

Preface

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Creole Studies – Phylogenetic Approaches

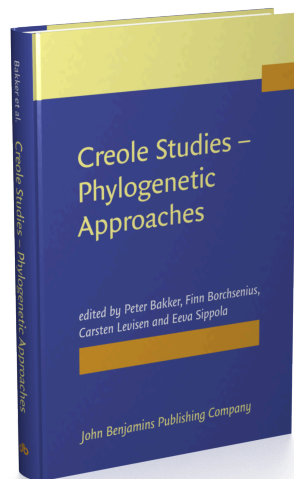
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and Eeva M. Sippola**

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Preface

The book *Creole Studies: Phylogenetic Approaches* is the major outcome of the Cognitive Creolistics project, sponsored by the Velux Foundation between 2013 and 2015, Grant 31971. We are very grateful for the confidence that Velux had in our project, and the possibilities it has provided to explore innovative ways to study creoles.

The main investigators of the project were Peter Bakker, Finn Borchsenius, Aymeric Daval-Markussen, Carsten Levisen (now Roskilde University), and Eeva Sippola (now University of Bremen). The project was hosted by Aarhus University, and we are grateful for the support, office space, equipment and administrative help provided, especially by Gitte H. Nielsen in the final period. Jakob Feldtfos Christensen of Aarhus University Research Support Office was also instrumental in the success of the project. Institute leader Niels Lehmann was also very supportive, and he was always able to find solutions for sudden logistic changes. Finally we thank the Aarhus University Research Foundation (Aarhus Universitets Forskningsfond) for financial support that made this publication possible. The support provided by the Velux Foundation enabled us to make this book available to the whole world, including countries where creoles are spoken, by providing free open access to the contents of the book. The datasets underlying the studies are also made available at this site: <https://phylogenetic-creole-studies.blogspot.com>

Three researchers were connected to the project as consultants during some of the project's lifetime, Karime Aragón, Robert D. Borges and Johannes Kizach. We received an incredible help from a number of assistants with collection and assessment of data and administrative tasks. We mention here Aline Mähr, Andrea Ariza, Benjamin Riise, Ehm Hjort Miltersen, Emily Jørgensen, Jeroen Willemsen, Johannes Kizach, Jonas Steno Olsen, Jonathan Puntervold, Karen Kiil Brøcker, Karen Nissen Schriver, Kasper Fyhn Jacobsen, Kristoffer Friis Bøegh, Louise Orvokki Helander, Maria Jørgensen, Nynne Horn, Pernille Linde, Ottó Elíasson, Phaedra Kagiafa, Rane Schjøtt, Sergio González de la Higuera Rojo, Tobias Gretenkort, Vinije Haabo, Yonatan Ungermann Goldshtein. We also profited from the excellent work of three interns, Ana Paulla Braga Mattos, Ana Nely Çoban and Michael Nguyen. Phyllis Buchanan and Thomas Widmann copy edited the book and took care of many of the technical aspects. Daniel Bergman drew the maps. *Mange tak, gracias, gaán tangi, merci, taing mhór, obrigado, thank you* to all of you.

Numerous researchers, too many to mention, contributed to our ideas through the workshops and conferences that we attended or organized. The generous grant from Velux enabled us to organize a number of smaller and bigger workshops, such as *Time and Space in Linguistics: Interdisciplinary Computational Approaches & Cross-Creole Comparisons*, *Tenth Creolistics Workshop: “Innovations” – with special attention to parallels between creole and sign language creation*; *Language Ideologies and Music in Contact Situations*; *Semantics across Englishes and Creoles: Australian and Melanesian Perspectives*; *Workshop Contact, variation and change. Focus on Afro-Latin Varieties*. These also led to publications elsewhere, including thematic volumes.

We were also able to discuss matters with the guests we hosted, Hugo Cardoso (Lisbon University, Portugal), J. Clancy Clements (Indiana University, USA), William Foley (University of Sydney, Australia), Cliff Goddard (Griffith University, Australia), Stéphane Goyette (Ottawa, Canada), Sophie Nichols (Griffith University, Australia), Mikael Parkvall (Stockholm University, Sweden), Danae M. Perez (University of Zürich, Switzerland, and University of Bremen, Germany), Carol Priestley (Griffith University, Australia), Britta Schneider (Free University, Berlin, Germany), Armin Schwegler (University of California, Irvine, USA), Sandro Sessarego (University of Texas at Austin, USA and FRIAS Freiburg, Germany), Sophia Waters (University of New England, Australia). Molly Flaherty (University of Chicago, USA) and Philip Baker (Colombo, Sri Lanka) were our special guests at the 10th Creolistics Workshop in Aarhus in 2015.

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