

Preface

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Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives on Contact Languages

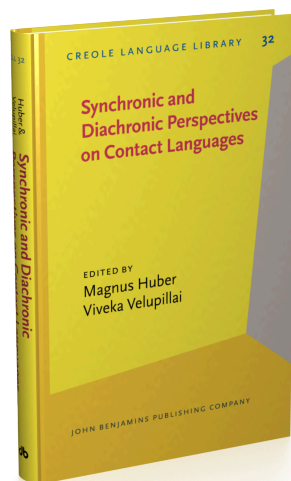
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Preface

The present volume is a selection of papers presented at the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics meetings in Curaçao (August 2004), Oakland (January 2005) and Albuquerque (January 2006).

A total of twenty-five papers were submitted to this volume. Each article was peer reviewed by two, in some cases three, external specialists. We accepted fifteen submissions, all of which are much revised and extended versions of the conference papers, and all of which we consider valuable contributions to the field Contact Linguistics.

The articles in this volume do not only present a wealth of data, something which in itself could certainly be considered the backbone of all linguistic research. They also address a number of issues relevant far beyond the study of pidgin and creole languages. The present volume thus brings together a beneficial cross-fertilization of approaches to language studies, such as those discussing the role of identity when explaining phonological developments (see the article by Michelle C. Braña-Straw, on British Barbadian English, but also Marvin Kramer's discussion on tone in Saramaccan); when tracing the demographic patterns of plantation development (in Don E. Walicek's article about the intermediary role of Chinese Spanish in Cuba); or when analysing geographically hidden varieties (as John M. Lipski does in his article about Afro-Bolivian Spanish).

Although the respective contributions to this volume are quite diverse in nature and topic, they nonetheless have some overlapping interests. Thus, while a number of authors focus more or less on synchronic descriptions of a variety (Michelle C. Braña-Straw, Shelome Gooden, Maria Alexandra Fiéis and Fernanda Pratas, David D. Robertson, David B. Frank, John M. Lipski, Aya Inoue, Claire Lefebvre and Isabelle Therrien), the approach they choose also furthers the discussion on related issues, for instance sociolinguistics, as mentioned above; functional linguistics (see, for example, the article on animacy hierarchies in Chinúk Wawa by David D. Robertson, or the various semantic properties in Papiamentu *pa* by Claire Lefebvre and Isabelle Therrien); Optimality Theory (such as Shelome Gooden's paper on pitch accents in Jamaican Creole reduplication, as well as Eric Russell Webb's discussion on liquids in Haitian and St. Lucian). Conversely, those who set out to give diachronic analyses of their data (Eric Russell Webb, Malcolm Awadajin Finney, Marvin Kramer, Claire Lefebvre and Isabelle Therrien, Nicholas Faraclas, Yolanda Rivera-Castillo and David E. Walicek, Diana Guillemin, Jo-Anne Ferreira and Mervyn C. Alleyne), also contribute significantly to the general discussion of syntax (for instance, the article by Nicholas Faraclas,

Yolanda Rivera-Castillo and David E. Walicek on the origin(s) of the Papiamentu tense-mood-aspect system); the issue of grammaticalization (see Diana Guillemin's analysis of the determiner *so* in Mauritian Creole, as well as the discussion by Malcolm Awadajin Finney on the phonotactics and syllable structure of Krio).

While there are no doubt several ways to group the contributions of this volume, we have opted for the following thematic subsections:

- Part I: Papers dealing with phonetics and phonology, both from a synchronic and a diachronic perspective:
Braña-Straw, Finney, Kramer, Gooden, Russell Webb
- Part II: Papers with a more synchronic perspective on their language(s):
Fiéis/Pratas, Robertson, Frank, Lipski, Inoue
- Part III: Papers with a more diachronic perspective on their language(s):
Lefebvre/Therrien, Faraclas/Rivera-Castillo/Walicek, Guillemin, Walicek, Ferreira/Alleyne

As already mentioned, most of the articles cover, or are in various ways significant for, more than one linguistic subgrouping. However, we find that the predominantly phonetic/phonological approach tie the first five chapters in this volume together into a coherent section. By examining a stereotypical feature of **British Barbadian** speech, the variable /t/, **Braña-Straw** discusses the assumption that the speech of all Afro-Caribbeans, irrespective of island of origin, in Britain tends to drift towards Jamaican Creole. She effectively shows how linguistic strategies of simplification, leading to maintenance and assimilation of the salient feature, are being employed as acts of identity by British Barbadians. In Chapter 2, **Finney** analyses the phonotactics and syllable structure of **Krio** in an effort to determine whether what can be found is mainly attributable to first language acquisition or whether the features are influenced by the West African substrate languages. By showing that Krio essentially exhibits phonologically unmarked features – which strengthens a universalist explanation of its origins – as well as phonologically rather marked features – which in turn supports a substratist view – Finney establishes that Krio, like so many other languages (whether creole or not) does not readily conform to any of the two explanations. In the same vein, **Kramer** discusses the less than straightforward shaping of **Saramaccan**: while the main substratal influence on the English-lexified creoles of Suriname is generally agreed to be Fongbe, the tonal characteristics of quantifiers in Saramaccan are better explained if Kikongo is seen as the source. Part I of the volume concludes with two articles devoted to the **Optimality Theory** framework. **Gooden** takes a synchronic perspective on **Jamaican Creole**, and shows how stress is the main distinguishing factor between segmentally identical reduplications. **Russell Webb** uses Optimality Theory as a diachronic tool to explain the surface variability of liquids in **Haitian** and **St. Lucian** and demonstrates how the respective outcomes both involve articulatory effort reduction.

The five papers of the second section in this volume share predominantly synchronic analyses of their data. **Fiéis and Pratas** use a Principles and Parameters framework to

show that **Capeverdean** does not have a functional projection for reflexive contexts, even in situations when the reading is obligatorily reflexive. In comparing with European Portuguese strategies in the equivalent domain the authors propose an internally motivated strategy in Capeverdean, and thus by extension contribute to the diachronic discussion of that language. Similarly, **Robertson's** in-depth analysis of 3.SINGULAR in **Chinúk Wawa** not only furthers our understanding of the history and development of Salish languages, but also adds significant linguistic material to general typological issues of animacy and markedness.

Another valuable contribution to the linguistic community in general is the analysis of **Gullah** verbs by **Frank**. He shows that this classic language in creolistics debates has three irregular verbs, all of which in turn are related to the most common tense-mood-aspect markers, a pattern that has been observed in numerous non-creole languages as well. Latching on to the debate of creole prototypes and decreolization, **Lipski** points to the data of **Afro-Bolivian Spanish**, the now rapidly vanishing variety spoken in remote areas of Bolivia by descendants of Africans who, for various reasons, arrived in the 1500s. Using a multivariate analysis of copula absence in **Hawai'i Creole (HC)**, **Inoue** shows that there is little or no basis to assume that decreolization processes have taken place on the O'ahu island during the last 30 years. She also shows that the copula patterns of HC are similar to copula patterns in other English Based Creoles, notably those in the Caribbean and African American Vernacular English, and as such gives a non-Atlantic case of a feature often assumed to be due to African substrate languages.

We consider the article by **Lefebvre and Therrien** an appropriate bridge between the more synchronically oriented (Part II) and the more diachronically oriented (Part III) sections of the volume. They first give an in-depth analysis of the properties of **Papiamentu** *pa*, drawing on a wealth of data pulled together from various sources. The authors then proceed to demonstrate why they consider the historical origin of *pa* a relexified form of Portuguese *para*, with its functions derived from the West African substrate languages. Papiamentu and its West African input languages are also discussed by **Faraclas, Rivera-Castillo and Walicek**, who focus on the tense-mood-aspect system and show that those features of Papiamentu that have been considered 'anomalous' actually display patterns of change typically found in languages of southern Nigeria, which are typologically and genetically relevant in the study of African substrate input on Atlantic Creoles. Likewise, in tracing the development of the **Mauritian Creole (MC)** determiner system, **Guillemin** draws on cross-linguistic patterns of grammaticalization and argues that *so*, from French *son* – nowadays only used in MC as an emphatic determiner in both singular and plural NPs – is a legacy of its use in genitive constructions as a 3.SINGULAR possessive pronoun.

Walicek bases his discussion of **Chinese Spanish** in Cuba on extensive archival research, and provides the field of pidgin and creole studies with a detailed picture of the sociodemographic context of the plantation system on the island. He shows that, with the arrival of the large number of Chinese indentured labourers, those who became bilingual in Spanish essentially formed an intermediary group between the

Asian labourers and the African-born slaves of the plantations, thereby adding another dimension in the linguistic development of the contact language. We conclude the volume with the contribution by **Ferreira and Alleyne**, who use a historical linguistic comparative method to trace the origins and development of two separate varieties of Amazonian French Creole spoken in the very North-East of Brazil: **Karipúna French Creole** and **Galibi-Marwono French Creole**. The authors make use of both contemporary data obtained in field-work as well as data from archival secondary sources and establish that there has been a history of contact between the people on the mainland and speakers of Antillean French creoles in the South-Eastern Caribbean islands since the 16th century.

Our main thanks goes to Bettina Migge for having got the whole process of this volume started. We would also like to thank the peer reviewers for their conscientious work, as well as, of course, all the contributing authors for all their efforts in advancing not only the field of pidgin and creole studies, but also the broader field of linguistics in general.

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