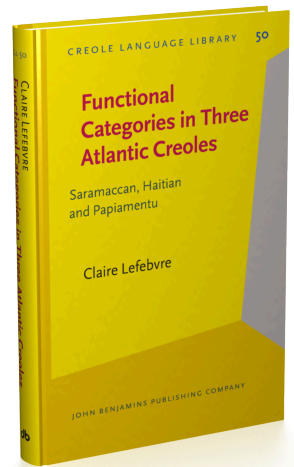


# Preface

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cll.50.preface>



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**Functional Categories in Three Atlantic Creoles:  
Saramaccan, Haitian and Papiamentu**

**Claire Lefebvre**

[Creole Language Library, 50] 2015. xvii, 386 pp.

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## Preface

This book deals with the functional categories of three Caribbean creoles: Saramaccan, Haitian Creole and Papiamentu. The first aim of the book is to evaluate the respective contribution of the source languages to the functional categories of the three creoles. The second is to evaluate the degree of similarity/dissimilarity of the functional categories across these creoles. I often say that 'Research builds on research'. This book is a perfect example of this claim.

The general methodology adopted to reach my two goals consists in bringing together seven previously published papers/book chapters. These bear on determination, coordination, TMA and complementation in the three creoles and their contributing languages. Bringing them together as a collection gives them another dimension. First, it provides the basis for a detailed comparison of the functional categories under study and of the syntactic structures in which they appear, among the creoles and their source languages, and among the three creoles. Second, bringing these papers together allows for an indepth study of the respective contribution of the substrate and superstrate languages to these creoles. The seven chapters are followed by two original chapters, one containing a detailed comparison of the functional category subsystems of the three creoles, and one addressing the theoretical issues raised by the material presented in the book.

I am indebted to the editors of the following journals or book series for giving me the permission to reproduce the material referred to above: *Lingua* (Elsevier), *Typological Studies in Language* (John Benjamins), *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* (John Benjamins), *Linguistics* (Mouton de Gruyter), *Creolica* (Revue du Groupe Européen de Recherches en Langues Créoles), and *Probus* (Mouton de Gruyter).

I would like to thank the editors of the Creole Language Library, Umberto Ansaldo and Miriam Meyerhoff, for supervising the publication of my manuscript. My gratitude also goes to my co-authors, Isabelle Therrien, Virginie Loranger and Silvia Kouwenberg for their contribution to the research and analyses presented in the various chapters of this book. It goes without saying that they are only responsible for the content of the chapters that they co-signed with me. They may not share the views I advocate in Chapters 1, 9 and 10. Many thanks to Andrée Bélanger for her invaluable help in formatting the manuscript. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of The Social and Humanities Research Council of

Canada for funding the bulk of the research reported in this book through various projects.

Comments from various readers have contributed to the final version of this book. Readers are acknowledged in the asterisked footnotes of each chapter. Thanks to Enoch Aboh who went through the whole manuscript. His comments have been addressed in the Introduction, in the text or in footnotes.

Over the last fifteen years, I was regularly invited as a guest researcher at the Linguistics Department of The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. There, I found the best conditions to conduct and write up part of the research that is presented in this book. While being there, I benefitted from discussions and comments by members of the Institute. More specifically, I had most fruitful discussions on issues raised in this book with Susanne Michaelis and Martin Haspelmath.

Last but not least, my warmest regards go to Bernard Comrie, to whom I dedicate this book, for his most inspiring work on Tense, Mood and Aspect, for his useful comments and questions on my work, for being so generous with his time, and for his support in the face of adversity.