



# The Carrier Pidgin

A newsletter for those interested in pidgin and creole languages

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## FOCUS ON CREOLISTS



**Vladimir Belikov** by John Holm

When Atlantic creolists again met their Pacific counterparts at the first meeting of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics (Washington D. C., December 1989), one new face was not from Australia or Papua New Guinea: Vladimir Belikov of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Moscow. On travel grants from the Soviet Institute for New Technologies and IREX (the International Research and Exchanges Board in Princeton, NJ), Belikov gave a paper on the Russian-Chinese Pidgin of Siberia,

bringing with him a great deal of information previously unknown in the West.

Very little was known here about current Soviet research in language contact phenomena until 1987, when Belikov edited the proceedings of the First Soviet Conference on Contact Languages (Moscow, January 1987) along with I. F. Vardul (*The Carrier Pidgin*, Spring 1988, p. 8). The 25 papers cover many previously unreported contact situations involving Soviet languages such as Russenorsk, Copper Island Aleut, Crimean Tatar, and the Russian-based pidgin of the Taimyr Peninsula in the Arctic Ocean. Belikov's own contributions to the volume include: "Neo-Melanesian languages and Chinese Pidgin English"; "Changes in the Creole lexicon: An analysis of the Swadish list"; and "S. Embleton's glottochronological model as applied to Creole data" with E. A. Helimski.

Vladimir Belikov was born in the Vladimir District of the USSR in 1950, in Vyazniki between the cities of Vladimir and Gorki. From 1974 to 1980 he was a junior research fellow in the Department of Structural and Applied Linguistics of Moscow State University, where he wrote his master's thesis on the problems in identifying the syntactic categories in Hawaiian. He also worked on computer

linguistics, particularly the automatic analysis of Russian. He lectured on comparative Polynesian linguistics, and conducted seminars in various fields of general linguistics. His interest in artificial intelligence led to work as a senior research fellow at the Information Institute for Non-Ferrous Metallurgy from 1980 to 1983, where he designed a computer information retrieval system suitable for use in Comecon countries. From 1983 to 1989 he was a senior research fellow in the Department of Linguistics at the Soviet Academy of Science's Institute of Oriental Studies. Since March 1989 he has been

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

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at the Institute's Department of South Pacific Studies, where he carries out research in Oceanic linguistics, linguistic typology, and areal sociolinguistics. His work in pidgin and creole linguistics has centered on Melanesian pidgins (Tok Pisin and Bislama) and Russian-Chinese Pidgin.

In 1989 he went to the USSR's Pacific Coast to study the Tungus-Manchu language of the Udihe people; he found that the Russian spoken by the oldest generation was actually a survival of the Russian-Chinese Pidgin. Younger Udihe speak standard Russian as a second or even first language, and joke about their elders' "Russian." Belikov heard one cite the Pidgin proverb, "Yazika myoda, serasa lyoda," literally 'tongue honey, heart ice,' i.e., 'His words are kind but he isn't.' In addition to his own recordings of the local Pidgin-influenced Russian, Belikov has located the papers of Aleksandr Shprintzin at the Leningrad Public Library. These include a great deal of material on Russian-Chinese Pidgin around Vladivostok from the late 1920s and 1930s. He hopes to collaborate with a Chinese-speaking linguist in writing a study of the Pidgin based on these sources.

Belikov is the author of some 70 publications, mainly in Russian, on topics in a number of areas of linguistics. He also edited the Russian translation of selections from Margaret Mead's works. His publications in English on pidgins and creoles include the following:

- 1987 with I. F. Vardul. (Eds.) *The Proceedings of the First Soviet Conference on Contact Languages*. Moscow: USSR Academy of Sciences. (In Russian with abstracts in English.)
- 1987 Some observations on the phonetic history of Melanesian pidgins. *Proceedings of the Eleventh International Congress of Phonetic Sciences* (Tallinn), 6, 161-4.
- 1988 Creole languages of Melanesia and traditional genetic classification. In M. Andronov & B. Mallik (Eds.), *Linguistics: A Soviet approach*. *Indian Journal of Linguistics* (Calcutta), 252-261.
- 1989 with E. Perekhval'skaya. Russian-Norwegian po reconsidered. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, 4(2), 287-289.
- 1989 The hypostases of Russian-Chinese Pidgin. Paper presented to the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, Washington D.C., Dec. 28-29.

Belikov's work on Pacific languages took him to Australia for a month in early 1989, when he visited the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies in Canberra as well as other research centers. He hopes that his next research trip will take him to Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu to study varieties of Melanesian Pidgin. Known to his friends as "Vova," he lives in Moscow with his wife and coauthor, Elena Perekhval'skaya, who translates Haitian Creole folktales into Russian. He hopes to organize another Soviet Conference on Contact Languages in the near future.

## FROM THE EDITOR

In case you are confused about the CP's publication schedule, you have reason to be: It is not exactly regular-yet. Flight conditions have been somewhat variable over the last several months, and we continue to operate with minimal staffing. However, thanks to the efforts of Mary Ann Robinson, Karen Watson-Gegeo and Emanuel Drechsel, readers now have in their hands Volume XVIII, No. 1, and can look forward to two more issues in 1990. The "Fall" (August/September) issue will be produced by Associate Editors Watson-Gegeo and Drechsel and Editorial Assistant Robinson, as I will be on sabbatical in Denmark until mid-December 1990.

This issue owes much to readers who sent in news and information on publications. We encourage others to do the same.

Some coop-keeping matters related to our operating constraints:

(1) Unfortunately, we can no longer offer automatic renewal of subscriptions because of the amount of record-keeping involved. Therefore, even if you selected this option when you subscribed or renewed, we are asking that you take the initiative to renew your CP subscription on a calendar year basis. The expiration date of your subscription is indicated by the number in the upper righthand corner of the mailing label of this issue of the CP. For example, "90" means that your sub expires at the end of 1990.

(2) We are also unable to respond individually to most of your letters, although we do our best to handle your inquiries and to publish items sent in by readers. We especially appreciate items that can be printed with minimal editing.

In this issue we call readers' attention to the newly established Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics. The society is a welcome umbrella organization for the field, but aspects of the draft constitution warrant careful scrutiny, e.g., the cost of membership in the society. Given the precarious state of academic funding in the US and elsewhere, as well as the limited resources of younger scholars and graduate students, it might be wise for the SPCL to offer a sliding scale of fees in order to maximize participation. Established scholars might consider subsidizing the first year of membership in the SPCL for a graduate student or Third World scholar. We should also clarify the role of the SPCL in supporting existing organizations of pidgin-creolists, e.g., the Caribbean Linguistics Society and the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics in the Pacific. For its part, the CP will do its best to accommodate the information dissemination needs of all of these organizations.



## SPCL NEWS

The first business meeting of the SPCL was held on December 29, 1990 during the Linguistic Society of America's (LSA) Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. The following account is based on minutes taken by Glenn GILBERT (Southern Illinois U at Carbondale):

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Frank BYRNE (Shawnee State U), member of the SPCL organizing committee. Glenn GILBERT presided over the meeting. There was considerable discussion of the draft constitution prepared by GILBERT. Following a suggestion by *Carrier Pidgin* (CP) Editor Charlene SATO (U of Hawai'i), it was agreed that the draft constitution would be published in the CP, in order for current and potential SPCL members to have a chance to comment on it before the next SPCL meeting. [Revised draft of the constitution enclosed in this issue of the CP.]

Regarding the question of whether SPCL would meet annually or every second year (biennially), Frank BYRNE moved and John HOLM seconded that this question be put off until the next meeting, and that the term "annual/biennial" be substituted for the word "annual" in the draft. The motion passed 16 to 0 with no abstentions.

BYRNE moved and HOLM seconded that SPCL meet again in conjunction with the LSA at its Jan. 3-6, 1991 meeting in Chicago, Illinois. The motion passed 13 to 2, with 1 abstention.

BYRNE moved and HOLM seconded that mention of the "Newsletter" be deleted from the draft constitution. The motion passed 16 to 0, with 1 abstention.

HOLM moved and Salikoko MUFWENE (U of Georgia) seconded that the SPCL be associated with the *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* (JPCL). Individual subscribers to JPCL would automatically become members of SPCL, and all members of SPCL would automatically receive a subscription to JPCL. The \$8 (US) annual membership fee for SPCL would be added to the current annual subscription fee for JPCL of \$34, making a total of \$42 per year. Details are to be negotiated by GILBERT with the SPCL Executive Council and with JPCL's publishers, John Benjamins in Amsterdam. The motion passed 9 to 1, with 6 abstentions.

John ROY moved and MUFWENE seconded that a simple majority rather than two thirds of the members voting be required for amendments to the SPCL constitution (section XIII). The motion

passed 16 to 0, with no abstentions.

Alexander CASKEY (U of Chicago) moved and John SINGLER (New York U) seconded that a Pro-Tem President, Vice President, and Executive Council be elected until the January, 1991 meeting in Chicago, at which time permanent officers of the society would be elected. The motion passed 18 to 0, with no abstentions. The following persons were elected unanimously: Frank BYRNE (President), John HOLM (Vice President), Charlene SATO (Executive Council), John SINGLER (Executive Council), William STEWART (Executive Council).

CP readers may send comments on the draft constitution to any of the following: President and Executive Secretary:

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Currently, membership in the SPCL costs \$4 for students and \$8 for all others. Fees should be sent to Frank BYRNE at the above address. As of January 1, 1991, when it is anticipated that the SPCL's affiliation with the JPCL will be formalized, membership will cost \$42 (\$34 for the journal and \$8 for SPCL). Allowances will be made, on a case by case basis, for persons living in restricted currency areas. Whether student membership fees will increase remains to be discussed at the January 1991 meeting of the SPCL.

## SQUAWKS & RUFFLED FEATHERS

From Derek BICKERTON regarding Salikoko MUFWENE's response to Bickerton (Vol. XVII, Nos. 2/3, pp.6-7):

Let us grant that Mufwene began by legitimately citing the latest version of the Language Bioprogram Hypothesis (LBH) that may have been accessible to Keesing. However, he proceeds immediately to hang *his own* views about the LBH onto Keesing's review — read the sentence beginning 'For me the case of MP ...' (Vol. XVI, No. 3, p. 4) and note that it is 49 lines to the next mention of the book that he is supposedly reviewing. Whether or not it is good academic manners to beat your own drum when you are supposed to be reviewing someone else's book, you should at least mention to your audience that the position you are attacking has not been held by its supposed progenitor for the last five years.

Perhaps realising this, M tries to argue that maybe I still do hold the same position. So he quotes from a later article, quite undisturbed by the fact that everything in his original review had to do with *syntactic* markedness and the setting of *syntactic* parameters, while the quote has to do with *markedness in the lexicon*. He left out what immediately follows that quotation. What I actually wrote on page 279 of Frederick Newmeyer's (1988) *Linguistics: The Cambridge Survey, Volume 2* (the bit M didn't quote is in caps) was: 'The fact that, across creoles, similar lexical items with similar properties are recruited *suggests* that there must be markedness in the inventory of (possible) lexical properties and that creoles select unmarked options — BUT THIS POSSIBILITY REQUIRES MORE EXTENSIVE STUDY.' M damns me for being dogmatic and damns me again when I give a fair shake to alternative possibilities.

But it was when M started talking about the role of children that Huxley's aside on Wilberforce flashed through my mind. M says 'It is ludicrous that B should claim that he has been speaking only of creoles formed by children. All the generalizations he has made to date have not included this restriction.' How about this, then?

'Creolization is first-language learning with restricted input' (Bickerton 1977, p. 49).

'If [arriving at a rule system identical with that of their parents] were all children could do, then they would simply learn the



pidgin, and there would be no significant gap between the generations. In Hawaii, at least, we have empirical proof — that the first creole generation produced rules for which there was no evidence in the previous generation's speech. How can a child produce a rule for which he has no evidence?' (Bickerton 1981, p. 6).

'It is hypothesized that creole languages are largely invented by children ...' (Bickerton 1984, p. 173).

'The whole dilution process that has been described was the work of adults .... Adults, who already have at least one viable language each, will simply make the most of the imperfect instrument they are presented with .... Children ... will take that same input and make good any deficit between it and a natural language' (Bickerton 1988, p. 273).

Finally, M misrepresents what I said about Alleyne in the last-cited article as a concession that adults can create a creole. Again, let's have the actual words so that the reader who may not have immediate access to the paper in question can judge for him- or herself:

'One may continue to refer to this process as "pidginization" only if it is clearly understood that its end product did not consist of a systematic but reduced "pidgin" which would subsequently "expand." There is, as Alleyne (1980) has pointed out, no evidence for an antecedent "pidgin stage" in the development of new languages, *although there is, as well shall see, much evidence from those languages themselves that a sharp, and in some cases quite radical, reduction in the structural properties of the original target language was an essential prerequisite for new language formation*' (emphasis added).

#### References:

- Bickerton, D. 1977. Pidginization and creolization: Language acquisition and language universals. In A. Valdman (ed.), *Pidgin and Creole Linguistics*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, pp. 49-69.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1981. *Roots of Language*. Ann Arbor, MI: Karoma Publishers.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1984. The language bioprogram hypothesis. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 7.173-221.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1988. Creole languages and the bioprogram. In F. Newmeyer (ed.), *Linguistics: The Cambridge Survey, Volume 2*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 268-284.



From William J. Samarin (U of Toronto):

As a subscriber to *The Carrier Pidgin* since its birth seventeen years ago, I have appreciated its contribution to advancing the study of pidgins and creoles. Because it is a newsletter, it can accomplish things that scholarly journals do not ordinarily do. The exchange between Bickerton and Mufwene in the last issue (CP Vol. XVII, Nos. 2 & 3, pp. 5-7) is an example.

But this is not the best example of what scholarship is. Scholarship is, whatever the discipline, obviously engaged in arriving at truth or understanding. Scholarship is characterized by a conscientious collection of data that are analyzed, interpreted, and explained within a general framework or theory. But scholarship is also a way of behaving in the community and carrying on discussions with one's peers in this community.

If we can agree on some characterization of scholarship, brief as it must be here, we must all deplore the kind of language that we found in Bickerton's comments about Mufwene's review. It is shocking to find a scholar (or his work) described as "mindless" and "hopelessly misinformed."

Not being omniscient, it is always possible that the best of scholars can be ignorant of facts that ought to be known or even be misinformed, and what they write should be amended or corrected by others. I expect this for myself, and I have felt obliged to subject the works of others to a critique. But there is no justification whatsoever for casting a human being on some pile of rubbish for being "mindless" and "hopeless." We do not do this in our society, even with criminals and the mentally handicapped.

Bickerton's behavior is incredulous, not only because it violates the ethics of scholarship, but also because he does not need to resort to such bullying. He has established himself as a seminal thinker, whose contribution to linguistics in general and to the study of pidgins and creoles in particular already constitutes a foundation on which future scholars will build. As for Mufwene, whatever may have been his views as understood by Bickerton, he, too, has the respect of his peers as an astute, well-informed, imaginative, and articulate scholar. He deserves for these qualities alone, apart from his being a gentle and humane individual, better treatment than he received in this newsletter.

Subscribers to *The Carrier Pidgin* are entitled to discourse that is rational,

well-intentioned and courteous. There is no justification whatsoever for indulging a contributor's uncivil idiosyncracies. And insulting language must be edited out or, if the authors insist on their "rights," contributions rejected.



#### From the CP EDITORIAL STAFF:

Socialization into academic life consists to a significant extent of either engaging in or reflecting upon disputes and debates. However, many, if not most, CP readers do not have the means to travel regularly to conferences at which lively face-to-face discussion takes place, and journals typically do not provide a forum for such discussion due to their concern for scholarly decorum. It is for these reasons that "Squawks and Ruffled Feathers" exists in the CP — to air disputes in our field in a more informal context. Given this function, it should not surprise readers that "squawks" are sometimes not particularly melodious. Any piece appearing in the column is likely to have a history and will certainly reflect dissatisfaction on the writer's part with another's treatment of particular issues.

The CP editorial staff has discussed at length the question of what is appropriate critical commentary. While we take very seriously the need to guard against outlandish diatribes, we also want to avoid transforming "squawks" into polite "coos." Our intent is to provide readers with enough raw data to distinguish for themselves between vigorous debate and mere posturing. Obviously, the views expressed in contributions to the column do not necessarily reflect those of the CP editorial staff.

In printing the Bickerton-Mufwene exchange with minimal editing, we hope to have presented the full extent of disagreement between Bickerton and Mufwene. We realize that some may find terms and statements in one or both pieces objectionable. Others may feel as we do, that the unexpurgated exchange motivates us to reexamine the research literature relevant to the issues at hand and to reconsider how intellectual debate is productively conducted.

**Don't forget. The CP has discontinued automatic renewal of subscriptions.**



## NOTES &amp; QUERIES

Elsie Clews PARSONS, who documented the English- and French-based creoles of the Caribbean from around 1915 to 1940, left a number of unpublished "linguistic notes and glossary of dialectic terms in French and English, [with their] provenience and distribution" when she died in 1941, according to Gladys A. Reichard, who edited Parsons' *Folk-Lore of the Antilles, French and English (Part III)* (New York: American Folk-Lore Society 1943, republished by Kraus Reprint Co., New York, 1969). Over thirty linear feet of Parsons' materials have been located in Philadelphia in the library of the American Philosophical Society (Manuscripts Department, 105 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, tel. [215] 440-3409). According to Manuscripts Librarian Beth Carroll-Horrock, writing in the Department's *Sources for the History of Linguistics*, the Parsons papers came to the library in three major accessions in 1949, 1985 and 1988. The first two are indexed and have a finding aid; the third is not yet processed but there is a rough box-level description.

Parsons (1875-1941) was a leading American anthropologist and folklorist who published a great number of folktales in creoles based on English, French and even Portuguese (Cape Verdean) in the American Folk-Lore Society's journal and memoirs. Having worked closely from her *Folk-Tales of Andros Island, Bahamas*, I know that she recorded Bahamian creole astonishingly accurately, given the limited technical resources of her times. Her unpublished materials seem likely to contain the specifically linguistic notes and glossary of creole terms promised in the table of contents of the series of volumes that was never completed. It would also be reasonable to expect the earliest known texts from a number of speech communities to be among the materials. This would be an excellent doctoral or post-doctoral research project, and one that would certainly merit support.

By John HOLM, City Univ. of New York

Not widely known among creolists, but of potential interest and usefulness, is the *Comparative Romance Linguistics Newsletter*, currently edited by Stephen Lee Hartman, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. The newsletter publishes two issues per year — a fall "Personalia" listing and a spring "Bibliography," which includes individual listings for each of the Romance languages. As of 1984, I have been preparing a "Romance Creoles Bibliography" for the spring issues. For inclusion in future bibliographies, I would appreciate receiving full citations of published materials in the area of Romance Creoles that may have escaped the attention of the compilers of the standard bibliographical sources (e.g., *MLA Linguistics Bibliography*), from which I am gleaning the relevant references. Write to: David M. JEUDA, U of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Foreign Languages, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89154, USA.

**CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS.** *Caribbean Perspectives*, an annual publication of the University of the Virgin Islands, which is distributed by Transaction, Inc. of Rutgers University, is accepting scholarly articles for publication. The second issues of the annual hopes to have a focus entitled "Stasis and Change in the Caribbean"; however, any subject of interest to West Indian readers will be considered for publication. Please submit hard copy plus 3.5-inch Mac-compatible disk, if possible. For more information, write to Joseph LISOWSKI, U of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI 00802.

Lise WINER has been awarded a Fulbright Research Award to work on the Dictionary of Trinidad and Tobago English Creole for six months (July to December 1990).

Alan KAYE is interested in essays and reviews in the pidgin-creole field for possible publication. Write to him at: California State University Fullerton, Dept. of Linguistics, Fullerton, CA 92634-9480.

William J. SAMARIN (U of Toronto) has been awarded a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for 1990-1991 to continue his research on the development of Sango among children of the Central African Republic. He plans to increase his corpus of tape recorded extemporaneous speech and include types of speakers not represented in his

1988 sample, e.g., the homeless children of Bangui and the Muslim population. He would also like to collect a comparable sample from a rural village (possibly Gbaya-speaking). He reports that urban Sango appears to have assumed a phonological surface structure untypical of Ubangian languages and many words are drastically different from the speech of adults: e.g., *skáà* or *súkwà* for *súkúla* 'to wash,' the preposition *nà* is reduced to *à*, and the preposition *ti* is reduced to the high tone affixed on the preceding vowel. The latter was found in the speech of a three-year old child! No adstratal explanations have yet been found for any of these changes. Uvular 'r' occurs in many native Sango words, obviously a borrowing from French. Texts collected in 1988 are still being transcribed phonetically. Samarin spent a number of weeks in 1990 consulting with French colleagues on the topic 'How Ubangian is [Pidgin] Sango?'

The Summer Institute of Linguistics, in contract with the Ministry of Education, has established a branch, directed by Paul Meier, in the Central African Republic. Some of its work will be devoted to Sango, the *langue nationale*.

Peter L. PATRICK (U of Pennsylvania, Linguistics) has been awarded a 1990 Spencer Dissertation-Year Fellowship to complete work on his Ph.D. dissertation: "Language Change in an Urban Creole: A Sociolinguistic Study of Kingston, Jamaica." Patrick grew up in and completed his first nine years of schooling in Jamaica.



## CONFERENCES, COURSES, &amp; LECTURES

A symposium on "Lingua Francas, Vernaculars, and Language Change in Oceania," organized by Karen Watson-Gegeo, was held at the ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA MEETING, March 22, 1990 on Kaua'i. The session was concerned with the role of pidgins, creoles, and colonial languages in linguistic and social change in the Pacific islands, and the impact of these varieties on local vernaculars. Eight papers were presented:

Jocelyn ARMSTRONG, "Language-and-Ethnicity Change in New Zealand" (Maori).

Susan PHILIPS, "Facing West: The

No foget, æh.  
No mo awtomætik  
rinyuwol awredi!



Political Economy of Bilingualism in the Tongan Court Hierarchy."

Bill DONNER, "Pidgin and Vernacular: Attitudes Towards Languages on Sikaiana."

Karen WATSON-GECEO and David GECEO, "Social Identity, Church Affiliation, and Language Change in Kwara'ae" (Solomon Islands).

Monty LINDSTROM, "Bislama into Kwamera: Code-Mixing and Language Change on Tanna" (Vanuatu).

Suzanne ROMAINE, "English Borrowing and Lexical Restructuring in Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea."

Rick GOULDEN, "Language, Identity and Change in West New Britain."

Bil THURSTON, "Vernaculars as Lingue Franche: Identity and Change in West New Britain."

The discussant was Don BRENNIS.

A Conference entitled THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CREOLE LANGUAGE SITUATIONS was held March 2-3 at Pomona College. Papers presented included:

Mervyn ALLEYNE, "Problems of Standardization in Creole Languages."

Suzanne ROMAINE, "Tok Pisin i go we? Language Standardization and Linguistic Fragmentation in Tok Pisin."

Karen WATSON-GECEO, "Educational Implications of Hawai'i Creole English."

Marcyliena MORGAN, "Black English: Addressing Conflicts Between Sociolinguists and the African American Community."

Salikoko MUFWENE, "Why Gullah Isn't Dying."

Donald WINFORD, "Sociolinguistic Approaches to Language Use in the Caribbean."

THE SOCIETY FOR PIDGIN AND CREOLE LINGUISTICS met December 28-29 at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America in Washington, DC. The program included:

Robert B. ALLEN, Jr., "Betawi, Baba Malay and Balinese: The Recreolization of Malay."

Jacques ARENDS, "Towards a Gradualist Model of Creolization."

Vladimir BELIKOV, "The Hypostates of Russian-Chinese Pidgin."

Kenneth BILBY, "Latent Intervocalic Liquids in Aluku: Links to the Phonological Past of a Maroon Creole."

Mary C. BLACK & Glenn G. GILBERT, "A Reexamination of Bicker-

ton's Language Phylogenesis Hypothesis."

Carol BLACKSHIRE-BELAY, "Foreign Workers' German: Is it a Pidgin?" Alexander F. CASKEY, "Theta-Marking, Subjects, and Finiteness in Creole Languages."

Marie-Josée CEROL, "The Bantu Lexical and Semantic Component of Guadeloupean Creole."

J. Clancy CLEMENTS, "Foreigner Talk and the Origin and Development of the Indo-Portuguese Creoles."

Charles E. DEBOSE, "Re-Creolization: The Case of Papiamentu."

John HOLM & Christopher KEPIOU, "Tok Pisin I Kamap Pisin Gen? Is Tok Pisin Repidginizing?"

Kate HOWE, "Haitian Creole as the Medium of Education in Haiti."

Alexander HULL, "The Transmission of Creole Languages."

George L. HUTTAR & Evert D. KOANTING, "Ndjuka Expressions of Comparison and Equality."

Christine JOURDAN, "Nativization or Creolization?"

Ronald KEPHART, "Of Ships and Sheep: Vowels in Carriacou Creole English."

Anthony R. LEWIS, "Sociolinguistic Variation in a Final Stage Post-Creole Speech Community."

John M. LIPSKI, "Creole Verbs and the Particle *ta*: An Extended Perspective."

Julianne MAHER, "Antillean Creole on St. Barthelemy."

Stephen J. MATTHEWS, "Creole Aspect and Morphological Typology."

Philippe MAURER, "Subjunctive Mood in Papiamentu."

Salikoko S. MUFWENE, "Do Atlantic Creoles Have Possessive Pronouns?"

Helma PASCH, "Pidginization and Creolization Processes in Sango."

Suzanne ROMAINE, "The Decline of Predicate Marking in Tok Pisin."

Charlene J. SATO, "Decreolization: A Longitudinal Study."

Armin SCHWEGLER, "'Irrealis' in the Colombian Creole Palenquero: How Real?"

Jeff SIEGEL, "Pidgins and Creoles in Education in Australia and the Southwest Pacific."

John Victor SINGLER, "Word-Final Consonants in Liberian English."

Dingxu SHI, "Unique Pidgin Transmission and Its Possible Influence on Chinese Pidgin English."

Arthur SPEARS, "Haitian Creole *pou*."

Anand SYEA, "Null-Subject in Mauritian Creole and the Pro-Drop

Parameter."

Dick THOMAS, Kenneth SUMBUK & Nick FARACLAS, "Adjectives, Statives, and Noun-Noun Structures in Tok Pisin and Its Substrate."

Jeffery P. WILLIAMS, "Tanim Tok: The Varieties of Pidginized Yimas."

Donald WINFORD, "A Reexamination of Auxiliary Ordering in Guyanese (and Jamaican) Creoles."

#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

October 19-21, 1990. 15TH ANNUAL BOSTON UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT. Write: Conference on Language Development, Boston Univ., 138 Mountfort St., Boston, MA 02215 USA. Phone: (617) 353-3085. E-mail: langconf@bu-mfl.bu.edu.

October 25-26, 1990. ROMANCE PHILOLOGY CONVOCATION XI, Univ. of California at Irvine. Session on Current Topics in Afro-Romance Studies planned. Write: Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese, U of Calif. at Irvine, Irvine, CA 92717.

January 3-4, 1991. SOCIETY FOR PIDGIN AND CREOLE LINGUISTICS. Chicago Hilton Hotel and Towers, Chicago, IL, USA. Abstracts due July 31, 1990. For information write: Francis Byrne, Linguistics, Shawnee State Univ., Portsmouth, Ohio 45662 USA.

February 28-March 3, 1991. SECOND LANGUAGE RESEARCH FORUM, U of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. Abstracts due Oct. 15, 1990. For information write Constance Gergen, Co-Chair, SLRF 1991, Dept. of Linguistics, U of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, 90089-1693. (213)743-2003 FAX: 213 747 4176 BITNET: GERGEN@USCMVSA.

June 27-29. The THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PIDGINS AND CREOLES IN MELANESIA, Univ. of Technology, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Send abstracts to: Mr. Ken Hyland, Language Department, U of Technology, PMB, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Papers on pidgins and creoles from non-Melanesian areas also welcome. The conference follows the PNG Teaching English as a Second Language Association Conference, to be held at the same venue from June 25-26.

#### LECTURES:

Lectures given in March 1990 at



New York Univ.:

Mervyn C. ALLEYNE (U of the West Indies). "Whither creole studies: Ontogenesis or phylogenesis?"

John V. SINGLER (New York Univ.). "The sociolinguistic interview as speech event: Liberian perceptions and liberian strategies."

#### COURSES:

A seminar on Discourse Processes in Hawai'i Creole English was offered at the Univ. of Hawai'i by Charlene Sato in the Spring 1990 semester.

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#### PUBLICATIONS

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SMITH, Geoff P. Creolized Tok Pisin: Uniformity and variation, pp. 197-209.

SWAN, John, & LEWIS, Don J. Tok Pisin at university: An educational and language planning dilemma in Papua New Guinea? pp. 210-233.

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sociolinguistic view towards a creole continuum: The study of Limon English Creole. In P. H. Nelds (Ed.) *Methoden der Kontaktlinguistik / Methods in Contact. Linguistic Research* (pp. 75-86). Bonn: Dümmler. (*Plurilingua* 5).

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# The Carrier Pidgin

A newsletter for those interested in pidgin and creole languages

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## FOCUS ON CREOLISTS



**Ian Hancock** by Derek Bickerton

Ian Francis Hancock was born in London in 1942, into a Gypsy family some of whose members had emigrated from Hungary, many of whom worked in carnivals, and few of whom had ever had any kind of formal schooling. Nobody could have predicted that within thirty-odd years Hancock would become a scholar with an international reputation, and indeed the way this came about was by the purest

of chances. After a brief spell in Canada, he returned to England and worked in a series of ill-paid factory jobs. It was here that he met, and made friends with, native speakers of Sierra Leone Krio. Discovering that there was no grammar or dictionary of their language, he set out to remedy this deficiency. He sent what he himself subsequently described as a "real amateurish job" of a dictionary to the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University. His description must have been overly modest, for on the strength of this work, and despite his entire lack of paper qualifications (he had dropped out of high-school) he was accepted as a graduate student as part of an experimental program aimed at minorities and special cases established by Prime Minister Harold Wilson's Socialist government. His doctoral dissertation eventually consisted of a complete etymological dictionary of Krio.

Before then, Hancock had already made an impact on creole studies more impressive than that of any graduate student to date. He had by then begun his global travels in pursuit of rare and unknown creoles. In Freetown, thwarted by upward styleshifting on the part of his informants, he posed as a French sailor wholly ignorant of standard English but capable of comprehending "leetle beet

Krio." In Malaysia, he rediscovered the supposedly "extinct" Papia Kristang and wrote the first serious account of it. I myself first heard of him at the Mona Conference of 1969, which he did not attend, but where a draft copy of his paper on the comparison of the English-based Atlantic creoles came into my hands. A year or so later I sought him out in London, and we discovered that we had much in common besides our interest in creoles: black humor, a love of pubs, a hatred of any kind of pretense, and a profound contempt for (Continued on page 2)

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each and every Establishment.

In 1972 Hancock was offered an assistant professorship at the University of Texas, and became the first (and perhaps only) creolist to write "Creolist" on the front page of his passport where it says "Profession." Initially he had qualms about working in Texas — he was after all a Gypsy, a member of a group still legally proscribed in some states, and his wife was Chinese. But he found the tri-ethnic community of Austin (Black, White, Hispanic) so much to his taste that he has remained there ever since. There was also a flourishing, if subterranean, Gypsy culture in Texas, and he soon began to devote more and more time to working for the rights of Gypsies.

However, Hancock's work on creoles continued unabated. With David DeCamp, John Reinecke, and Richard Wood he began serving as an advisory editor to the new *Carrier Pidgin* (then edited by Barbara Robson and Frederic Cassidy). In 1977 they established the *Journal of Creole Studies*, which Hancock edited during its short-lived single number.

Who but Hancock could have discovered that there was a creole even in Texas? But he did, and has written numerous articles on the Afro-Seminole of the mixed African/American Indian population of Bracketville, Texas, a variety closely related to Gullah. At the same time he continued to develop his Domestic Hypothesis, according to which at least one branch of Anglo-creoles had originated in Africa rather than the New World, among the families produced by the intermarriage of English *lançados* and Guinean women from the sixteenth century onwards. He has collected an impressive amount of evidence for this hypothesis, even if the extent to which the creole was transmitted to the New World is still not quite so well documented. At the same time his work extended to other varieties of language which, if not true creoles, bore some striking resemblances to creoles and have helped to clarify our understanding of the latter: in particular, Liberian English and Angloromani, neither of which had previously been dealt with from a creolist viewpoint.

Some of Hancock's most interesting work has been on creole lexicon. The lexicon has tended to be ignored, relegated to dictionary-fodder, or used merely as a football in substrate-superstrate debates. Hancock alone has analyzed the various mechanisms used by creoles to increase the limited vocabularies left them by pidgins. His chapter in Valdman's *Theoretical Orientations in Creole Studies* (Academic Press, 1980), entitled "Lexical expansion in creole languages," is one of his most original and important contributions. More recently he has begun refining his Componentiality Hypothesis.

Despite the wide-ranging nature of his work on creoles, Hancock has continued to write copiously (sometimes under his Romani name, Yanko le Redzosko) on the language and history of the Romani people, and against the bizarre Janus-faced stereotype (half romantic, free-living, fiddle-playing wanderers, half dirty, depraved, chicken-thieving scam artists) that Westerners in general have imposed on them. With its (to most *gaié*) startling revelations of slavery, torture and mutilation of Gypsies in Europe as late as the mid-nineteenth century, and its accounts of persecution that continues to this day in Britain, Eastern Europe and elsewhere, his book, *The Pariah Syndrome* (1988), has been

## FROM THE EDITOR

While Editor Charlene Sato is on sabbatical leave in *dejlig* Danmark—having, we trust, a *hyggelig* time (translations below)—the remainder of the local staff is happy to present Volume 18, No. 2, under the guest editorship of Karen Watson-Gegeo. New in this issue are the Pidgins and Creoles in Education column and a pidgin/creole cartoon, two features we hope will become regulars.

The Pidgins and Creoles in Education column debuts with a work-in-progress report from Bambi B. Schieffelin, who is conducting research on Haitian Kreyòl language socialization among families in New York City. Her work is an example of basic research which has important implications for literacy education of Kreyòl-speaking children. In the next *CP* (Vol. 18, No.3), the education column will feature a report by Jeff Siegel on Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea schools.

The cartoon in Solomon Islands Pijin came from a calendar published by the Solomon Islands Development Trust (look for the translation somewhere in these pages). A local grass-roots development agency headquartered in Honiara, SIDT regularly publishes a newsletter, each issue of which contains one or more pages of information in the form of cartoons in Pijin. Calendars and newsletters can be obtained by writing to SIDT at P.O. Box 440, Honiara. We're looking for more cartoons in other pidgin or creole languages, so send us any you have and be sure to include a translation.

Squawks and Ruffled Feathers contains the remaining three letters we have received on the Mufwene-Bickerton matter. We don't expect the discussion to date has settled the issues, but we hope that if the debate continues, the emphasis will shift from expressive form to theoretical content. We also welcome letters addressing new concerns.

If you like our announcement boxes in Hawai'i Creole English, we invite translations of the same content into your own favorite pidgin or creole language—accompanied by the gloss in English.

[*dejlig*, nice, delightful, wonderful; *hyggelig*, cozy.]



widely and very favorably reviewed. Along with this work has gone a political activism that has helped to secure the admission of the International Romani Union to the United Nations and UNICEF, for which Hancock was elected to serve as Head of the World Præsidium at the Fourth World Romani Congress in Warsaw in May, 1990, representing some ten million Gypsies in 27 different countries, and that (after years of Jewish repression) has succeeded in getting a Gypsy representative on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Hancock's membership in an ethnic minority and his fight to achieve justice for it give his work on creoles a resonance that is seldom found in the work of creolists who are not themselves native speakers of creoles. Because of his background he empathizes strongly with creole speakers and their cultures, and brings to his interactions with them a naturalness that some of us (at conferences in Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname) have been fortunate enough to witness, and perhaps envy. It is not just a panegyric platitude, but merely the sober truth, to say that his contribution to our field has been unequalled and unique.

Hancock's complete bibliography lists over 200 entries. He is currently editing the *Gypsy Encyclopedia* for Garland Publishers (New York and San Francisco, to appear in 1994) and heads a separate 14-member international commission preparing a twenty-volume encyclopedia in the Romani language. He is also working on a full-length book documenting the social and linguistic history of European and African contact on the Upper Guinea Coast, entitled *Littorally Speaking*, which elaborates upon the findings published in Muysken & Smith (1986).

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## SCL NEWS

### SCL Meets in Belize

by John Holm (City Univ. of New York)

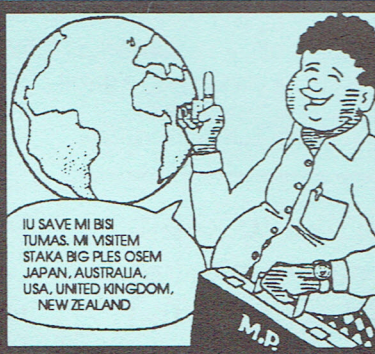
The Society for Caribbean Linguistics held its eighth biennial conference at University College Belize from August 22 to 25, 1990, making this the Society's first meeting in Creole English-speaking Central America.

Members were welcomed by Belizean colleagues, food, and a band at a reception at UCB the night before the conference began. At the opening ceremony the next morning, Angel CAL (President of UCB) greeted the linguists, and Roy CAYETANO (dread-locked Deputy Chief of the Ministry of Education) addressed the Society as a linguist who had investigated his native Garifuna, or Central American Native Carib.

The papers presented over the following days made it clear that the research of the Society's members continues to represent not only a response to current trends in general linguistics, but also the exploration of new solutions to problems specific to Caribbean linguistics, in both theory and practice.

The current effort to uncover semantic and other structural patterns at higher levels of discourse was reflected in Kathryn SHIELD's paper ("Dynamism and assertiveness in the public voice: Hosting radio talk shows in Jamaica"), as well as that of Velma POLLARD ("Cultural connections, recall and verbalisation in some creole-speaking communities"). On the other hand, Louis SHANKS and Carlo VALENTI's paper ("Form and function in Ndjuka ideophones") showed how a tight, intensive focus on a single linguistic feature can also roll back the frontiers of knowledge.

Glenn GILBERT's paper ("Nineteenth-century English-based Caribbean Creole materials sent to Hugo Schuchardt") made it clear that creole linguistics is now mature enough to profit from critical examination of earlier stages of the discipline. Lise



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WINER and Bridget BRERETON's paper ("Foundations of Trinidad English Creole") also used a historical approach to reveal patterns in the development of a creole, while Walter EDWARDS' paper ("The perfect aspect in Guyanese and Black Vernacular") used contemporary data on a particular feature to explore the historical relationship between an English-based creole and post-creole (or semi-creole) variety.

Frank BYRNE's paper ("Approaches to missing internal arguments in serial structures: Some problems") showed how an issue in creole language studies has become a topic of lively debate among those working on theory of syntax within the government and binding framework, underlining the fact that creole linguistics is no longer considered peripheral to general linguistic theory. Pieter SEUREN's paper ("Pseudocomplementation and serial verbs") focused on the same topic, making a substantial contribution to the effort to define such constructions in a rigorous way.

Marta DIJKHOFF's paper ("Noun formation in Papiamentu") illustrated how recent advances in general linguistic theory can be applied to the practical problems of description that her Instituto Lingwistiko Antiano is undertaking in connection with the standardization of a creole language. Ron KEPHART's paper ("Literacy in Creole English: Why and how?") was also related to the question of the standardization of creoles, a topic of growing importance in a number of countries.

Katherine FISCHER's paper ("Educating speakers of Caribbean English Creole in the United States") underscored the practical benefits to be gained from the sharing of information at the Society's meetings. One hopes that similar programs in North America will profit from her experience with Caribbean students in the Chicago area. Valerie YOUSSEF's paper on children simultaneously learning English and Creole in Trinidad ("Acquiring varilingual competence") represents a pioneering effort that makes a significant contribution to both variation theory and language acquisition theory, showing once again how Caribbean language studies are informing and enhancing general linguistics in a number of areas. Peter ROBERT's paper ("Disentangling Creole competence") represented a fresh look at the complex process by which Creole-speaking children acquire standard English, a topic of great importance in the Caribbean that has not received sufficient attention in the growing literature on first and second language acquisition.

John McWHORTER's paper ("Substratal influence in Saramaccan serial verb constructions") served to reassure anyone who had doubts about the next generation of creolists. Mervyn ALLEYNE's paper ("Syntactic reanalysis in creole language development") was an excellent example of the kinds of insights that can be gained from reconstructing the likely paths of development of creole languages—in this case those based on French—and how these insights can bring historical linguistics into the twenty-first century. Dhanis JAGANAUTH's paper ("Creole time reference markers at work") brought the conference full circle back to the discourse-level approach in SHIELD's and POLLARD's papers, illustrating how a sophisticated application of the principles of pragmatics can inform the semantic analysis of syntactic markers. John HOLM's paper ("Social factors in pidginization and creolization") applied data on the historical development of restructured varieties outside the Caribbean area to test various aspects of the working definitions of pidginization and creolization.

The final day of the conference began with the SCL business meeting. Among other matters, Dennis CRAIG, who recently retired, was made an honorary member of the Society, and Walter EDWARDS gave a tribute to the memory of David LAWTON. The SCL executive committee expressed the Society's willingness to cooperate with the recently founded Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, possibly in the form of a joint meeting some time after the next SCL conference, which will be held in August, 1992 at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados. Meanwhile, SPCL members and others are cordially invited to attend this meeting as individuals. For further information, send US\$11 for SCL membership to Kathryn SHIELDS-BRODBER (Dept. of Linguistics and Use of English, Univ. of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica).

The following new officers were then elected: Mervyn ALLEYNE (vice president and president-elect); Katherine SHIELDS-BRODBER (secretary-treasurer); Janet DONNELLY, John HOLM, and Velma POLLARD (executive officers). Since the symbol of the Society's presidency, a gavel made of Caribbean hardwoods, was temporarily unavailable due to the curfew

following events in Trinidad, outgoing president Pauline CHRISTIE handed over the office to incoming president Peter ROBERTS with a gesture initiated at the previous meeting by Christine EERSEL: a ceremonial kiss.

Finally there was a panel discussion of the linguistic situation in the host country, with presentations by the following Belizean educators: Colville YOUNG (Creole), Roy CAYETANO (Garifuna), Constantin ENRIQUES (Maya), and Eve AIRD (English language teaching in Belize). Afterwards the conference was officially closed by Colville YOUNG, a long-standing SCL member and the former president of University College Belize.

That afternoon the Society's members could choose between excursions to Mayan ruins or Belize's extraordinary zoo, where one can pet purring jaguars. That evening there was a farewell party, with Belizean pig-tail boil-up. One of the most admired dancers of Caribbean rhythms was Frederic CASSIDY, 83, elected the Society's first president in 1972. There was general agreement that the three generations of creolists who met in this beautiful country were richly rewarded.



## NOTES & QUERIES

Yves SIMARD (Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France) présenta, au XIX<sup>e</sup> Congrès de Linguistique et Philologie Romanes à Santiago de Compostela le 6 septembre 1989 (Section "Romania Nova"), une communication intitulée "Amuïssement de voyelles initiales lors du processus de créolisation du français: Cas de l'haïtien et du continuum pré-créole de Côte d'Ivoire."

The inaugural issue of the *Journal of Asian Pacific Communication* (Multilingual Matters), due to appear in early 1990, provides the first forum published in the English language for linguistic and communication problems in the Asia-Pacific region, including those of Southeast Asian immigrants throughout the world. The second and third volumes will be guest edited by Florian COULMAS and Braj KACHRU on "The economics of language in the Asian Pacific" and "Language and identity", respectively. Deadline for submissions for Vol. 3 is December 1, 1990. Further information may be obtained from JAPC general editors Howard GILES, Communication Studies, Univ. of Calif.,

**We'd like to know  
what you're working  
on, so write to us!**



Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA, and Herbert PIERSON, English Language Teaching Unit, The Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong.

Alan KAYE is seeking the equivalent of the English idiom, "It's Greek to me" in all languages. He would like to hear from readers who know of similar expressions in pidgin and creole languages. Write to him c/o Dept. of Linguistics, Calif. State Univ. Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634-9480.

From Ian HANCOCK (Univ. of Texas, Austin) on a Chibchan-Spanish contact language from Southern Mexico: On page xlii of E. URICOECHEA's *Gramatica, Vocabulario, Catecismo i Confesionario de la Lengua Chibcha* (Paris: Maisonneuve, 1891), the author mentions a "dialecto que se estaba formando de mezcla castellana i chibcha," which was called locally, *Gypsy* ('lengua de jitanos'), and which, as a result of the schooling by a resident teacher called Dadei, was being abandoned by its speakers. The few lexical examples provided by Uricoechea include *caína* ('gallina'), *obisa* ('oveja'), *zebos* ('mancebo'), and *hicabai* ('caballo').

A *Bibliography of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, compiled by John E. Reinecke, Stanley M. Tsuzaki, David DeCamp, Ian F. Hancock, and Richard E. Wood, (Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications No. 14) Honolulu: Univ. Press of Hawai'i, 1975 has been out of print for more than four years. The Editors of Oceanic Linguistics Special Publications have been approached by two parties interested in the publication of an updated version of the bibliography. One proposal envisions a traditional hardcopy revision; the other, a computerized database to be distributed in disk form. The Editors have reason to believe that both proposals would be carried out competently, but lean toward the latter (for reasons of cost and ease of updating) in deciding to whom to release the rights to the original publication. However, they want to be sure that

this would have the general support of the community of scholars specializing in pidgin and creole studies. If you have strong views one way or the other, please make them known to Byron W. BENDER, Chair, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822; Bitnet t041320@uhccmv; FAX (808)956-2191.

The first issue of the yearly *Pidgins and Creoles in Education (PACE) Newsletter*, published by the Linguistics Department, Univ. of New England (Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia), under the editorship of Jeff SIEGEL, appeared in August 1990. The issue included information on changing attitudes towards pidgins and creoles in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Hawai'i, and a brief update on educational issues in the Caribbean, Haiti, Seychelles, Hawai'i, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. For subscription information, write to Jeff Siegel.

From Nicholas FARACLAS (Univ. of Papua New Guinea; Box 320, University P.O., Papua New Guinea):

Literacy primers in Tok Pisin, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands Pijin have been produced by the Language and Literature Dept., UPNG, at the National Literacy and Awareness Training Courses that have been held in PNG this year. Story books and awareness materials have also been produced in the three languages.

An *illustrated Bislama-English and English-Bislama dictionary* by Terry CROWLEY was jointly published July 30, 1990, by the Pacific Languages Unit and the Vanuatu Centre of the University of the South Pacific. Its appearance coincided with the Tenth Anniversary celebrations for Independence in Vanuatu. In addition to separate Bislama-English and English-Bislama sections, the dictionary contains slang and neologisms current among users. For price and ordering information, write to Terry Crowley c/o Pacific Languages Unit, P.O. Box 12, Vila, Vanuatu.

## THE ETYMOLOGY OF GRUMETTO

by Ian Hancock (Univ. of Texas, Austin)

In Hancock (1986) I discuss the role of the *grumettos* in the social and linguistic formation of Guinea Coast Creole English. In 1744, William Smith defined a *grumetto* as "a Black Freeman who hires himself by the Week, to work for anyone, but chiefly for White Men, by whom many here are employ'd." Rodney (1966:438) further noted that, "In practice, the *grumete* (or *grumetto*, as the English came to use the word), was seldom a chattel. More often than not, he was a wage-earner." The argument presented maintains that the *grumettos* were a crucial factor in the development of Guinea Coast Creole English out of the Guinea Coast English of the *lançado* communities which existed on the Gambia and Sierra Leone Rivers in the early 17th century.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, the word *grummet* is listed as obsolete, historical and dialectal, and had the variant forms *grumet* and *groomet*, among others. It is compared with Old French *groumet* or *gromet*, 'servant, valet, shop-boy, wine-merchant's assistant' (cognate with *gourmet*), and with Spanish *grumete* 'ship's boy' (also a slang term in that language for 'guy,' 'dude'). The OED goes on to say that "down to the 16th century, the word *grumetus*...is frequently used in the sense of *groom*" in English.

The first English definition entry for the word is, "A ship's boy; a cabin boy; the boy required to form part of the crew of every ship formerly provided by the Cinque Ports." Early occurrences of the word in print include "in every ship 21 men and a garcion, or boye, which is called a gromet" (from 1571), and "a grumet of a ship, or ship boy" (from 1591).

The word *grummet* or *groomet*, derived from the French verb *gourmer* 'to curb, restrain,' also has various nautical applications, among them 'makeshift rowlock; wreath of rope used to secure the upper edge of a sail; a rope ring used on board ship; wad of fiber stuffed in a cannon's mouth to compress the powder.'

Hancock, Ian. 1986. The domestic hypothesis, diffusion and componentiality; an account of Atlantic anglophone creole origins. In P. Muysken & N. Smith (Eds.), *Substrata vs. Universals in Creole Languages*, pp. 71-102. John Benjamins.

Rodney, Walter. 1970. *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545 to 1800*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Smith, William. 1744. *A New Voyage to Guinea*. London: Nourse.

## SUBSCRIPTION NOTE

The *Carrier Pidgin* editors would like to remind readers that we are no longer able to offer automatic subscription renewal. If you selected this option when you subscribed, we would like to ask your help in making the transition to our new procedure. First, check the two-digit number in the corner of your mailing label. Your CP subscription expires (or expired) in December of that year. Next, use the form on the last page of this issue to renew your subscription. Please indicate the years or volumes for which you are paying on the subscription form. If your subscription has already expired, please do enclose funds to pay for intervening years, provided of course that you have continued to receive *The Carrier Pidgin*, as most subscribers have. Tænks æh!



## SQUAWKS & RUFFLED FEATHERS

From Helma Pasch (Univ. zu Köln) regarding the Derek BICKERTON – Salikoko MUFWENE debate (Vol. 17, nos. 2/3 & Vol. 18, no. 1):

It is amazing to see how easily scholars can forget about their aims when they get a chance to fight their "scientific enemies." A case where this becomes very obvious is Mufwene's review of Roger M. Keesing's *Melanesian Pidgin and the Oceanic Substrate*. For M this very review is a further occasion to attack Bickerton and to show that his own rather "substratist" position has once again won the game over B's LBH. B, for his part, uses the chance to counterattack M and defend his own position and the LBH.

This series of disputes reads like a detective story, and it is very stimulating for the reader who is interested in the LBH, in both its strong and its weak points, and in the strong and the weak points of the substratist hypothesis. But the starting point for this whole dispute appears badly chosen, and the dispute shows that M and B did not even consider Keesing's conclusion that "substratophiles and universalists can, I will suggest, live together happily in Melanesia. We need, in fact, to be both at once" (p. 12).

It is understandable that M defends his ideas in his evaluation of the book, since he finds them so well supported by K's analysis. But in doing so he forgot about the task at hand, and the defence consumes almost the whole review. Thus, it is regrettable that the reader is given hardly any information on K's book, while at the same time he is forced to learn M's views on B's works, which is most probably not the reason for reading this review. (B, in his reply, alludes to this fact but, for obvious reasons, does not see it as a point which he should criticize.)

Furthermore - and this should indeed have formed part of the theory-dispute - the question of K's access to and his attitude toward pidginization/creolization theory and to creole languages in general is not discussed at all. His access is clearly reflected by the organization of the book and the titles of the single chapters. M only briefly mentions that K wrote his book as an anthropologist and not as a linguist. It is not made clear in the review that K did not start his research as a theoretician but rather as a practitioner who tried to find some theoretical explanation for the problems he was confronted with

when learning Solomon Islands Pijin "with a somewhat more than amateur interest in linguistics - and impelled by my practical experience and intuitions and my from-the-ground-up (rather than from-the-theories-down) perspective to what B (1977: 61) has characterized as 'substratomania'" (Keesing, p. 3).

Restricting information on the fact that K is basically an anthropologist, who did a good job in the field of creolistics, means holding back a great deal of information. Besides being a creolist study, the book is also a thorough anthropological analysis. The emphasis is on "a group of peoples speaking certain languages, which develop in a specific way" rather than on "given linguistic facts observable in the languages which those peoples happen to speak." This anthropological perspective makes the book such sympathetic reading matter.

While M and B accuse each other of unfair citing behavior, the people who are really treated unfairly are Keesing and the reader of the review and the dispute: Keesing, insofar as most of his work is simply not dealt with, and the reader, who is given only a vague idea of what the book is about.



From Alan KAYE (Calif. State Univ., Fullerton) regarding William SAMARIN's (Vol. 18, No. 1) response to the BICKERTON – MUFWENE debate:

I have been enjoying the Bickerton-Mufwene debate very much. Their essays have been stimulating. However, Samarin's essay (18.1, p. 4) has hit the nail squarely in its head - and moreover, he is also right in stating that Bickerton did not have to "resort to such bullying." While I can appreciate the editorial position about "squawks," some editorial care can easily remove words such as "hopeless" and "mindless." What's coming next - four-letter words? You already state (ibid.) that you have "minimally" edited this disagreement. Well, why not go a little further by just deleting these "bullying" words that add nothing to the scholarly debate? As a loyal reader of *The Carrier Pidgin* for 18 years now, I would like Professor Samarin to know that I agree with him entirely, and I believe I speak for many (most?) of our

"silent" colleagues. Bickerton's rejoinder (18.1, pp. 3-4) was much more to the point and much more effective without the insult. But I trust that you will now allow Mufwene an opportunity to respond (along the same decent scholarly lines). This adds up to what you call "vigorous debate," which is very healthy for the profession at large. You are certainly to be praised for this.

Congratulations on producing an extremely valuable and informative mini-journal (which is how I described *CP* in my *Semiotica* piece earlier this year.)



From Charles-James N. BAILEY (Univ. Brunei, Darussalam) on the same subject:

While Bill Samarin's letter (18.1, p.4) raises an issue that he feels very seriously about - and I don't disagree with the substance so much as the application of his views - I think a few words can be said in Bickerton's defence on the matter of form; I'm staying out of the substance of this debate for the present. (Of course, Bickerton, like everyone who departs from the going views, risks attacks and - it's sadly true - misattacks.)

1) Bickerton characterized a discussion of his position by Mufwene (a discussion in which B claims M unwarrantedly attributes to him ideas he doesn't hold) as "typical of mindless and hopeless LBH-bashing" (17.2/3). I find it hard to see how any scholar could fail to distinguish this from an *ad hominem* attack or a condemnation of Mufwene's work as a whole as either mindless or hopeless - worthy to be cast on "some pile of rubbish." M, who attacked first, and sharply, surely realizes that attacks are not risk-free; and he and all scholars have to distinguish personal attacks from substantive attacks. If one is sure that one has been avoidably misrepresented in a sharp attack, then an outraged (the degree of outrage proportionate to the degree of the misrepresentation) non-personal response is surely appropriate, fair, and deserving to be aired. None of this can be equated with remarks some years ago by one writer about another's increasing senility - surely quite out of bounds.

2) Why not attack misrepresentation, since it goes on all of the time? One can easily cite examples from high and low. We may have to "attack" an idea put forward by someone we have great regret in citing; but the regret is bound to be less when one has been attacked first - and even less regretful when one perceives the

**Eh, wi laik no wat  
yu ste wrking awn  
laidæt, so wai no  
rait tu as!**



attacked views to constitute avoidable misrepresentation. Misrepresentation can be benign (as when one is cited in favor of a view one doesn't hold) but is more often part of an attack. I can hardly see that what B said is incredible or incredulous; I say this as one who is these pages has had aspersions not too obliquely cast on his knowledge by B, though I admit he didn't lower his heavy artillery at me, since I hadn't gone at him with the vigor of Mufwene. Since we don't bother to respond to those who we don't see as convincing anyone who is worth convincing, one can take the bother as a compliment.

3) When I edited the predecessor to the *CP*, I published items that attacked my ideas or made fun of them (I never took them to be attacks on me), though I did take the liberty of titling them "Sleep not while the bull dozzeth" or "Tell me not in mirthful numbers." The newsletter died when it turned into pabulum after my departure. The exchange between M and B at least didn't sin by being dull! One recalls Chomsky's valuable "attack" on Skinner's work, Postal's worthwhile animadversions on Martinet's teachings, and Pullum's needed and interesting reflections in *NLLT* – as well as Chomsky's reply to one of the last of these.

4) If annoyance is to be expressed at the *form* of academic behavior, why not also a modicum of outrage against the even more serious ethical matter of the *substance* of academic behavior, e.g. using models that have been discredited and not credibly re-credited? We'd be annoyed at a doctor who received pay for applying remedies discredited in the professional journals for healing the body; so why shouldn't a doctor be annoyed if, in the realm of the mind and the so-called search for truth, we take pay for using and teaching idiolectal (static-reist) analysis for comparative pursuits – dialectology, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, child language, language-teaching, and creolistics? Why was the phoneme not removed from the IPA Handbook until over twenty-five years after it had been discredited? Was it because, as Max Planck said, science progresses through the death of scientists, and we have to wait for a new generation to come along every twenty-five years? Why don't we hear a word about "synchronic analysis" – technically, in view of the extreme paucity and feebleness of the arguments alleged in its favor, a superstition? (If interested, see my "On the undecidability of synchronic theories" in a recent issue of *Papere zur Linguistik* (Tübingen: Verlag G. Narr) and references

cited there, including my forthcoming OUP book.) Likewise with the misguided competence-performance distinction, as currently conceived: It is easy to show that if dialects are treated as performance, you run into trouble with the numerous ideogrammatical "competences" involved, whereas the differences are at war with monostylistic characterization of competence.

SO, for all of these reasons, I think we should support the editors' stated position on the exchanges in question and allow exchanges that are interesting and informative so long as they attack ideas, not persons.



## CONFERENCES, COURSES & LECTURES

A one-day round table entitled *QUESTIONS CREOLES, QUESTIONS LINGUISTIQUES* was held at the Université Jean Moulin, Lyon, France, on Nov. 30, 1989. Presentations included:

Salikoko MUFWENE. "La genèse des créoles: Quelques questions pour la recherche à venir."

Guy HAZAEL-MASSIEUX. "L'élaboration du système des marqueurs de la détermination en créole des Antilles" (avec référence plus particulière à la Guadeloupe).

Marie-Christine HAZAEL-MASSIEUX. "Le passage à l'écriture pour une langue orale: Le cas des créoles français."

Jean-Roland DELTEL. "Les marqueurs socio-linguistiques" (focused on French in Cameroon).

Jean-Louis CHAUZIT. "La problématique de la saisie des interlangues" (focused on the French of Italian immigrants in France).

The proceedings of the round table are expected to be published some time this year by Le Centre d'Etudes Linguistiques Jacques Goudet, 74 Rue Pasteur, Poste 2171, Université Jean Moulin, 69007 Lyon, France.

Papers presented at the 26th ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, held at the Univ. of Stellenbosch, July 4 & 5, 1990 included:

R. ADENDORFF. "Towards an ethnography of Fanakalo with special reference to its social meaning and use."

B. DONALDSON. "What's happening with the past tense of modal verbs in Afrikaans?"

E.G. VAN DER MERWE. "Oorlam-Afrikaans."

H. WAHER. "'n Ander kyk op die ontstaan van die tweede ontkenning in Afrikaans."

A paper of interest presented at a conference entitled, *THE ORGANIZATION OF DIVERSITY*, held in Botkyrka, Sweden, June 13-16, 1990;

Ulf HANNERZ. "Double creolizing."

THE CONFERENCE ON PROGRESSION AND REGRESSION IN LANGUAGE was held in Botkyrka, Sweden, Aug. 13-16, 1990. Papers presented included:

Don KULICK. "Growing up monolingual in a multilingual community: How language socialization patterns are leading to language shift in Gapun" (Papua New Guinea).

Peter MÜLHAÜSLER. "New languages for old: The role of pidginization and creolization in language progression and regression."

Charlene SATO. "Language change in a creole continuum: Decreolization?"

A CONFERENCE ON FOCUS AND GRAMMATICAL RELATIONS IN CREOLE LANGUAGES was held at the University of Chicago, May 10-12, 1990. Papers included:

O. OYELARAN. "Anti-focus in Yoruba and some implications for creoles."

Victor MANFREDI. "Moved vs. in situ 'verb focus' in Kwa."

Claire LEFEBVRE. "On the interpretation of predicate cleft."

John LUMSDEN. "On the syntactic realization of locative arguments in Haitian Creole."

Panel 1: Near election time, the Member of Parliament comes back to the village. "How are things, friend?" "You're not my friend. For four years I haven't seen you in the village."

Panel 2: "You know I'm very busy. I visit many countries overseas, such as Japan, Australia, USA, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand."

Panel 3: "That's fine. Why don't you go back overseas and ask them all to vote for you – and don't come to see us."

Panel 4: If Parliament Member doesn't work for you, it's time to organize.



J.L. DILLARD. "The evidence of transitivity markers for pidgin chronology."

John LIPSKI. "Second person plural pronominals in early Black English."

Pieter SEUREN. "The difference between Caribbean and Indian Ocean predicate clefting."

Elizabeth RITTER & Claire LEFEBVRE. "Verb doubling constructions in Haitian."

Pieter MUYSKEN. "Papiamentu reflexives, O-theory and grammatical relations."

Gillian SANKOFF. "Topicalization and focus in Tok Pisin."

Genevieve ESCURE. "Topic marking particles in creoles and Chinese dialects."

Arthur SPEARS. "Focusing of verb phrase constituents in Haitian Creole."

Derek BICKERTON. "Subject focus and pronouns."

Guy CARDEN & William STEWART. "Clefts and coreference in Haitian."

Alexander CASKEY & Francis BYRNE. "Focus, emphasis, and pronominals in romance creoles."

Marta DIJKHOFF. "Some notes on predicate clefting in Papiamentu."

Viviane DEPREZ. "Raising constructions in Haitian Creole."

Diane MASSAM. "Double object constructions in Haitian Creole."

Alain KIHM. "What is it that you said? A study of obligatory focalization in two creoles and beyond."

Salikoko MUFWENE. "Scope of the negation and focus in Gullah."

A conference on Haitian issues, coordinated by the Haitian Studies Association, was held at Tufts University in Boston on June 15-16, 1990. In addition to topics on politics, education, economics, and health, the conference included a panel on Haitian Creole. Haitian novelist FRANKETIENNE began the session with a brief summary of the history of Haitian Creole, then discussed the use of Haitian Creole in his novels. He stated that many Haitians find his books difficult to read because of his eloquent writing style, in addition to the fact that he uses words spoken in the hills of Haiti. A second presentation was given by Hugue ST. FORT, who discussed linguistic structures of Haitian Creole. Josianne HUDICOURT-BARNES served as moderator.

#### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

May 20-24, 1991. 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUSTRONESIAN LINGUISTICS. Outrigger Prince Kuhio Hotel, Honolulu, HI, USA. Abstracts due Oct. 31, 1990. For information contact

Byron W. Bender, Chair, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI 96822. FAX (808)956-2191; E-mail bender@uhccux.uhcc.hawaii.edu or t041320@uhccmvs.bitnet.

July 7-11, 1991. 47th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS. Tulane Univ., New Orleans, LA, USA. Scholars interested in presenting papers at a section on creoles titles, "The Meeting of Three Worlds: The Linguistic Outcomes of African and European Encounters in the Americas" should write to Anita HERZFELD, Dept. of Linguistics, 427 Blake Hall, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA 66045.



### PIDGINS & CREOLES IN THE NEWS

Sudanese linguist Dr. Ushari Ahmed Mahmoud is a political detainee in Shalla Prison (Darfur District, Western Sudan). Dr. Mahmoud (Ph.D. Georgetown 1979) will be remembered by many creolists from the 1979 St. Thomas conference. Upon returning to Sudan he taught at the University of Khartoum and ran the Linguistic Survey of Sudan. His book, *Arabic in the Southern Sudan: History and spread of a pidgin creole*, was published in 1983. In 1987 he coauthored "an independent investigation into a massacre in the Sudanese town of ed Dai'en and the revival of practices of slavery in the region. He concluded that the government was actively encouraging the elements who were responsible for both the massacre and the resurgence of slavery" (*AfricaWatch: Sudan*, Aug. 30, 1990, p. 25). He was arrested and imprisoned without charge in August 1989. In a (April 15, 1990) letter to former President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Mahmoud stated that following his refusal to retract the 1987 report, he was transferred to isolated Shalla Prison, living under conditions that *AfricaWatch* describes as "hellish." As far as we know, he is still there.

*AfricaWatch* (1522 K St. NW, Suite 910, Washington, DC 20005) suggests writing urgent but polite appeals to the Sudanese authorities listed below to release Dr. Mahmoud if he cannot be swiftly brought to trial for a criminal offense, and tried according to internationally recognized standards for a fair trial. Address appeals to any of the following: (1)

His Excellency Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan al Bashir, Head of State, Defense Minister and Commander-in-Chief, Army Headquarters, Khartoum, Sudan; (2) His Excellency Mr. Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, 2210 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008, USA; (3) His Excellency Mr. el Rashid Abu Shama, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Sudan, 3 Cleveland Row, St. James's, London SW1A 1DD, United Kingdom; (4) Vice-Chancellor, Univ. of Khartoum, P.O. Box 321, Khartoum, Sudan. You may also write to Dr. Mahmoud at Shalla Prison, el Fasher, Sudan, as personal letters appear to be getting through.

There is evidence that letter writing campaigns and negative publicity may help bring about the desired ends. As linguists - and creolists - we have a special responsibility in this case. Please join me in this effort to help free our friend and colleague, Ushari Mahmoud.

Gillian Sankoff (Univ. of Pennsylvania)

### PIDGINS & CREOLES IN EDUCATION

#### Haitian Kreyòl Language

#### Socialization: Work in Progress

by Bambi B. Schieffelin (New York Univ.)

This study of language socialization in several Haitian families in New York City is supported by a Spencer Foundation Small Grant and a N.Y.U. Research Challenge Fund Grant. Assisted by Edwidge Bryant (Bank St. College of Education) and Rachelle Doucet (Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies N.Y.U.) the goals of this study are: (1) to document the verbal environment of a number of young Haitian children growing up in New York City; (2) to investigate the linguistic ideologies and metalinguistic domains of Haitian Kreyòl speakers regarding Kreyòl and other languages; (3) to examine changes in the orthographies of Haitian Kreyòl from sociolinguistic, symbolic and educational perspectives in addition to debates regarding literacy.

The study is longitudinal in design, following several families who are related to each other but nonetheless have different migration histories, educational experiences and linguistic repertoires. While we are principally documenting language acquisition and language socialization of children, in one case a parent is also acquiring English. The study is ethnographic and looks at a range of



relevant social aspects, including the social organization of caregiving, the status and role of the child in the family and community, and the ideology of teaching and learning that underlie socialization processes. Therefore, we are interested in a range of cultural and social behaviors that are integral to understanding linguistic expression.

Rather than seeking out monolingual Kreyòl-speaking families in New York City in an attempt to "replicate" environments in Haiti, it seemed more to the point to investigate the experience of Haitians living in New York City. Therefore, the focus has been on the nature and meaning of multilingualism and on the analysis of linguistic repertoires from sociolinguistic and discourse perspectives. The seven children in this study include preverbal infants and their language-using older siblings. By having this age range we can investigate the ways in which speech to the child systematically varies according to age, asking a famous question, "Is there a Baby Talk register?" These young children (who are cousins) display a range of ever-changing linguistic competencies: English dominant, Kreyòl dominant, bilingualism and trilingualism (Kreyòl/English/French). Grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles and babysitters demonstrate a similar range. Thus the verbal and interactional settings are linguistically complex. Children are regularly audio-taperecorded in their homes, in the car, and in the park with those individuals with whom they usually play or who care for them. Recordings also include conversations among the adults in on-going familial relationships. Detailed contextual notes accompany the taperecordings, and these recordings are transcribed following modified conversation analysis conventions.

In addition to the analysis of adult-child, child-child and adult-adult conversations (usually multiparty rather than dyadic), we are examining the attitudes of speakers towards the languages that they speak and are in contact with English, French, Spanish and Kreyòl. Such notions as Kreyòl swa, Kreyòl rèk, gwo Kreyòl and Kreyòl francize are useful in terms of more general linguistic ideologies and the paradoxes that comprise them. A third component of this project is an examination of the changes in Haitian Kreyòl orthographic conventions in relationship to the social and linguistic meanings that such representations may carry. One result of this project will be a Master's thesis by Rachelle Doucet.

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wen cheinj yaw æjres,  
go let as no, æh.

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# The Carrier Pidgin

A newsletter for those interested in pidgin and creole languages

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## FOCUS ON CREOLISTS



**Morris Goodman** by John Holm

Morris Goodman is well known to creolists as the author of the first book-length study comparing the structure and lexicon of the French-based creoles (Goodman, 1964) and more recently for his work on the influence of Portuguese on the New World creoles (1987a), and exemplary socio-historical research tracing the setting of the genesis and development of a number of creoles (e.g. 1985a, 1985b,

1987b). He has also distinguished himself through his work on African languages and language contact (e.g. 1971). Now one of the senior creolists, Goodman also represents a personal link to the establishment of pidgin and creole linguistics as an academic discipline through his fieldwork in the French Caribbean as a graduate student in 1959 and his presence at the first creolist conference in Mona, Jamaica the same year.

Goodman was born in New York City in 1933, but lived with his parents in Miami in the mid 1940s. Traveling with them to the Caribbean during that period, he first became aware of the region's linguistic complexity, and was particularly struck by the use of French on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. His interest in languages led him to study Hebrew, French, and German as a teenager. He began his undergraduate studies at Oberlin College in Ohio in 1951, and completed his B.A. at Columbia University in 1956. He began his graduate work in linguistics there under Uriel Weinreich and Joseph Greenberg, who encouraged him in his interests in language contact, the French-based creoles of the Caribbean, and African languages. While at Columbia he met other students interested in creoles, including West Indians such as Beryl

Bailey and Keith Baird, and Americans such as Ed Bendix. In the summer of 1957 he attended Robert Le Page's lecture on creole languages at the LSA summer institute in Ann Arbor. The following year Goodman went to Maraval, Trinidad to work on the community's French-based creole, and then returned to Columbia, where he was part of a group of graduate students in the social sciences working under the late Vera Rubin.

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(Continued from page 1)

In the summer of 1959 Goodman undertook an extensive survey of the French-based creoles which took him to St. Thomas, Guadeloupe, Dominica (where he met with Douglas Taylor), Martinique, St. Lucia, Trinidad, and French Guiana. Later that year he attended the first creolist conference in Mona, Jamaica, where he met most of the leading creolists of that period, including F.G. Cassidy, Robert A. Hall, Jr., Jack Berry, David DeCamp, and Richard Allsopp. In 1961 he completed his dissertation, which was published in a slightly revised form by Mouton in 1964.

During the 1961-62 academic year Goodman did post-doctoral work at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in comparative Semitic linguistics, working on Arabic, Hebrew, and Amharic. In 1962 he studied Swahili at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), doing two month of fieldwork in Dar-es-Salaam in what is now Tanzania. During the 1963-64 academic year he taught Swahili and African linguistics at the Hebrew University, then went to UCLA to teach Swahili and study Hausa, doing fieldwork in Zaria in northern Nigeria in the summers of 1965 and 1966.

In the latter year Goodman took up his present position at Northwestern University's linguistics department, whose founders, Jack Berry and Hans Wolff gave it a strong African emphasis. There he has taught general linguistics, Swahili, Hausa, and pidgins and creoles. In 1970 he was on leave at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C., and spent several months in Mauritius preparing a course in Mauritian Creole French for the Peace Corps. After that most of his scholarship focused on African languages until 1980, when he took up the question of the linguistic impact of the Portuguese-speaking Jewish settlers of Dutch Brazil, who were exiled in 1654 and resettled in Dutch holdings from the Guianas and Curaçao to New Amsterdam. Since then Goodman has been one of our discipline's preeminent historian-sleuths, piecing together evidence which casts light on the development of varieties ranging from West African Pidgin Portuguese (Goodman, 1987b) to Virgin Island Creole French (1984), and Hawai'i Creole English (1985a) to colloquial Arabic (1986). Although he has had some cautionary words to say against certain substratist approaches (1988), he has been a leading opponent of Bickerton's language bioprogram hypothesis. Goodman's very solid historical and linguistic research has helped strengthen our discipline's academic footing, and we look forward to his future contributions to the field.

- |       |                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1958  | On the phonemics of the French Creole of Trinidad. <i>Word</i> 14(2/3), 208-12.                                                                             |
| 1964  | <i>A comparative study of creole French dialects</i> . The Hague: Mouton.                                                                                   |
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| 1971a | Languages in contact. In T.A. Sebeok (Ed.), <i>Current trends in linguistics, Vol. 7: Linguistics in Sub-Saharan Africa</i> . The Hague: Mouton.            |
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| 1984  | Nineteenth-century Virgin Island Creole French. <i>Oso</i> 3(1), 121-5.                                                                                     |
| 1985a | Review of Bickerton 1981. <i>International Journal of American Linguistics</i> 51(1), 109-37.                                                               |
| 1985b | The origin of Virgin Island Creole Dutch. <i>Amsterdam Creole Studies</i> 8, 67-                                                                            |

## FROM THE EDITOR

I'd like to extend a heartfelt *tænks æh!* to the rest of the editorial staff, who diligently put together the previous issue while I was on sabbatical leave in Denmark. As usual, we also thank the many *CP* readers who have contributed material over the last several months and encourage others to do the same.

With this issue we complete Volume XVIII. Readers will note a record number of photos, including a reprint of the picture of Vladimir Belikov, a somewhat stark version of which appeared in Volume XVIII, No. 1. We hope Dr. Belikov accepts the excuse that we didn't know about half-toning. In addition to mugshots of the newly-elected officers of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics and John Holm's photos of Society for Caribbean Linguistics members having a good time at their August 1990 meeting in Belize, our foray into the world of graphics has also yielded reproductions of AIDS posters in Saramaccan, which were designed by Catherine Rountree and sent to us by George Huttar in Suriname.

There is little good news to pass on about our colleague, Dr. Ushari Mahmoud, who has been imprisoned in Sudan since August, 1989 (see "Pidgins and Creoles in the News," Vol. XVIII, No. 2, p. 8). In a recent letter to me, the U.S. State Department reports that some political prisoners have been released over the last few months, but Dr. Mahmoud was not among them. They say they will continue to pressure the Sudanese government about the situation, but *CP* readers are urged to send more letters to the relevant government officials in their countries, or to His Excellency Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan al Bashir, Head of State, Defense Minister and Commander-in-Chief, Army Headquarters, Khartoum, Sudan.



106.  
1986 Review of Versteegh 1984. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 1(1), 165-70.  
1987a The Portuguese element in the American creoles. In G. Gilbert (Ed.), *Pidgin and creole languages: Essays in Memory of John E. Reinecke*, pp. 361-405. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.  
1987b Pidgin origins reconsidered. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 2(2), 149-162.  
1988a A response to Naro. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 3(1), 103-7.  
1988b African substratum: Some cautionary words. Paper presented at the International Round Table on Africanisms in Afro-American Language Varieties, Univ. of Georgia, Athens.



## NOTES & QUERIES

From Norm MUNDHENK (Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea): The *Tok Pisin Bible* was recently published in two editions, one with the Protestant collection of *Old Testament* books, the other with the *Deuterocanon* by the Roman Catholic Church. Dedication ceremonies were held in Port Moresby on Oct. 8, 1989. All previously printed materials, including the *New Testament*, were extensively revised, with a serious attempt to make the style of Tok Pisin more in line with the language as it is spoken today. Individuals wanting to order the book should write to the Bible Society in their own country for information, rather than contacting the Bible Society in Papua New Guinea.

Mark SEBBA writes that he is now lecturer in the Dept. of Linguistics at Lancaster Univ., England. For the second time, he is teaching a ten-week option for first-year linguistics students called "Pidgins and Creoles." He reports that the response has been good. The first session of the course is called "creating a pidgin," and is an attempt to create a pidgin in classroom conditions, with encouraging results.

Sebba also notes that visiting Kenyan postgraduates at Lancaster Univ. report

the development of an urban contact language called "Sheng" (Swahili-English), about which very little seems to have been published, although it is by now a part of urban life in Kenya, and reportedly a source of great annoyance to teachers. Two people working on Sheng who would appreciate making academic contact with others in this kind of field are: Michael KAMAU, Communication Skills Unit, Univ. of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi, Kenya; and Jayne MUTIGA, P.O. Box 12725, Nairobi, Kenya.

Plenty of copies of Don LAYCOCK and Alice BUFFETT's *Speak Norfolk today* are still available for \$A12 from Lois Carrington. Please write to her c/o Linguistics RSPacS, Australian National Univ., GPO Box 4 Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.

Darrell TRYON'S *Bislama: An introduction to the national language of Vanuatu* is going into another reprint, which will place it up among the "top ten" bestsellers ever produced by Pacific Linguistics. The book (\$A30) and/or set of 14 cassette tapes (\$A70) may be ordered from Mira Kwasik, c/o Linguistics RSPacS, Australian National Univ., GPO Box 4 Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.

Also available from the same address is Tom DUTTON and Dick THOMAS's *A new course in Tok Pisin (New Guinea Pidgin)*, another best seller. The book is \$A46.30 and the set of cassettes, \$A99.

After a brief field investigation in Nov. 1988, Chris CORNE (Univ. of Auckland) has written 4 papers introducing Tayo to creolists. The first, written in Feb. 1989, was submitted to *Études créoles*; its fate is still unknown. The second was written for *Observations du français dans le Pacifique: Etudes et documents*, 6, and is still in press. The third, on Tayo pronouns, will appear in *Te Reo* 33, possibly in late 1990. (A fourth paper on Tayo by Corne is listed in the Publications column in this issue.)

Corne writes that his 'discovery' of this hitherto undescribed creole has prompted a PhD dissertation by Sabine EHRHART of the Univ. of Augsburg, Germany, which is due to be presented at the end of 1990. Ehrhardt and Corne are preparing a joint presentation for the *Atlas of languages for intercultural communication in the Asia and Pacific regions*, Stephen Wurm, Peter Mühlhäusler, and Darrell Tryon (Eds.), to be published by the Australian National Univ.

Also from Corne, notification of the

publication of a new version of Baissac's 1888 *Folklore de l'île Maurice* in modern Mauritian Creole, together with notes on the major stylistic and vocabulary changes and English translations of the folk stories. The new work is entitled *Sirandann Sanpek: zistwar an kreol* and is available from Ledikasyon pu Travayer, 153 Main Road, Grande Riviere Nord Ouest, Port Louis, Mauritius.

Numerous other works in Mauritian Creole are available from the same publisher. One of these works, *How to write Kreol properly*, contains a chapter by Lindsey COLLEN (pp. 43-52) which summarizes a talk given by Derek BICKERTON at the Mauritius Institute of Education, Feb. 22, 1988.

Miguel Angel MELÉNDEZ L. of the Centro Colombiano de Estudios en Lenguas Aborígenes (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá) sends notice of the 1990 publication of Volume 5 in the series *Descripciones* of the collection *Lenguas aborígenes de Colombia*. The subject of this particular volume is Sanandresano, an English-based creole of San Andrés, Colombia. The work is authored by Carol O'FLYNN de CHAVES and is entitled, *Tiempo, aspecto y modalidad en el Criollo Sanandresano*. For further information, please contact M. A. Meléndez L., Centro Colombiano de Estudios en Lenguas Aborígenes, Universidad de los Andes, Apartado Aéreo 4976, Bogotá, Colombia.

Kate HOWE's *Haitian Creole newspaper reader* has just been released by Dunwoody Press (P.O. Box 1825, Wheaton, MD 20915). The reader contains transcriptions of radio broadcasts recorded in Haiti, newspaper articles, and samples of graffiti. Topics include commercials, public information, and political events. The reader is intended primarily for those with a basic knowledge of Haitian Creole, but a Reference Grammar, vocabulary lists, language notes, and a Haitian Creole - English glossary make the readings accessible to beginners as well. A short introduction also discusses the status of Haitian Creole in Haitian society.

A new periodical, *Pacific Island Voices: A Literary Newsletter*, began publication in mid-1989. The newsletter features creative work representing the Pacific region, book reviews, and information about publishers and distributors of Pacific literature. Issue no.1 contains poetry by Kauraka Kauraka and Kona Helu Thaman, prose from Witi Ihimaera and Cathleen Moore-Linn, and publication



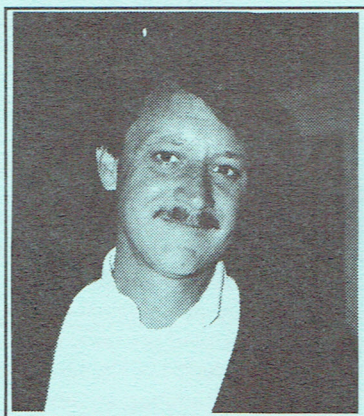
notices. Editor Melissa C. MILLER welcomes submissions from Pacific island writers and artists. For more information and subscription details, write to Miller at P.O. Box 11884, Honolulu, HI 96828.

Alan KAYE writes to notify readers that he has been commissioned by Pergamon Press to edit a special issue of *Language Sciences* on pidgins and creoles. He invites pidgin and creole specialists to contribute articles in the area of non-European-based pidgins or creoles for this issue. Papers are needed by Sept. 1, 1991 and should be between 20 and 50 manuscript pages. (See a recent issue of *Language Sciences* for paper and abstract format.) For further details, contact Alan Kaye, Dept. of Linguistics, Calif. State Univ., Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92634-9480, USA.

## SPCL NEWS

### Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting Chicago, Jan. 4, 1991

**MEMBERS PRESENT** (determined by signatures on attendance roster): Edward BENDIX, Frank BYRNE, Barbara CAMERON, Guy CARDEN, Pauline CHRISTIE, Michel DEGRAFF, Janet



Frank Byrne, President  
& Executive Secretary

DONNELLY, Glenn GILBERT, Maurice HOLDER, John HOLM, Kate HOWE, Carl MEIGS, Salikoko MUFWENE, Charlene SATO, Armin SCHWEGLER, Bill STEWART, Anand SYEA, Lise WINER, Donald WINFORD, Flore ZÉPHIR.

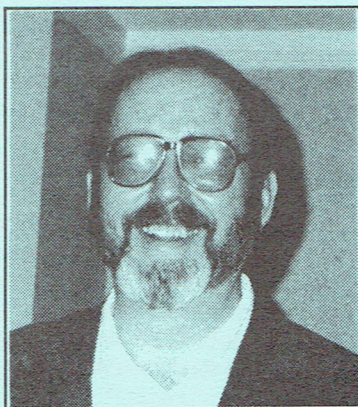
The meeting was convened by Pro-Tem President, Frank BYRNE, at 8:00 pm.

**OPENING COMMENTS:** Frank BYRNE reported that as of Jan. 4, 1991, SPCL membership exceeded 130, and that more than 50 people had attended several

of the SPCL papers given on the first day of the meeting (Jan. 4).

### MINUTES OF THE 1989 MEETING:

The Minutes were read by Glenn GILBERT and were approved unanimously by voice vote.



John Holm, Vice-President

**NECROLOGY:** Frank BYRNE noted that Stephen M. PECK, Jr. had recently finished a UCLA dissertation of approximately 500 pages on Guinea Bissau Portuguese Creole and that he was sorry to report that Dr. Peck had passed away soon after completing the work. John SINGLER gave a brief eulogy. Byrne suggested and received approval to plan for a scholarship fund in Dr. Peck's name.

**FINANCES:** The Pro-Tem Executive Secretary, Frank BYRNE, presented his report. It was accepted unanimously by voice vote. [*Carrier Pidgin* readers interested in SPCL finances should contact Byrne at the address given below.]



Charlene Sato,  
Member-at-Large

Byrne noted that as of Jan. 1, 1991, the publisher of the *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*, John Benjamins, has set the rate for individual subscriptions at US\$42 per year. This includes a subscription to the journal (\$34) and the \$8 SPCL

membership fee. Members of the Society should send their renewal checks directly to Benjamins at either address below. Similarly, prospective members should apply directly to the publisher to join the Society and to pay their first year's dues.

John Benjamins Publishing Company  
Amsteldijk 44, P.O. Box 52519  
1007 HA Amsterdam  
Netherlands  
Telephone: (020)73 81 56; FAX:  
(020)73 97 73

or

821 Bethlehem Pike  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
USA

Telephone: (215)836-1200; FAX:  
(215)836-1204

Questions about currency convertibility may be addressed to the publisher, or to Frank Byrne, Dept. of Linguistics, Shawnee State Univ., Portsmouth, OH 45662-4303, USA. Telephone (614)355-2300 or (619)355-2332; FAX (619)355-2416.

A motion was passed unanimously to send a letter of thanks to Dr. ADDINGTON, the administrator at Shawnee State Univ. who has consistently provided strong support for the Society.



John Singler,  
Member-at-Large

**PROCEEDINGS:** Selected papers from the first meeting of SPCL, in Dec. 1989, will be published in book form by John Benjamins in the Netherlands. The editors are Frank BYRNE and John HOLM.

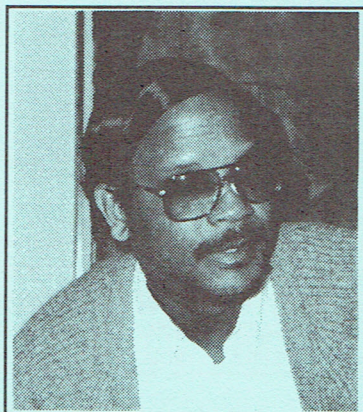
### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP FEES/ RESTRICTED CURRENCY AREA FEES:

A motion was passed unanimously by voice vote: Bona fide students will be eligible to become members of the Society for \$4 per year, and they will not be required to subscribe to the *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages*. Potential members from countries whose currencies cannot be converted into US dollars will be allowed to join the Society gratis (without receiving *JPCL*) as long as their currency



situation lasts. The Executive Secretary of SPCL shall be the judge of eligibility under these provisions. Inquiries should be sent to Frank BYRNE (see address, telephone, and FAX above.)

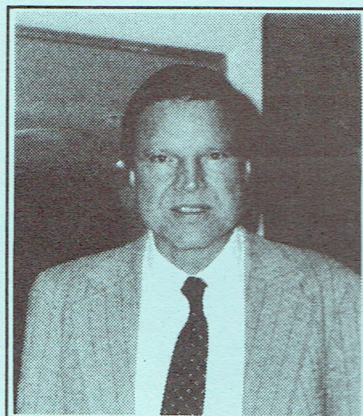
A second motion was passed unanimously by voice vote: Potential members with currency difficulties, from non-First-World countries (i.e., those applicants residing in countries whose currencies,



Donald Winford, Member-at-Large

although theoretically exchangeable into US dollars, nevertheless present considerable obstacles in doing so), will be eligible to become members of SPCL for a period of two years, with membership dues of \$8 per year. They will not be required to subscribe to *JPCL*. The Executive Secretary shall be the judge of eligibility. This policy will be reviewed by the Society in two years' time. Inquiries should be sent to Frank Byrne.

It was agreed to publish the annual Minutes of SPCL's business meeting in the *Carrier Pidgin*.



Glenn Gilbert, Editor, *Journal of Pidgin & Creole Languages*

#### ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL MEETINGS:

A motion that SPCL meet every year passed by voice vote.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETING SITES: A

motion that SPCL meet in Philadelphia with

the Linguistic Society of America, Jan. 9-12, 1992, passed unanimously by voice vote.

A second motion passed unanimously by voice vote: The SPCL Executive Committee is charged with exploring other possibilities for meetings in the future and is asked to report at the next business meeting on its findings.

**CONSTITUTION:** The Constitution of the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** There were no contested positions and everyone

nominated was elected unanimously.

President: Frank BYRNE

Vice President: John HOLM

Members of the Executive Committee:

The President, the Vice President, the Editor of *JPCL*, and three members at large. Elected were: Charlene SATO, John SINGLER, and Don WINFORD.

The Executive Committee and other members present were unanimous in their selection of Frank BYRNE as Executive Secretary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Gilbert, Recorder.



## CARRIER PIDGIN REVIEW

**John M. LIPSKI.** 1989. *The Speech of the Negros Congos of Panama* (Creole Language Library, Vol. 4). Amsterdam: John Benjamins. pp. vii, 159. \$53.00 cloth.

This book offers a look at a seldom described phenomenon of great potential interest to creolists: a speech variety that "is fundamentally a language of improvisation, exaggeration and burlesque" (p. 11): in certain communities on the Caribbean side of Panama each Carnival season sees the performance of *congo* ceremonies, reenactments of events from the history of that country's African slaves. The brotherhoods of initiates carrying out these ceremonies use a special language, nobody's native language – among other things, "to dazzle and mystify spectators" (p. 3). Lipski aims to describe the Costa Arriba dialect of the language, to evaluate "its possible origin as an Afro-Hispanic creole, and to assess...[its]...importance for general theories of creolization...and of African influence on Latin American Spanish" (p. 2).

The introductory chapter (pp. 1-10) summarizes succinctly the cultural setting of the language and some key issues about the associated ceremonies. Lipski's description of his research methods gives a reasonable basis for judging the naturalness of what is presented in the rest of the book.

Chapter 2 (pp. 11-37) describes *congo* syntax and semantics in terms of "modifications" of local Spanish, consonant with Lipski's starting point that *congo* is the result of modifying and deforming a popular Spanish base (p. 1). Morphological deviation from local Spanish includes both regularization of irregular verb forms and irregularization of regular ones, as well as substitutions of one tense, number, etc. category for another (but almost no use of uninflected infinitives for other forms). Nominal gender is partially neutralized in substantives, while pronouns, as well as adverbs and prepositions, show little morphological deviation from local Spanish. Syntactic deviation includes a higher frequency of subject pronouns, a declarative word order for WH-questions with some pronominal subjects (*¿Como usted se llama?*), frequent omission of prepositions (especially *de* and *a*), occasional omission of copulative *ser*, a high incidence of present tense (which may be partly a reflection of the circumstance of use of *congo*), and a high frequency of negatives.

This last feature reflects one strategy for achieving the principal feature of semantic deviation, the most salient feature of *congo* to outsiders, "semantic inversion," where intended meaning is the opposite of literal meaning. Such inversion is done in an unpredictable enough way that the intended meaning of virtually every utterance can be determined only by recourse to its extralinguistic context. It is accomplished by substitution of semantically opposite lexemes (*vivi* 'live' for 'dead') and phrases ('we were sitting outside in the street' for 'we were sitting in the bar'), substitution of a semantically related lexeme (*durmiendo* 'sleeping' for 'dreaming') and insertion of negatives.

In addition to these clear descriptions of differences between *congo* and local Spanish, this chapter offers some points of broader interest. The first is that neither "the 'classical' framework of variational studies, nor of structural or generative dialectology" (p.



12) can be applied to the variation within *congo*, for several reasons stemming from the sociology of its use: it is spoken natively by no one, acceptance of utterances is closely tied to acceptance of their speakers, the language is learned primarily during an initiation process without the usual constant feedback of normal language learning situations, and there are several distinguishable degrees of "competence," definable as much in terms of one's social position as one's speech.

The final section of this chapter, "Similarities with vestigial Spanish," is important for Lipski's goal of evaluating *congo*'s origins and its significance for creolization theories. Lipski presents some 40 examples of vestigial and semi-speaker Spanish, then with very brief discussion concludes that the "overall strategies" of deviations from some standard Spanish are the same for *congo* as for these other varieties. Since *congo* speakers "did learn Spanish under native-language conditions," this similarity "supports the tentative conclusion that contemporary *congo* speech represents the continuation of an earlier, legitimately Afro-Hispanic speech mode, which has subsequently suffered the effects of deliberate distortion and exaggeration, as well as the loss of collective awareness of its original structures" (p. 36).

Chapter 3 (pp. 39-48) describes the main phonetic features of *congo*. Two of the "fixed phenomena" (neutralization of /l d r ɾ/; low frequency of fricativization of /b d g/ differ from regional Spanish, while the others (neutralization of trill /r/ and flap /r/; aspiration or deletion of syllable-final /s/; velarization of word-final /n/) do not. More important is the spontaneous, occasional phonetic deformation of Spanish words by vocalic substitution (*sumuna sunta* for *semana santa*) and consonantal epenthesis (usually syllable-interior insertion of [r] or [ri]: *crambio* for *cambio*, *ehcoprieta* for *escopeta*).

The comparison of *congo* and Panamanian Spanish phonology is continued in a separate chapter (pp. 49-65), because of the special importance Lipski gives to comparisons "in the area of phonetics/phonology, since it is in this dimension that the theories of Afro-Hispanic language contact are most controversial..." (p. 49). A comparison of Costa Arriba Spanish with that of Panama City, and then with *congo*, fleshes out the observations of the previous chapter. From these observations Lipski concludes that *congo*, "inasmuch as it represents a carryover of earlier Africanized Spanish, has absorbed most of the changes that have affected regional Spanish, while maintaining (or perhaps restoring) those features most closely aligned with creolized Spanish" (p. 64).

These comparisons provide the basis for the final and longest chapter (pp. 67-114), on "the possible African basis for *congo* speech." Lipski examines and rejects, with well-reasoned arguments, the hypothesis that *congo* is "a modern invention, based on simple stereotypes of *habla de negros* found in Hispanic literature" (p. 67). Although *congo* does share many features with *bozal* Spanish and Portuguese, it lacks "evidence of having contained many of the specific elements [such as massive reduction of pronominal paradigms] which form the principal supports of the monogenetic creole theories" (p. 85). On the other hand, the great differences in rhythm and intonation between *congo* and local Spanish, as well as the segmental differences mentioned earlier, argue against *congo*'s being "merely a spontaneously invented verbal game devoid of historical connections with earlier partially creolized Spanish" (p. 104). Despite his initial characterization of *congo* as a modification of a local Spanish base, Lipski finds irrefutable the conclusion that "in some measure, this dialect derives from earlier, partially or totally Africanized Spanish" (p. 108), although the distortions it has subsequently undergone have left us with only "hints but no proofs of African birth" (p. 109).

There follows an Appendix (pp. 129-159) made up of three *congo* "fragments," each followed by its "essential Spanish" translation. Comparison between *congo* text and translation is tedious, for not only are there no sentence numbers or other cross-referencing device, there are also *congo* sentences that appear to have been skipped over in the translation. The total lack of linguistic (and social) commentary further reduces the usability of an otherwise presumably useful sample of Lipski's data. This drawback is especially maddening in light of Lipski's frequent references to the Appendix.

Bibliographical discrepancies and omissions abound. Typos are much fewer than in some other volumes of the CLL, but still fairly frequent. A map of the towns and regions of the fieldwork of the author and of those he refers to would have been very helpful.

Despite these shortcomings of the volume, Lipski has succeeded in clearly describing a very unusual speech phenomenon with clear relevance to questions of creolization and of African influences on New World languages, and in pointing out some of its implications in these areas. We creolists are in his debt.



Reviewed by George Huttar (Summer  
Institute of Linguistics, Suriname)

## ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS

The **Genesis of Haitian Creole Project**, Dept. of Linguistics, Université du Québec à Montréal, invites applications for three doctoral grants to be awarded to native speakers of Haitian Creole interested in generative linguistics. The three-year grants (with a possibility of a fourth year extension) begin **September 1, 1991**, and include:

- \$1000 per month
- \$1500 for books & supplies
- Free tuition and insurance
- Access to computers and other resources of the project
- Office space

While fulfilling normal doctoral degree requirements, grantees will participate in the research activities of the project and will write their doctoral thesis on an aspect of Haitian Creole grammar.

Candidates should send a letter of application, their academic record, and two letters of recommendation to:

Claire Lefebvre or John S. Lumsden  
Recherche créole  
Université du Québec à Montréal  
P.O. Box 8888, Station A  
Montréal, Québec  
Canada H3C 3P8

The application deadline is **March 1, 1991**. Results of the competition will be announced at the end of May 1991.

## SCL NEWS

The Society for Caribbean Linguistics meeting will be held in August, 1992, at the University of the West Indies at Cave Hill, Barbados. For further information, contact Kathryn Shields-Brodber, Dept. of Linguistics and Use of English, Univ. of the West



Mervyne Alleyne, Dhanis Jaganauth,  
Katherine Fischer, Ian Robertson  
at 1990 SCL Meeting



Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica.



Fred Cassidy, Glenn Gilbert,  
Janet Donnelly at 1990 Meeting

## CONFERENCES, COURSES & LECTURES

Three undergraduate, one-credit courses in creole languages were taught by Carl MEIGS at Eastern Connecticut State Univ. in the fall of 1990. Course topics included: Introduction to creole Englishes; writers in 'local' languages of Hawai'i and the Caribbean; and contemporary Hawaiian authors, including Eric Chock, Juliet Kono, Darrell Lum, and Milton Murayama. For more information, contact Carl Meigs, c/o Dept. of English, Eastern Connecticut State Univ., Willimantic, CT 06226.

Two papers dealing in part with the reception of creolist views on the origins of Afrikaans in South Africa were presented at the 5th INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON NETHERLANDIC STUDIES, held at the Univ. of California at Los Angeles, June 19-22, 1990:

Paul T. ROBERGE. "From 'Verbasterte Hollands' to 'Dochtertaal van het Nederlands' to 'Afrikataal': Afrikaner linguistic mythology in flux."

Hein WILLEMSE. "Rethinking Afrikaans language and literature."

Papers presented at the SOCIETY FOR PIDGIN AND CREOLE LINGUISTICS MEETING, Jan. 4, 1991 (held concurrently with the Linguistic Society of America meeting in Chicago, Jan. 3-6, 1991):

Flore ZÉPHIR. "Social dimensions of bilingualism in Haiti."

Kenneth M. SUMBUK. "Is Tok Pisin a threat to Sare?"

E.F. KOTZÉ. "Afrikaans in the context of creole linguistics: Dismantling linguistic apartheid."

Charlene J. SATO. "Applying creole sociolinguistics: Hawai'i Creole English on trial."

Satoshi S. KOIKE. "Semantic change in Hawai'i Creole English lexicon from Japanese."

David M. JEUDA. "The Portuguese lexical element in Papiamentu."

J.P. WILLIAMS. "A preliminary survey of Papuan-based pidgins."

Carol BLACKSHIRE-BELAY. "Does foreign workers' German have its own grammar?"

Dingxu SHI. "Pidian, pigeon, or business."

Kate HOWE. "Haitian Creole and Papiamentu: Complementizers or relative pronouns?"

Armin SCHWEGLER. "Notions on decreolization and the misanalysis of Palenquero negation."

Shobha SATYANATH. "On tense marking of *daz* in Guyanese English Creole."

Michel F. DEGRAFF. "Haitian Creole and the pro-drop parameter."

Viviane DEPRez & Marie-Thérèse VINET. "Se in Haitian Creole: An ambiguous X' category."

Anand SYEA. "Against a predicate raising (PR) rule in Mauritian Creole."

Wayne O'NEIL. "On the structure and history of IP in Nicaraguan English."

Salikoko S. MUFWENE. "On the status of auxiliary verbs in Gullah."

Guy CARDEN. "Corps reflexives in French creoles."

Glenn GILBERT. "The future tense in the English and Dutch-based Caribbean creoles."

Charles MANN. "Polysemic functionality of Ps in PSc: *fo* in Anglo-Nigerian Pidgin."

Arthur K. SPEARS. "Haitian stem verb forms."

Silvia KOUWENBERG. "Reduplication in Berbice Dutch Creole."

Charles GILMAN. "A Bantu model for Seselwa *pudir*."

Gerardo A. LORENZINO. "Structural comparison of the Spanish-based creoles."

Charles DeBOSE. "Systemic convergence in the African-American linguistic repertoire."

Robin SABINO. "On onsets: Explaining Netherhollands initial clusters."

Eric SCHILLER. "Why serial verb constructions? Neither bioprogram nor substrate!"

Donald WINFORD. "Directional serial verb constructions in CEC."

Hildo H. do COUTO. "The genesis of Portuguese Creole in Africa."

Guy CARDEN, Morris GOODMAN,

Rebecca POSNER & William A. STEWART. "A 1671 French Creole text from Martinique."

Peter A. SLOMANSON. "Views of two early twentieth century linguists on language variation and change."

Eduardo B. FAINGOLD. "Creolization and child language."

John HOLM. "American Black English and Afrikaans: Two Germanic semi-creoles."

Lise WINER. "Persistence in decreolization."

Mwamba T. KAPANGA. "Shaba Swahili and the processes of linguistic contact."

Frederick C.V. JONES. "A look at the potential for expressiveness in Krio."

Maureen HEALY. "Preliminary study for a Sranan Creole continuum model."

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & COURSES

SUMMER, 1991. FIRST ANNUAL HAWAII TALKS. Univ. of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hawai'i, USA. Courses to be offered: Pidgins and Creoles (Suzanne ROMAINE); Hawai'i's Literature (Miyoko SUGANO). For further information write to: Summer Session, Univ. of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo, HI 96720-4091. (808) 933-3555.

A special session on Pacific Pidgins and Creoles will be held during the 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUSTRONESIAN LINGUISTICS, May 20-24 in Honolulu, HI, USA. Papers to be presented at this session will include:

Chris CORNE. "Notes on Tayo, the Creole French of Saint-Louis, New Caledonia."

Sabine EHRHART. "The development of the preverbal markers in St. Louis Creole: Formation of a TMA system?"

Peter MÜHLHÄUSLER. "Atlas of languages of intercultural communication in the Pacific."

Suzanne ROMAINE. "The inclusive/exclusive distinction in Tok Pisin."

Charlene SATO. "Decreolization in real time."

Geoff SMITH. "Cohesion in contemporary Tok Pisin."

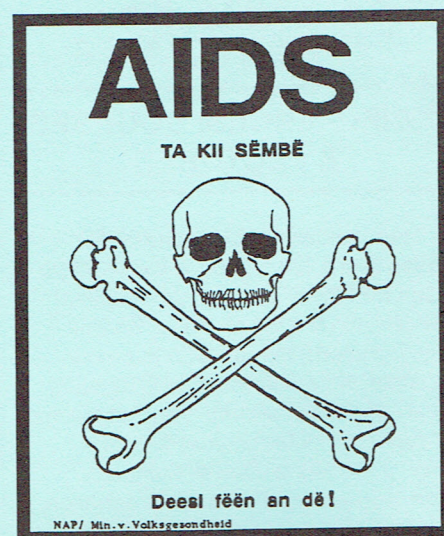
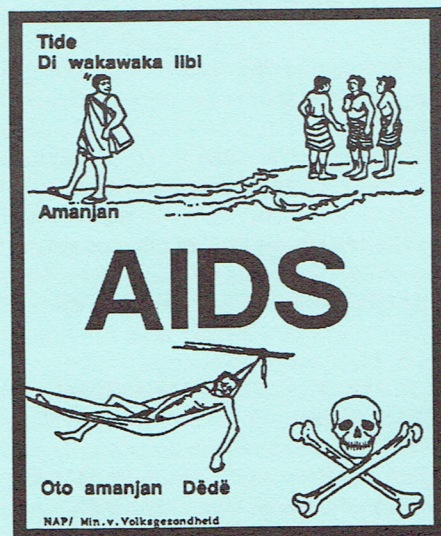
For further information on the Pidgins and Creoles session, contact Suzanne Romaine, c/o Dept. of Linguistics, Georgetown Univ., Washington, D.C. 20057. E-mail [romaine@guvax.georgetown.edu](mailto:romaine@guvax.georgetown.edu). For iConference information, contact Byron Bender, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI 96822. FAX (808)956-2191; E-mail [bender@uhccux.uhcc.hawaii.edu](mailto:bender@uhccux.uhcc.hawaii.edu).



## PIDGINS AND CREOLES IN THE NEWS

George HUTTAR (Summer Institute of Linguistics, Suriname) writes that the Suriname Ministry of Public Health has started using Saramaccan in its campaign against AIDS. A number of posters in Saramaccan have been developed in cooperation with the Summer Institute of Linguistics and have been appearing in both of the Paramaribo dailies (see below). Selected posters will be used, along with a Saramaccan adaptation of a film from Ghana about AIDS, in an educational campaign in Saramaccan along the Suriname River, an area of Suriname with high incidence of the disease.

Huttar also reports that viewers of national news broadcasts have recently heard both Saramaccan and Ndjuká in the news: Saramaccan during footage about the anti-AIDS campaign, Ndjuká in a speech by Jungle Commando leader Ronnie Brunswijk. While the latter was not entirely unaffected by Srananisms, it was basically Ndjuká, in contrast to the formal and/or Dutch-larded Sranan which viewers heard from Brunswijk, Army chief Bouterse, and others on and around 25 February, the tenth anniversary of the coup that put the military in power from 1980 to 1987.



The Saramaccan AIDS posters were designed by Catherine Rountree, a colleague of George Huttar who has been working with the people of Suriname since 1968. She has provided the following translations:

Poster 1: Tide (*Today*) Di wakawaka libi (*The promiscuous lifestyle*) Amanjan (*Tomorrow*) AIDS (*AIDS*) Oto amanjan (*The day after tomorrow*) Dëdë (*Death*)

Poster 2: Un boo tapa AIDS (*Let's stop AIDS*) Puu buka a dee lobima fii! (*Break your agreements with your lovers!*) Go a data go suku lai (*Go to the doctor or get advice*)

Poster 3: AIDS ta kii sëmbë (*AIDS kills people*) Deesi fëen an dë! (*There is no medicine for it!*)



## PIDGINS & CREOLES IN EDUCATION

### Tok Pisin in Formal Education in Papua New Guinea

by Jeff Siegel (Univ. of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia)

Tok Pisin (New Guinea Pidgin) is one of the most widely spoken (and most famous) of pidgin languages. It is also the pidgin language which has had the greatest role in the formal (Western-style) education of its speakers. The following gives a brief history of Tok Pisin in education in Papua New Guinea, describes in more detail one successful current program, and mentions some recent developments.

### History

Although until recently Tok Pisin was not officially used in government schools, it has been used as a medium of instruction for years in the many church-run schools that provide a large proportion of primary education in the country. The Divine Word Mission of the Roman Catholic Church declared Tok Pisin its official language as early as 1931. Although the Lutheran church preferred using indigenous church lingua francas for education, they did have at least one 'Pidgin school' as early as 1950.

In 1955 the Director of Education of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, W. C. Groves, made the following recommen-

dation in a report entitled *The problem of language: Paper No. 1: 'Pidgin'*:

I believe that, if Pidgin were officially and openly adapted for educational and other communication purposes in the Territory...the result in accelerated development of the Native people would be inestimable (pp. i-ii).

But in 1962, negative attitudes of the Australian Administration towards Tok Pisin won out and the Education Department decreed that only English should be used in schools receiving subsidies from the government.

However, the Evangelical Lutheran



Church of PNG established a 'Bible School' program to be distinct from the Administration's official education program so that vernacular languages including Tok Pisin could still be taught. In 1973 there were 340 teachers and 9500 students at Lutheran primary schools where Tok Pisin was the main (or sometimes the only) medium of instruction. (See articles by Francis Mihalic and G.L. Renck in *New Guinea area languages and language study*, Vol. 3, *Language, culture, society and the modern world*, edited by Stephen S. Wurm. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics C-40, 1977, pp. 643-669).

The widest range of programs using Tok Pisin as the medium of instruction is still run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG. Duaro Embi, Assistant Secretary for Tok Ples Education for the Lutheran Church in Lae, reports that at the end of 1989 a total of 1189 students were enrolled in 78 primary schools, 15 high schools, and 6 training institutions, all with a policy of using Tok Pisin.

### The Tok Pisin Preschool Program

Another large and successful educational program is the Tok Pisin Preschool program in the Ambunti District of the East Sepik Province. This program is run by Pacific Islands Ministries (PIM) and is coordinated by Edward Wiruk, assisted by David Kassen. It is mainly a two year preschool 'bridging' or transitional program which teaches initial literacy in Tok Pisin to children six or seven years old before they go on to English-medium government schools. Instruction is all in Tok Pisin, and besides basic reading and writing, includes fundamental mathematics, health and hygiene, cultural activities, religious instruction, social studies, and physical education.

The program was started in the district centre of Ambunti in 1985, with two schools and 150 students in four classes. At present there are 14 schools with more than 800 students in 25 classes and a total of 35 teachers, supported by dozens of different villages throughout the district. There are no roads, and transport within the district is nearly all done by dugout canoe up and down the Sepik River and its tributaries. Some schools are more than an eight hours' journey from Ambunti by motorized canoe.

The Tok Pisin Preschool program is a good example of grass-roots, community-based education. A community originally makes a request to PIM for a preschool to be set up. When the request has been approved, the community selects two people to become teachers and go to

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Ambunti for the 10 weeks' training course run by Edward Wiruk and his assistants at the PIM headquarters. The community is responsible for building the classroom (usually made out of traditional bush materials) and paying the teachers.

When the preschools first started, many teachers in the government schools were opposed to the use of Tok Pisin. They thought that the children's learning to read and write first in Tok Pisin would interfere with their later learning of English. But now, the general opinion seems to be that the Tok Pisin Preschools not only help children to adjust to the government school environment but also actually help rather than hinder the learning of English, as well as other subjects.

Although the popularity of the preschools is mainly due to the success of their 'graduates' in the government schools, the advantages of literacy in Tok Pisin are also important to adults. The district is linguistically quite diverse, with over 20 different languages. Knowledge of Tok Pisin is nearly universal, and besides being spoken as the lingua franca, it is widely used for reading (in church services) and for writing letters (these days, especially love letters). In fact, five of the fourteen preschools have recently been established in very isolated areas where there are no government schools, and many of the students are as old as 11 or 12.

### Recent developments in government schools

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the newly independent Papua New Guinea government simply carried on with the educational policy established by the Australian Administration. But revolutionary changes in educational policy have taken place since the 1986 appearance of the Ministerial Committee Report, *A philosophy of education for Papua New Guinea*. The most recent development is that the Secretary of Education has recently (June 6, 1989) endorsed a plan

including a list of responsibilities and strategies for raising the level of literacy in the country. The preamble to this plan is as follows:

In order to improve the quality of education, to strengthen traditional cultures and values, to facilitate participation by citizens in national life, to promote national unity and to raise the level of literacy in Tok Ples, Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu and English, we recommend the development of educational programmes to ensure that children, out of school youth and adults become literate in Tok Ples, transfer their skills to Tok Pisin, Hiri Motu or English and maintain their literacy skills in these languages.

The plan encourages communities to set up preparatory classes to teach initial literacy in Tok Ples before children enter Grade 1. It is up to each community to decide what Tok Ples is to be used. 'Tok Ples' usually refers to indigenous vernacular languages, but in the plan it is defined to also include lingua francas such as Tok Pisin. Details of new programs emerging from this plan are not yet available, but several sets of literacy teaching materials in Tok Pisin have been developed in four National Literacy Training Courses run since November 1989 by Nick Faraclas and Naihuwo Ahai of the University of Papua New Guinea.

In conclusion, it looks like Tok Pisin is about to enter another expansion stage – this time in the formal education system of Papua New Guinea.

[This column is extracted from *Pidgins and Creoles in Education (PACE) Newsletter 1* (see below).]

### The Pidgins and Creoles in Education (PACE) Project

This project was started in 1989 to find out about the current use of pidgin and creole languages in education, mainly in Australia and the southwest Pacific region but also in other areas of the world. Another aim of the project is to study the effectiveness of using pidgins and creoles in education in terms of both academic achievement and community aspirations.

As part of the project, a newsletter is being produced and circulated with information on past and current educational programs and evaluation studies. [For further information see the *CP*, Vol. 18, no. 2, p. 5.]

**If yu wen muv o yu  
wen cheinj yaw æjres,  
go let as no, æh.**



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Eh, wi laik no wat  
yu ste wrking awn  
laidæt, so wai no  
rait tu as!

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what you're working  
on, so write to us!



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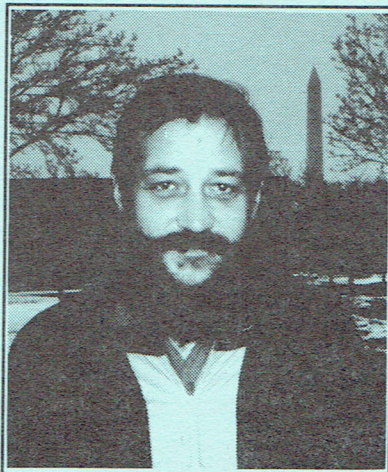
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The photo above is reprinted here to compensate for the one that appeared in Vol. XVIII, No. 3 of the CP, as part of the Focus on Creolists piece on Vladimir Belikov. Our apologies to Dr. Belikov.

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