(i.e. Romanian-speaking gypsies). (Fig. 2).

Tomova (1995, in bulgarian) offers another classification based on empirical sociological research. That classification is based on the comparison between data for self-declared belonging and expert evaluation.

Later, in 2002, Kertikov determines the Roma in accordance with the direction of their self-declared belonging: Bulgarianized, Turkicized and Gypsy Roma. Pamporov (2006, 2008, in bulgarian) offers his classification of the Roma in Bulgaria (table. 1), by marking the dialect community, to which the Roma groups belong. Two communities are highlighted: Balkan community – strongly influenced by the Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian language and Vlashka (Vlach) community - influenced by the Romanian dialects. Pamporov divides the first community into two groups: Dasikane (Bulgarian) Roma and Horohane (Turkish) Roma. To the Vlashka dialect community, Pamporov (2006, 2008, in bulgarian) defines three groups: Kaldarashi, Kalaydzhii and Rudari/Ludari.

This brief survey can be summed up in a conclusion that it is very difficult to make a commonly accepted classification of the Roma ethnicity, because of the specific characteristics of the Roma as an ethnic community on one hand, and because of the dynamic nature of the changes, which occur in the Roma ethnos as a whole, as well as in the various Roma groups, on the other.

To achieve the study's purpose and in accordance with the assigned tasks, the following general and specific methods of scientific research are used, being considered as the most appropriate: analysis and synthesis, comparative geographical analysis for the detection of similarities and differences in the territorial distribution of the number and location of the Roma population, mathematical-statistical mapping with the use of GIS for spatial analysis and visualization, analysis of literature sources, etc. Several mathematical methods associated with mathematical modeling, as well as various tools in ArcGIS were used in defining regions with compact Roma population: the coefficient of ethno-territorial community, the compactness coefficient, conditional density, conditional populated area, the actual density of the ethnos; – actual populated area of the ethnos, mosaic coefficient, the method of geometric proximity, which in its nature allows the generation of "Voronoy polygons" – part of the geo-spatial analysis in ArcGIS (Fig. 3), as well as the ArcGIS tools: „Aggregate", „Inverse Distance Weighted" (IDW) (Fig. 3, B) and „Hot Spot Analysis" (HSA) (Fig. 3).

Analysis of the factors affecting the number and the location of the Roma ethnic group during three different historic periods has been done in the study. The analysis of the **first period (from Bulgarian Liberation till the end of WW II)** shows that this was the first stage of demographic transition of the Bulgarian Roma, which was characterized by high birth rates (Fig. 4), high mortality rates (Fig. 5) and moderate natural growth of the population (Fig. 6).

The Bulgarian government policy towards the ethnic groups and in particular towards the Roma ethnic group was hesitant – it started with reduction of the rights of the Bulgarian Roma after The Liberation (1878), followed by decades of revocation of the existing political and cultural restrictions. This process was interrupted by the BZNS government led by Al. Stamboliyski and also during the