

Prelim pages

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Pages i–vi of

**History from Below: The “Vocabulary of Elisabethville” by
André Yav: Text, Translations and Interpretive Essay**

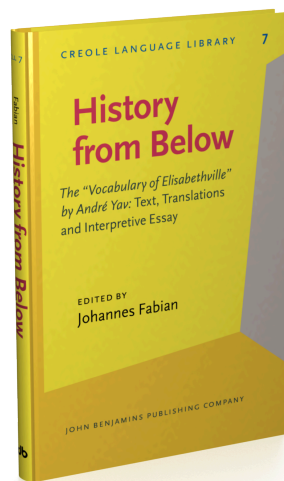
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HISTORY FROM BELOW

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HISTORY FROM BELOW

*The 'Vocabulary of Elisabethville' by André Yaw:
Text, Translations, and Interpretive Essay*

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*The 'Vocabulary of Elisabethville' by André Yav:
Text, Translations, and Interpretive Essay*

Edited, translated and commented by
Johannes Fabian with assistance from Kalundi Mango
With linguistic notes by W. Schicho

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Foreword

When the series *Creole Language Library* was originally planned, one of the types of books we hoped to be able to publish was the present one: original texts with translation and commentary. (Another type, of course, is detailed linguistic studies of specific phenomena in pidgins and creoles.)

The present book is remarkable in several respects. First, the text does not only present a linguistic gold mine for those working on creolization, but constitutes a fascinating ethnohistorical document. Second, material on Shaba Swahili contributes to our so far incomplete knowledge of creolization processes in Africa, crucial to the understanding of the universal dimensions of this phenomenon. Third, Fabian and Schicho comment on the text from a variety of perspectives, which makes it possible to place the material in a richly elaborated sociolinguistic and cultural context. Reading the *Vocabulary of Elisabethville* is an adventure.

Pieter Muysken

