

Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cll.21.01pre>

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Language Change and Language Contact in Pidgins and Creoles

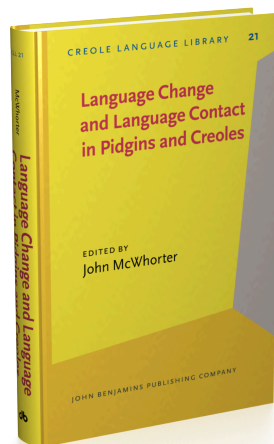
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[Creole Language Library, 21] 2000. vii, 503 pp.

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Preface

This anthology collects fifteen papers out of those presented at three consecutive meetings of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics; namely, those in San Diego in January 1996, Chicago in January 1997, and London in June 1997.

Obviously, choosing these fifteen papers out of the roughly one hundred and twenty-five presented at the three conferences was not an easy task, as among the papers were several dozen fine descriptive studies, historical reconstructions, analyses couched in theoretical phonology, semantics, and syntax, sociolinguistic analyses, and educational treatises.

Wary of allowing my personal interests to bias the selection process, I decided that the guiding factor in gathering the papers for this volume would be originality. I have sought papers which, regardless of their topic, compellingly approach their subject in a novel way, bring to light hitherto under-covered material, or successfully bolster an unconventional or minority case.

The result has been a volume with papers comprising Minimalism, variable rule analysis, Indo-European historical linguistics, substratism, superstratism, the Language Bioprogram Hypothesis, Optimality Theory, language shift, tense-mood-aspect particles, Sango, Indo-Portuguese, even Chaos Theory, and more — united in their aim to keep debate in creole studies moving ever forward in new directions.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the outside reviewers who so kindly lent their time to commenting on the first drafts of these papers. I offer this volume as a token of appreciation to all of the people in creole studies who have assisted and supported me in my academic endeavors over the past ten years.

John McWhorter
Berkeley, California, July 1999