

# Introduction to this edition

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**Language and Slavery: A social and linguistic history of the  
Suriname creoles**

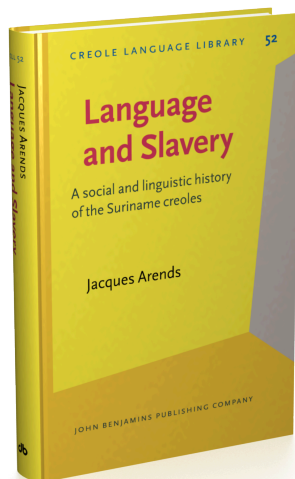
**Jacques Arends**

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## Introduction to this edition

The author of this book passed away before he could finish it, on August 16, 2005. Jacques Arends considered the manuscript to be the culmination point of his long-standing research on Suriname creolization. He had told friends and colleagues that he was about to complete the work. It was for the sake of Jacques Arends' scholarly labour and for language science that some of them, supported by his wife Melanie, felt that the manuscript deserved serious publication.

It was a book-to-be, though. Jacques bequeathed us both soft and hard concepts of (partial) chapters, outlines, lists of references and sources, proposals, and even a preface – the author's own preface following this one. Clearly, the texts were part of a master plan, but the plan was not fully transparent to outsiders and the texts were pre-final.

It took eleven years for the book to appear in print. There are quite a few reasons but very few excuses why it took so long. Two chapters mentioned in the author's draft book-proposals we could not trace back. A chapter dubbed *Syntax* was mentioned there but could not be identified. Presumably, Jacques Arends planned to rely on previous work of his, but we could not decide which work he had intended. It occurred to us, however, that the chapter would not add new aspects to the book's main line of argument, and that the merit of the book would not depend on such a chapter either. Therefore, we decided not to 'invent' that chapter. In addition, the intended final chapter *Conclusions* was not in the materials available to us. Again, we decided not to try and reconstruct the author's intentions in this respect.

All other concept chapters were handled very conservatively. No major changes of any kind have been implemented. Mainly, we have tried to resolve 'weak spots' – some of which Jacques had indicated himself – and factual gaps (notably in the references). In doing so, we have not chosen a philologists' point of view; rather, we went for scholarly integrity and relevance, while not interfering unnecessarily with stylistic matters. In this spirit, we also refrained from adding maps and illustrations to the text. Although Jacques compiled many of these, it was beyond our competence to decide which material he had intended to use and in which way. Therefore, this edition is less illuminated than the author had envisaged.

The book is – above all – meant to be an original and important contribution to the study of creolization. Notwithstanding the delay, we trust that it will turn

out to be just that, and that it will consolidate Jacques Arends' reputation as an eminent researcher. This book is yet another testimony of the the author's scholarship and perseverance We hope that his sons Jasper, Michiel and Tom will also find inspiration from his impressive legacy.

The manuscript was initially evaluated by Eithne Carlin, Norval Smith, Saskia de Haan and Crit Cremers. They also decided on the outline of the present edition. Subsequently, Saskia de Haan conscientiously and thoroughly edited the manuscript. Eithne Carlin wrote an addendum to the original preface. Adrienne Bruyn provided essential advice and support with respect to the references and the index. Crit Cremers is responsible for the final draft.

We are indebted to Miriam Meyerhoff as an Editor of the Creole Language Library and to Kees Vaes representing John Benjamins Publishing Company for their willingness, patience and advice in finally publishing Jacques Arends' *opus magnum*.

Crit Cremers  
May 2017