower social classes but by the local nobility as well, and there could be regions with widespread bilingualism, like e.g. in Moldavia where the Romanian and Hungarian population had been mixing, especially in towns and in the Court of the Voivode. The royal court must have been multilingual too: the King's father, also a Hungarian King, Caroberto Anjou was born in Naples, the King's mother was Polish, and the King himself spoke Hungarian, French, German, Italian, and Latin, but, somewhat strangely, no Polish, even if it was supposed to be his mother tongue, at least literally, and even if he had been crowned the King of Poland in 1370.

Unfortunately, there were little or actually no historical sociolinguistic research carried out on the multilingualism of the Hungarian Kingdom – or on any sociolinguistic aspects of this period. Therefore I will use mainly historical sources for drawing a trial version reconstruction of the Kingdom's sociohistorical language map.