

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom



14.00

Magnus Fischer / Katrin Mutz / Carolin Patzelt

Introduction

Creole languages and transnational migration

14.30

Bettina Migge

The role of norms and styling in diasporic creole communities

Much of this research diaspora practices takes a structural linguistic approach and applies quantitative methods of investigation. The aim is to discover differences and similarities in the distribution of variants in the two settings and the factors that impact their distribution. While this research has revealed the emergence of innovative linguistic features, it has generally not been able to contextualise these changes; it is not clear why they emerge and if they have social salience. In this paper I argue that a more holistic approach is required to fully understand the dynamics of change in diaspora settings: we want to know the changes that occur and the processes that drive them. To this end, I first discuss the notion of norm arguing that we need to move away from a strictly structural or western understanding of norms which identifies them with linguistic rules and descriptive or prescriptive grammars only. Instead, I argue that we should focus on larger principles that guide speech in a particular context and how this impacts on language practices in a given context. This requires gaining insights into local language typologies and ideologies, their linguistic correlates and how they are deployed in interaction. In this presentation I try to exemplify these issues based on data from the Eastern Maroon community.

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom

15.15

Cédric Audebert

Caribbean diasporic identities in the making: spatial dynamics, contextual hybridities

After having presented the fundamentals of creole language contact - interpersonal, political and social aspects - in the Caribbean, I will analyse the development and new challenges in different diasporic contexts. The political context is determining, as creolization processes depend on the history of the immigrant group, the socio-political context of settlement, the social power relations among minority groups, and the cultural environment in which they are in contact.

Creole structures in diasporic contexts

16.30

Konstanze Jungbluth

gôgô; [vlêmê] bababá: Word-Iteration in Santome Repertoires. The use of reduplication and retriPLICATION in situ and off-site

Reduplication and retriPLICATION belong to the “fuzzy grey zone” between mere repetition performed in discourse, and an already well-studied “formally restricted grammatical process” (Finkbeiner/Freywald 2018, 12). Their janus-faced nature, I argue, results from either syntagmatic or paradigmatic structures. Through the study of Santome repertoires, I focus particularly on the pragmatic power of reduplication and retriPLICATION to express a speaker’s involvement, to gain a hearer’s attention, or to specify the object of discourse

17.15

Jeff Tennant / Véronique Lacoste

Prosodic rhythm in Toronto Haitian English

While extending to the prosodic level from previous analyses of segmental variation in Toronto Haitian English (Lacoste 2021; 2015), and drawing on a pilot study conducted by Lacoste & Tennant (2017),

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom

this study investigates prosodic rhythm in the English speech of 24 Canadians of Haitian descent using the following rhythm metrics: ΔV , ΔC , and %V (Ramus et al. 1999); nPVI-V (Low et al. 2000); VarcoV and VarcoC (Dellwo & Wagner 2003, White & Mattys 2007). Metrics results show variation between stress-timed rhythmic patterns and syllable-timed rhythmic patterns among members of a sociolinguistically heterogeneous diasporic community.

References

Dellwo, V. & Wagner, P. 2003. Relationships between speech rate and rhythm. Proceedings of the 15th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, 471-474.

Lacoste, V. 2021. Mediating linguistic diversity in the diaspora: An illustration from Haitian Canadians. In Albury, Nathan and Schluter, Anne Amber (Special Issue Guest Editors) "Reimagining language and belonging in the diaspora", LINGUA, volume 263, article 102701.

Lacoste, V. 2015. Toronto Haitian English: a preliminary account.

RANAM 48: Accents, variation(s), representation, ed. Maryvonne Boisseau. Strasbourg: Presses Universitaires de Strasbourg. 51-64.

Lacoste, V. & Tennant, J. 2017. Prosodic rhythm in Toronto Haitian English. Paper presented at the PAC (Phonologie de l'Anglais Contemporain) International Conference, held at the Université Paris Nanterre, September 2017.

Low, E. L., Grabe, E., & Nolan, F. 2000. Quantitative Characterizations of Speech Rhythm: Syllable-Timing in Singapore English. *Language and Speech* 43(4): 377-401.

Ramus, F., Nespor, M., & Mehler, J. 1999. Correlates of Linguistic Rhythm in the Speech Signal. *Cognition* 73(3): 265-292.

White, L. & Mattys, S. 2007. Calibrating rhythm: First and second language studies. *Journal of Phonetics*, 35, 501-522.

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom



Mauritian Creole in diasporic contexts

14.30

Patrick Eisenlohr

Creolization and diaspora as linguistic nation-building in Mauritius

Mauritian nation-building has long oscillated between two contrasting forms of nation-building tied to language-making and linguistic differentiation. On one hand, there has been a process of standardization of the predominant vernacular Mauritian Creole with the goal of creating a unified linguistic ethnicity across religious and racial lines that could be a basis for a postcolonial Mauritian nation. On the other hand, the official regime of Mauritian multiculturalism favors a vision of the nation as a diasporic mosaic instead, resulting in support for above all non-vernacular Indian “ancestral languages” tied to religious traditions. A decade ago, Mauritian Creole finally found recognition within this multicultural regime, but only as the ancestral language of the Creoles, the descendants of slaves who were unable to establish diasporic relationships to places of origin outside Mauritius. The paper discusses the different projects of standardization targeting Mauritian Creole and their ideological valencies, showing how the 2012 recognition of Mauritian Creole as a subject to be taught in schools has ironically resulted in the final defeat of Creole ethnolinguistic nationalism in Mauritius.

15.15

Magnus Fischer

Mauritians and Mauritian Creole in Canada

The purpose of this paper is to shed light on linguistic representations and language practices of Mauritian migrants and their Canadian-born children by conducting a qualitative study based on recorded conversations and online questionnaires. It will be shown that Mauritian Creole remains an actively used part of the multilingual

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom

repertoires of the first generation and has an important impact when it comes to identity work and linguistic acculturation. The second generation, however, tends to linguistic assimilation to their Canadian peer groups.

Haitian Creole in diasporic contexts

16.30

Regine O. Jackson

The Haitian diaspora in the USA: race, place and the language of belonging

t.b.a.

17.15

Débora Amaral da Costa

Haitians and Haitian Creole in Rio de Janeiro

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss some social and linguistic representations shared by Haitian immigrants in Rio de Janeiro, elicited through short narratives. The analysis of the data shows that identities and social representations built during migration processes have a strong impact on their linguistic repertoire. Particularly, these external factors change the choices they make of their different languages, such as Creole, Brazilian Portuguese, or French.

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom



Capverdean Creole in diasporic contexts

14.30

Ronny Beckert

Capverdean-Portuguese language contact in urban Portugal

In the Lisbon metropolitan area (Portugal), the Cape Verdean community is one of the largest migrant groups. This talk will address the communicative behavior of speakers of Kabuverdianu as well as the representations of varieties of Kabuverdianu spoken in the Lisbon metropolitan area (badíu vs. sanpadjudu). Finally, some examples of language contact-induced effects on the Cape Verdean language will be presented.

15.15

Christina Märzhäuser

Staging Capeverdean: Rap kriolu in the diaspora

This contribution investigates MCs rapping in Capeverdean in the diasporas in Lisbon, Rotterdam and Boston. It provides a linguistic music market analysis exploring the developments of local rap kriolu networks, the success of the language on public stages and in recordings, and the transnational ties.

Jamaican Creole in diasporic contexts

16.30

Joseph T. Farquharson

Styling the 'Jamaican' other: Diasporic representations of the heritage language

t.b.a.

17.15

Lars Hinrichs

Bicultural identity orientations among Jamaican Canadians: the sociolinguistic correlates of hybrid, alternating, and conflicting identities in a Creole-using diaspora

t.b.a.

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom



Thursday, 31.03.22

Diachronic perspectives on diasporic creole contexts

14.30

Benjamin Hebblethwaite

Haitian Diasporic consciousness and Vodou's lexical field: Historical linguistic approaches to religious language and diasporic identity

Vodou religion's cultural and linguistic system connects Saint-Domingue's African diaspora to its African sources just as it connects Haitians in contemporary Miami to Haiti as well as the more distant African continent. Jewish communities have long demonstrated the importance of religion and its lexical system in the preservation of language and culture in diasporic conditions. To reconstruct the role of religion and its lexicon in the construction of an African diaspora in the French colony of Saint-Domingue (1697-1803), several corpora of Haitian Creole Vodou songs are examined to determine the range and diversity of African sources as well as to understand how they unified under the banner of Sèvis Ginen, one of the major traditions of the religion. The final part examines the growth of the Haitian diaspora in Miami and considers the role of Haitian Vodou practice and its lexicon in affirming Haitian Diasporic identity while remembering African traditions.

15.15

Jo-Anne Ferreira

A return to roots: researching and documenting the French "Creole foundations of Trinidadian speech"

Trinidadian French Creole (TFC) and Trinidadian English Creole (TrinEC) have co-existed since the 19th century. The impact of TFC on TrinEC has been such, at the lexical, morphosyntactic, phonological, discourse and sociolinguistic levels, that at least one scholar (Solomon 1993) has posited that TrinEC may be considered a relexified French Creole. As two Atlantic Creole languages in the

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom

same space, TFC and TrinEC are genetically, typologically and areally related, but diverge where language vitality is concerned. TFC is a disappearing variety, but remains one tied into modern Trinidadian identity. TrinEC, which largely replaced TFC, is one of Trinidad and Tobago's two national spoken languages. But as long as there are still elderly native speakers of TFC, there is an increasingly urgent need for its documentation, even in a pandemic. Research and documentation are fundamental to understanding the development and life cycle of this variety, to its recognition as the foundation of modern Trinidadian speech, and for providing authentic materials in the TFC classroom as both an L2 and as a heritage language for those seeking to return to roots.

Creoles in diasporic contexts: (digital) linguistic repertoires and methods

16.30

Christian Mair

Nigerian Pidgin in Germany: a comparison of immigrants' offline and online linguistic repertoires

My paper will explore how West African immigrant communities in Germany use Pidgin as a lingua franca alongside English and German. On the basis of a corpus of ca. 50 hours of recorded interview-data (both individual and focus groups), it emerges that Pidgin remains ethnolinguistically vital in the diaspora. It adds new communicative functions, readily incorporates lexical borrowings from German and is used alongside German in code-switching practices. Among the more surprising findings is that several interviewees report having to learn Pidgin in the diaspora to establish membership in immigrant communities.

17.15

Eeva Sippola

Collecting and analyzing Creole data in diasporic contexts

This study focuses on best practices of sociolinguistic data collection and analysis in the study of creole communities. Based on an

Short abstracts: International Symposium: Creole languages in diasporic contexts: language biographies and plurilingual identities.

28.03. - 31.03.22 - University of Bremen - via Zoom

extensive literature review, we provide a survey of data collection techniques employed in Romance creole settings. Our aim is to identify specific methodological concerns when working with creole languages in diasporic contexts and propose sustainable solutions to them.

18.00

Discussion

Creoles and diaspora: open questions and possible future research