

## Introduction – Linguistic Methodology

Nagy (1996:61-73) lays out the assumed geographical origin of Faetar in the Francoprovençal region using a series of historical linguistic and geographic analyses combined with previous research. By comparing phonemes of Faetar with those of Francoprovençal, Provençal, and Latin she gives strong support to this conclusion. To give a sharper resolution of where in the Francoprovençal (FP) region Faetar is most likely to hail from, Nagy (1996:67) presents a phoneme geographic analysis examining various localities in the region and comparing the realizations of the variable phoneme /ɮ/ amongst their dialects with those found in Faetar.

Nagy (1996:73) localizes Faetar's likeliest place of origin to the FP sub-regions of Ain and Isère, in the northwest and southeast areas of the FP region, respectively. Continuing the work done by her, an additional phoneme, /ɮ/, will be examined using a similar geographic analysis and combined with previous data. This will give a finer choice of localities from which genetically suitable populations are most likely to hail from.

## Phoneme Selection

The phoneme selected for study is the voiced uvular fricative /ɮ/, and its potential variables [ɮ], [j] and Ø. [ɮ] is common throughout Latin (Prior 1995) and the subsequent Romance languages, including French, Italian, FP, and Faetar. As well, it exhibits variability within the FP dialects (Duraffour 1969) and Faetar, but rarely in standard French or Italian. In French, it is often found in word final position with no following phonemes, or in a weak final position (often audible only when found in liaison with an initial vowel in a following word) (Olivier 2008). In Italian, it is normally a final consonant in a word, followed only by a single vowel (usually the open-mid front unrounded vowel [ɛ]).

## Linguistic Rules for Word Selection

Words were selected for examination based on the presence of word-final [ɮ] between standard French and current Faetar. All are relatively short, common words (basic verbs, colour terms, etc.). Their commonality is important as they are more likely to be well documented, not sourced from borrowing between languages, and to have variability amongst dialects in the localities examined. All the words contain a final [ɮ] phoneme in standard French (based on the pronunciation listed in the *Dictionnaire du français contemporain* (Dubois 1966) and the *Larousse Dictionnaire compact* (2001)); the words also are compared to their standard Italian forms (as listed in *Cassell's Italian Dictionary* (1983)). As final [ɮ] and its variants are often followed by a vowel (commonly [ə]) in Faetar (Nagy 2000), an optional word-final vowel is present in the rule.

Examination of the presence or absence of word final [ɮ] is to be considered, based on the following overarching variable rule:

$$/ɮ/ \rightarrow \{\emptyset \text{ or } /j/\} / \_ (V)##$$

Although in some cases the final [ʁ] phoneme is completely absent (Ø), it is commonly replaced by the palatal approximant [j] in both FP and Faetar forms. Similarly, word selection was based on Faetar words that were invariably [ʁ]-less; the *Dizionario Italiano-Francoprovenzale (F-I) di Faeto* (2007) and the *Dizionario Francoprovenzale Celle di San Vito e Faeto* (1994) were used to select the Faetar words. (As the dictionaries make use of information from both towns, “Faetar” is used to refer to the dialect spoken in both Faeto and Celle St. Vito.)

French	Italian	Francoprovençal	Faetar	Gloss	GPF Entry
noir	nero	nɛʒə	naʒə	<i>black</i> (masc.)	6688
faire	fare	fa	fa	<i>to do, make</i>	3912
boire	bere	baʒe	baʒə	<i>to drink</i>	1182
mettre	mettere	mɛto	mɛtə	<i>to put</i>	6362
prendre	prendere	prɛd, prɛne	prene	<i>to take</i>	7450
pour	per	pə	pə	<i>for</i>	7076
toujours	sempre	tuʒu	tuttuaʒə	<i>still, forever</i>	9528
père	padre	pɛʒə	paʒə	<i>father</i>	7217

Table 1. Listing of the compared lexical items in standard French, standard Italian, Francoprovençal, and Faetar. Standard French and Italian are written using standardized orthography in Atkins’ (1979) and Cassell’s (1983) dictionaries respectively. Francoprovençal terms are adapted from the GPF and written in IPA. Faetar words are obtained from Minichelli (1994) and Rubino (2007) and transcribed in IPA. Accompanied by English glosses and GPF Entry numbers.

A total of eight words were selected for analysis. The words were first chosen in either French or Italian, based on their adherence to the word-final [ʁ] presence requirement. If necessary, an English-Italian dictionary, as well as a French/English one, was consulted to ensure the correct form was being used. The two Italian/Francoprovençal dictionaries were then consulted to determine if the words were [ʁ]-less in Faetar.

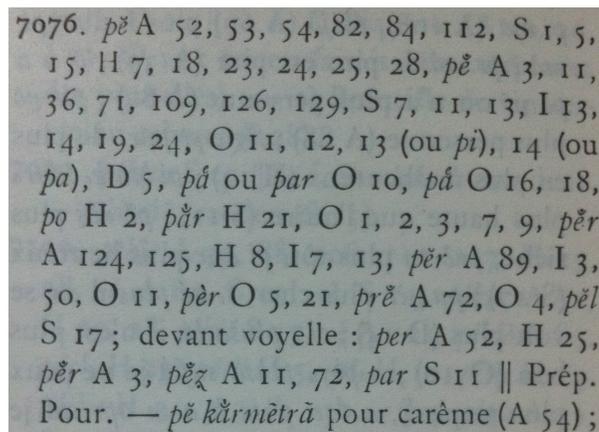


Figure 1. Copy of entry GPF entry 7076, “pour”. Immediately following the entry code, pronunciation variations are given, each followed by the départements, represented by letters, and individual localities, listed numerically. For example: ‘pě A 52’ indicates the pronunciation variation of *pour*, in Ain, in location 52 (Apremont) is *pě*. Taken from *Glossiare des Patois Francoprovençaux* (Durauffour 1969).

If the words met the above requirements, they were then consulted in the *Glossaire des Patois Francoprovençaux* (GPF). The GPF presents different dialect variations for up to 332 localities in the FP region and indexes words in standard French (Duraffour 1969) as shown in Figure 1. The words were added to a data table (Table 1) comparing their forms in standard French, standard Italian, Francoprovençal, and Faetar, as well as an English gloss, and their GPF word entry code. The FP listings were chosen from the GPF under the same premise presented in Nagy (1996:71, fn. 12) that a single common form serving as a representative of the 332 possible forms is admissible for the purposes of the geographic analysis.

### Location Selection

As in Nagy (1996), the GPF was also used to examine locales via its listings of word/dialect variants in the parts of the FP speaking region. As discussed above, there is little debate over Faetar's FP origins. The deeper elucidations made by Nagy indicate that the most likely area(s) of origin within the region are the sub-regions of Ain and Isère; for this reason, only variations amongst localities within these two sub-regions are considered in this study. It is hoped that by applying the findings of a phonemic study of word final [ʁ] with those presented in previous work, a more precise search area from which to draw suitable candidates for genetic sampling and population comparison will be determined.

The locations where [ʁ]-less forms are found were compiled into data tables presenting the Ain locations with the Isère locations for each word. Any location listing that gave an [ʁ]-ful form, even optionally, was disregarded; given that all forms are found [ʁ]-less in Faeto, this restriction is unlikely to affect the overall results of the geographic analysis. If a word is not explicitly documented in a particular location, that word was not used in tabulating the [ʁ]-less to [ʁ]-ful ratio for the locality.

Word	GPF Entry	Ain [ʁ]-less	Ain [ʁ]-ful	Isère [ʁ]-less	Isère [ʁ]-ful
noir	6688	31, 37, 72, 77, 10, 88, 116, 125, 85, 112, 128, 129, 81, 16, 94, 96, 98, 101, 50, 67	19, 22, 45, 57, 61, 80, 106, 110, 112, 117, 121, 122, 128, 129	13	3, 8, 15, 21, 23, 24, 30, 31, 34, 38, 45, 47, 50, 51
faire	3912	28, 30, 31, 68, 69, 70, 73, 103, 29, 2, 67, 89, 3, 10, 11, 72, 96, 97, 100, 116, 35, 95, 98, 101, 102, 36	1, 20, 22, 24, 26, 39, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 57, 59, 61, 62, 82, 84, 85, 88, 89, 91, 94, 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 117, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126, 128, 129	50	3, 4, 7, 8, 12, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 45, 46, 51

boire	1182	2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 30, 31, 34, 88, 89, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 63, 15, 100, 101, 102, 103, 88, 29, 16, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 27	1, 6, 7, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 37, 39, 45, 48, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 65, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 90, 91, 94, 104, 106, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 117, 119, 120, 122, 123, 125, 127, 128, 129	No Entries	3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 40, 42, 43, 47, 49, 50, 51
mettre	6362	11, 27, 69, 102, 39, 52, 57, 62, 89, 99, 106, 108, 112, 113, 129, 85, 105, 39	30, 39, 86, 88, 95, 100, 101, 109, 125, 123, 129	16, 21, 42, 51	32
prendre	7450	2, 31, 34, 117, 73, 108, 112, 60, 125	10, 11, 22, 25, 39, 61, 63, 72, 82, 89, 93, 94, 95, 110, 114, 123,	45	13, 15, 16, 21, 35, 38, 51
pour	7076	52, 53, 54, 82, 84, 112, 3, 11, 36, 71, 109, 126, 129	3, 72, 89, 124, 125,	13, 14, 19, 24,	3, 7, 50
toujours	9528	4, 6, 10, 25, 31, 117, 99, 110, 111, 128, 108, 110, 100, 54, 34	106	13, 10, 50	8,
père	7217	2, 11, 31, 95	13, 16, 85, 91, 92, 108, 110, 111, 123, 125, 128, 129	No Entries	12, 31, 38, 50,

Table 2. The words are presented in standard French, as the GPF index's the entry numbers for each word in this format. Each entry in the general listings, however, begins with the variable dialect forms before providing the standard French form. The numerical entries provide which localities, in each region, listed in the GPF have [ʁ]-less and [ʁ]-ful forms for that particular word.

The locations codes are then associated with their localities as listed in the GPF listings and scored, ranking the locations with the most [ʁ]-less forms highest based on the percentage of [ʁ]-less forms to the sum total of [ʁ]-less and [ʁ]-ful words listed for that locality. The listings of the locations for each region, Ain and Isère, and their scores ranked highest to lowest, are found in the attached appendix *Locations and R-Values*.

From these scores, a collection of geographic data points can be created indicating which locations within the Ain and Isère regions have the most [ʁ]-less forms and thus are most likely to be a location from which Faetar originates. The geographic data points will be used to determine locations that are most suitable for genetic sampling.