

## A Comparative Analysis of the Evolution of Pidgin and Creole Languages Globally

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### ABSTRACT

Pidgins and creoles are two unique language forms, born out of linguistic contact in various global contexts, including trade, colonialism and migration. Pidgins evolved as simple means of communication between speakers of different languages, while creoles emerged when pidgins became the mother tongue of certain communities, expanding their grammatical complexity and vocabulary. The aim of the research is to analyze the evolution of pidgin and creole languages globally, including the problems, procedures, relationships of activities, attitudes, views, and influences of certain phenomena. The research compares the evolution of pidgins and creoles globally, exploring the processes of pidginization, creolization, and their distribution and characteristics in different regions. It highlights the social and linguistic dynamics underlying the formation of these languages, while demonstrating the significant role of pidgins and creoles in understanding the evolution of human language. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods to accurately describe facts and situations in society. The research methods include a literature study, where researchers collect data from secondary sources such as books and journals, as well as a historical approach that reviews the development of pidgins and creoles in the context of trade, colonialism and migration. This approach allowed for an in-depth exploration of relevant linguistic and socio-cultural data. The results of this analysis provide deep insights into the relationship between language, culture and history in a changing global context.

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is a unique communication tool used by humans to interact, representing thoughts and feelings through a variety of sentence structures. There are a variety of languages in the world, numbering in the millions (Purawinangun & Wiharja, 2019). Language is a complex entity with various interrelated aspects and functions. Understanding the nature and function of language helps us appreciate the important role of language in human life. Language is not only a means of communication, but also a means to express ourselves, build social relationships, shape culture, think critically, and adapt to technological developments. By understanding language, we can be more effective in communicating and wiser in dealing with social and technological changes.

One of the branches of linguistics that studies a language scientifically is linguistics. This field includes the analysis of language in form, meaning, and context. Linguistics not only examines language at the theoretical level, but also examines how language is used in everyday communication. Meanwhile, Sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society. This includes language variation based on social factors such as class, gender, ethnicity and age, as well as how language reflects and shapes social identity. The basic goal of linguistics is to describe and document the languages of the world. This involves recording the grammar, vocabulary and phonology of existing languages. For example, linguists strive to create comprehensive descriptions of little-known or endangered languages. One of the goals of linguistics is to study the history and evolution of languages. This includes reconstructions of ancient languages and explanations of how languages changed over time. Historical linguistics helps us understand the relationships between languages and how they evolved from a common ancestor. (Srisudarso dkk, 2024)

Linguistic history can shed light on the ways in which language influences social structures, power dynamics, and identity formation within communities. By examining the evolution of language over time, researchers can uncover the patterns of migration, trade and cultural exchange that have shaped the linguistic landscape we see today. This deeper understanding of linguistic history can also inform efforts to preserve endangered languages and revive linguistic diversity in an increasingly globalized world. Moreover, by studying the roots and development of various language families, linguists can trace the interconnectedness of human societies and the ways in which language has been a driving force in shaping human history (Chacon, 2022). By examining changes in vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation, linguists can uncover the relationships between different languages and understand the cultural influences that have shaped them. By comparing linguistic features across different time periods and geographic regions, linguists can piece together the puzzle of human communication and its role in shaping our world. Ultimately, a deep understanding of linguistic history can provide valuable insights into the complex and intertwined nature of language and culture. (Jayadi et al., 2024)

The literature to date is abundant with evidence to support that language evolution must have occurred gradually. The evolutionary scenario that seems most interesting is the emergence of pidgins and creoles. The variation between pidgins (or creoles) and other languages depends on the degree of convergence among speakers. Each speaker has a unique history of linguistic interaction and is exposed to different linguistic data, so their grammar may not be the same. Bickerton and Givón argue that the development of creole and pidgin languages can provide an understanding of the evolution of language in humans. They argue that creoles typically emerge from pidgins spoken by children, who then develop those pidgins into more complex languages with complete syntactic systems (Mufwene, 1998)

Pidgins are contact languages and like all contact languages arise under conditions of interaction between people with different language backgrounds. Pidgins usually develop from a blend of foreign and home languages. Crystal explains that most pidgin languages today grew up along world trade routes especially in the parts where the British, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch built their empires. He states that about sixty million people speak or understand Pidgin languages worldwide. Akmajian and others add that Pidgin usually emerged in colonial situations even though it basically started as a trade language (Obi, 2014). The process of trading between regions or between countries resulted in the evolution of language among traders. The new language that emerges from the agreement of the meeting of these foreigners continues to develop, so that it can be used for generations.

Pidgins and creoles are effective solutions to communication problems. These languages were created by and for their users over generations, using a variety of existing resources, and adapted to changing communication needs (Botha, 2006). However, the history of creole and pidgin language development on European plantations and trading colonies in the 17th and 19th centuries does not reflect the evolutionary conditions that produced modern languages as proposed

by Bickerton and Givón. Thus, the evolution of pidgin and creole languages has been the subject of much debate among linguists.

Understanding the nature and function of language is very important for various disciplines such as linguistics, psychology, sociology and anthropology. The study of language not only helps us understand how language works, but also how language affects the way we think, behave and interact with others. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of pidgin and creole languages globally. Thus, readers can gain insight into the evolution of language.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. Descriptive method is research that aims to accurately describe facts and situations in society. This research studies problems, procedures, activity relationships, attitudes, views, and ongoing processes, as well as the influence of certain phenomena. Thus, the descriptive method tries to describe the object or subject under study in accordance with reality (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023). This method is particularly appropriate for analyzing the evolution of pidgin and creole languages globally. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of relevant linguistic and socio-cultural data. The research methods used include: Literature Study Researchers collected and analyzed data from secondary sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and documents related to pidgin and creole languages. The literature includes linguistic theories, language evolution, and case studies of pidgins and creoles in different regions. Historical Approach This research reviews the historical development of pidgins and creoles in various contexts, such as international trade, colonialism and migration, to understand the factors that drove the formation and spread of these two language types.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Pidgin Language**

#### **Definition and Characteristics of Pidgin**

The etymology of the word “pidgin” is a controversial topic. The term is often referred to as “jargon” or “lingua franca.” The Oxford English Dictionary states that “pidgin” may derive from the English Pidgin Chinese pronunciation of the word “business” or from the word “pigeon,” which is pronounced similarly to “pidgin.” The first recorded use of the word “pidgin” was in 1807, and decades later, the term became a common designation for all pidgin languages.

A pidgin is a language that emerged from interlingual contact in trading communities, usually on the coast. According to the Indonesian Dictionary, a pidgin is the simplified use of two or more languages for communication between migrants and natives. Pidgins, often called trade languages, develop when traders from different language backgrounds interact. It is a marginal language that meets specific communication needs and has a simple syntactic structure and lacks flexibility (Santoso, 2010).

#### **Characteristics of the pidgin language**

Pidgin languages possess several distinctive characteristics. One of the most notable features is the lack of morphology, which sets them apart from fully developed languages. Pidgins emerge as language variations resulting from contact between two or more languages with complementary distributions. The process of their formation is known as pidginization. Unlike other languages, pidgins have no native speakers, as they are primarily used for communication between members of different communities. Their grammar is significantly simplified and reduced compared to the grammar of their input languages. Additionally, pidgins typically draw the majority of their vocabulary from one language, referred to as the lexifier. The lexifier is often a European colonizer language, such as English, Spanish, French, or Dutch, which are also called superstrata (Suraiya, 2020).

## Origins and Implementation of the Pidgin Language

Pidgins and creoles are languages that develop when groups of people who do not share a common language need to communicate, usually as a result of trade or large-scale migration. In these situations, they develop their own ways of communicating by simplifying the language or using words from other languages. If the group keeps interacting, communicative conventions can emerge, resulting in a new language called pidgin. The pidgin lexicon comes from a variety of languages, with most words coming from one main language called the 'lexifier'. However, pidgin grammar differs from the lexifier and other contributing languages, and is simpler, with a smaller lexicon and less morphological marking.

This type of pidgin is usually used as a medium of communication between groups and is not considered a means of literacy. However, in some cases, its use extends into colloquial speech in multilingual countries, thus becoming more lexically and grammatically complex, called 'expanded pidgin'. Examples include Melanesian Pidgin with three dialects: Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea (spoken by over 4 million people), Pijin in the Solomon Islands, and Bislama in Vanuatu. Nigerian Pidgin is also an example of an expanded pidgin, with over 30 million speakers, and both of these languages are inflected by English (Siegel, 2005). The following will describe the pidgin languages spoken around the world

**Table 1. Examples of Pidgin Languages in the World (Khan, 2021)**

Pidgin	Description
Chinuk Waka	The Chinuk Waka language, spoken in the Pacific Northwest such as Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, and Northern California, is largely based on Chinook, with influences from French and some loanwords from English.
Nefamese	Nefam, also known as Arunam, is a language spoken by people in Arunachal Pradesh, a state in India.
Liberian Pidgin English	This language, known by its speakers as Kolokwa or Liberian Kreyol, is a pidgin based on English. It is widely spoken in Liberia as a second language by many people.
Nauruan Pidgin English	Nauruan Pidgin English is a language derived from two main sources: Chinese Pidgin English, which is now extinct, and Melanesian-type English. It is still spoken by residents on Nauru, a small island located in the Central Pacific. Despite its English roots, Nauruan Pidgin English has evolved into a unique and distinctive form that reflects Nauru's local culture and context.
Hiri Motu	Hiri Motu, known as Motu Police in Papua New Guinea, is an interesting language to study because of its position between pidgin and creole.
Settla	Settla is a Swahili pidgin created to facilitate communication between native Swahili speakers and English-speaking settlers in Kenya and Zambia.
Fanakalo	Fanakalo, also known as Pidgin Zulu, is spoken by hundreds of thousands of people in South Africa and Zimbabwe. The language developed during the colonial era to facilitate communication between British settlers and servants, as well as between British and Dutch colonies.
Tok Pisin	This language is spoken in Papua New Guinea.
Kamtok	Cameroonian pidgin language based on English.

## Pidgin West Africa

The rapid growth of Pidgin in the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in an estimated 140 million speakers, making it the largest language group in West Africa and one of the largest in Africa. In the following section, the author will discuss the historical and sociolinguistic background to this development, before discussing the emergence of Pidgin as a global language with important social, political and economic roles.

**Table 2: Estimated Number of West African Pidgin Language Speakers**

Variety	Country spoken	Speaker estimates	Percentage of population (2022)
Naija	Nigeria	80-112 mil	36-51%
Cameroon Pidgin	Cameroon	10-15 mil	36-54%
Ghanaian Pidgin	Ghana	8 mil	24%
Krio	Sierra Leone	8 mil	89%
Pichi	Equatorial Guinea	200,000	10%
Aku	The Gambia	14,000	0.5%
Total	West Africa	c. 106-143 mil	36-48%

Table 2 shows the estimated number of speakers for the six Pidgin varieties based on the sources cited, adjusted for the latest UN population figures (2022). Based on these estimates, the total speakers of these six varieties range from 106 to 143 million. There are significant differences in the percentage of speakers in each country, ranging from around 50 percent in Nigeria and Cameroon to under one percent in The Gambia. Overall, Pidgin is the largest language group in West Africa, surpassing the region's two largest international languages Hausa (about 100 million speakers) and Manden (at least 20 million speakers) (Yakpo, 2024)

The following is an overview of the five largest pidgin languages in West Africa, namely Nigerian Pidgin, Cameroonian Pidgin, Krio (Sierra Leone), Ghanaian Pidgin, and Pichi (Equatorial Guinea).

a. Nigerian Pidgin

Nigeria plays an important role in the status of AECs in West Africa. With 70-80 million speakers, Nigerian Pidgin (or “Naija”) is the world's largest European contact language and is often used for communication among Nigerians. Nigeria also leads the way in local language planning, incorporating Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo into the school curriculum. Nigerian Pidgin is the most widely spoken language in the media after English, with widespread influence through pop music, radio, and the movie “Nollywood.” It also appears in literature and media. It also appears in literature and news, including a BBC Africa service launched in 2017. Pidgin spelling is etymological and English-oriented.

**Table 3 Analysis of Nigerian Pidgin and English**

No	Pidgin Nigeria	English Language
1.	As you dey cook, pepper go pour you. Oil go pour oyu many things go pour you. Na this new omo I take wash them. E no dey change color.	There is the tendency of being stained while cooking. It could be oil stain Some other stains may also be experienced Omo detergent is the key to cleansing stains It does not fade.
2.	If god be for mi...dis god na helele Jesus na mai papa. Na so so wonder Jesus dey do o.	A supporting God is a great God Jesus is my father Jesus does wonderful things.
3.	Femi, o boy which lecture we get now Na ENG 309 One no kuku sabi whether di man go come.	Tunde: Are we having lectures now? Femi: Yes, we are having ENG 309. Tunde: Are you sure the lecturer will be coming? FEMI: No, I am not sure.
4.	Winner ooo, winner. /2ce Obasanjo you done win o, winner Patapata you go win forever, winner (TV jingle on political campaign)	It is good to win. It is good to be a winner. Winning is desirous. Obasanjo is a winner.

The table above reports an empirical study on Nigerian Pidgin through a structured questionnaire, which analyzed the sample expressions to demonstrate its functional relevance as an effective communication tool in informal contexts. Nigerian Pidgin is frequently used in advertisements, community events and everyday interactions, as it allows for familiar and easy-to-understand message delivery, and serves as a bridge of communication between cultures. In addition, Pidgin has a rhythmic value that gives it a poetic form, making it a

medium of artistic expression in religious slogans and hymns. In academic contexts, students and lecturers use Pidgin extensively, creating an intimate and inclusive atmosphere, and strengthening identity and solidarity among students. Kirk-Green (1971) notes that Pidgin is students' most preferred language for daily interaction, thanks to its simple vocabulary and flexible structure. Pidgin is also used in political campaigns, helping politicians to reach a wider audience and create closeness with the community, demonstrating its role as an everyday communication tool and strategy in social and political contexts. (Balogun, 2012)

b. Pidgin kameru

The sociolinguistic situation of Cameroonian Pidgin, or “Kamtok,” is similar to that of Nigerian Pidgin. Cameroonian Pidgin is the most widely spoken language in the country, with estimated speakers between a quarter to half of the population, reaching up to 10 million. It is dominant in the “Anglophone” provinces of western Cameroon and has spread to the “francophone” provinces, playing an important role in bridging the political divide between the English- and French-speaking communities in Cameroon.

c. Krio (Sierra Leone)

Krio, spoken by the Krio people, has been the primary language of community and identity since the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Through the presence of the Krio people on the west coast of Africa, it influenced and replaced the contact language English lexicon in Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon. Krio continues to acquire L1 speakers from various ethno-linguistic backgrounds in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, with the number of L1 speakers estimated at between five and ten percent of the six million population. In addition, Krio is the most widely spoken L2 language in Sierra Leone, serving as an inter-ethnic language of instruction with high levels of competence across almost the entire population.

d. Ghanaian Pidgin English

While the status of the Krio language in Sierra Leone is relatively high, Ghanaian Pidgin English has the opposite status. Ghanaian Pidgin is not officially recognized and is less present in audio-visual media and advertising than other MEAs. In pop culture, despite the growth of AEC, Ghanaian Pidgin is not as popular as in Nigeria. Most songs in the Ghanaian pop music industry are still sung in the Akan language, although Ghanaian Pidgin also appears in the Hiplife genre, which is an offshoot of Ghanaian Hip Hop music.

e. Pichi (Equatorial Guinea)

About seventy percent of the population of the island of Bioko, or about 150,000 speakers, regularly use Pichi in a variety of multilingual contexts. Pichi-speaking communities are ethnically and culturally diverse, including traditional Bioko creole (“Fernandino”) communities and ethnically mixed families, with the majority of speakers being Bube people for whom Pichi is the primary language. Pichi is the most widely spoken African language in Bioko, while Fang is spoken by about ninety percent of the population in the continental part. Both serve as important international languages for Equatoguineans, with Pichi used in interactions with Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ghana since the early 20th century, while Fang also serves as an international language in the Equatorial Guinea region and beyond.

West African MEAs facilitate communication across national, regional and ethnic boundaries in contexts that are highly culturally and linguistically diverse. Several socio-cultural factors have contributed to the expansion of these languages in recent decades: MEAs are becoming the main language in cities, serving as a youthful sociolect in a region with the youngest population, demonstrating tolerance for ethnic variation and uncertainty, and reflecting the dynamics and adaptation of the African experience in the 21st century marked by socio-economic change and accelerated urbanization (Yakpo, 2020).

## Creole Language

### Creole Definition and Characteristics

The term “Creole” comes from the French creole meaning “indigenous,” borrowed from the

Spanish “criollo” meaning “native.” Creoles are commonly known as pidgins that have become the mother tongue of a community. This means a creole is a language developed by the children of pidgin speakers. When children start learning a pidgin as their first language, the language stabilizes. As children grow, they expand the vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar of the creole (Suraiya, 2020). Here are some characteristics of creole languages, namely:

1. Creole languages are often thought to be more similar to each other than to other languages. Many researchers believe that this similarity is due to shared structural features, and not simply due to similarities between languages in Western Europe or coincidence.
2. Creole languages are often considered simpler than other languages, morphologically, syntactically and phonologically.
3. Creole languages have more mixed grammar, with speakers coming from diverse ethnic backgrounds, so the language they speak is considered to be a combination of European vocabulary and structures from African or Asian languages.

From some descriptions of the characteristics of creole languages, it can be concluded that creole languages have unique characteristics that distinguish them from other languages. These languages often have significant structural similarities, are considered simpler in terms of morphology, syntax and phonology, and have a more mixed grammar. Creole speakers come from diverse ethnic backgrounds, which creates a combination of European vocabulary with structures from African or Asian languages.

Muysken argues that creole languages arise from contact between speakers of different languages, which distinguishes them from other language contact outcomes such as language shift, code-switching, borrowing and mixed languages. He points out that there are exceptions in the historical context of creole language emergence, without supporting the assumption that these languages are always similar or simple. In recent decades, some creole researchers, such as McWhorter, Parkvall, and Bakker, have given creole languages a special status. McWhorter argues that creole languages are simpler than other languages, while Parkvall places creoles at the bottom of the complexity scale. Bakker and his colleagues also emphasize the similarities and idiosyncrasies of creole languages, but do not consider simplicity as a reason for the special status. We will review these approaches and focus on the work of Bakker et al, who argue that the application of cutting-edge technology can help explain the unique status of creole languages. Their approach, which uses statistical analysis and phylogenetic calculations, is not yet common in creole language studies. This work has been criticized for relying on flawed data, and other issues also arise when their methodology is scrutinized (Kouwenberg, 2020).

### Creole Language Implementation

There are 18 creole languages recorded in Holm and Patrick (2007), based on the research of Bakker et al. The given attributes, especially “Age” and “Type”, are further explained in the “features” column below.

**Table 4. Examples of Creole Languages in the World**

Creole	Lexifier	Area	Age	Type	CCS Features (out of 97)	Creole Features (out of 69)
Angolar	Portuguese	Atlantic	1550	Maroon	65	63
Berbice	Dutch	Atlantic	1600	Plantation	72	57
Cape Verdean	Portuguese	Atlantic	1500	Trade	71	62
Dominican	French	Atlantic	1700	Plantation	67	55
Guinea Bissau	Portuguese	Atlantic	1500	Fort	73	63

Creole	Lexifier	Area	Age	Type	CCS Features (out of 97)	Creole Features (out of 69)
Haitian	French	Atlantic	1600	Plantation	73	55
Jamaican	English	Atlantic	1650	Plantation	73	63
Korlai	Portuguese	Indian Ocean	1500	Fort	54	48
Krio	English	Atlantic	1780	Plantation	81	59
Nagamese	Assamese	Indian Ocean	1800	Trade	57	48
Ndyuka	English	Atlantic	1700	Maroon	77	60
Negerhollands	Dutch	Atlantic	1650	Plantation	66	59
Nubi	Arabic	African	1850	Trade	54	55
Palenquero	Spanish	Atlantic	1600	Maroon	53	55
Papiamentu	Portuguese	Atlantic	1600	Trade	63	58
Seychellois	French	Indian Ocean	1770	Plantation	71	60
Tok Pisin	English	Pacific	1850	Trade	67	58
Zamboangueño	Spanish	Pacific	1800	Trade	53	51

This table provides a comprehensive overview of the various creole languages, including their origins, contexts of use and linguistic characteristics. By understanding this information, we can better appreciate the diversity and complexity of creole languages around the world, as well as how they have developed in different historical and social contexts. This table also shows that although creole languages are often perceived as simple, they have rich structures and features that reflect the history and culture of their speakers.

Further development of creoles occurs in areas where contact between English and pidgin or related creoles is ongoing, and education in Standard English is widespread. This process of standardization is called decolonization, where creoles are increasingly influenced by standards in phonology, lexicon and syntax, resulting in greater variation from English. Regions such as West Africa, Hawaii, and Papua New Guinea show evidence of this continuum, where creoles absorb more aspects of Standard English as they interact with the standard. This process is known as the post-creole continuum, with no clear point separating one phase from another (Khan, 2021).

### The Evolution of Pidgins and Creoles

The classical view of pidgins and creoles describes the life cycle of languages. In this cycle, jargon (a disorganized second language) can evolve into a pidgin (a more organized system of communication) that is not yet the mother tongue. Subsequently, pidgins can develop into creoles, which become the mother tongue and primary language of the community. Generally, it is assumed that all creole languages are derived from pidgins. This life cycle model dates back to the 19th century and was clearly formulated by Robert A. Hall, Jr. in the 1950s. It is widely discussed in the literature on contact languages, especially in the Pacific region. The life cycle depicts a reduced and restructured form of English.



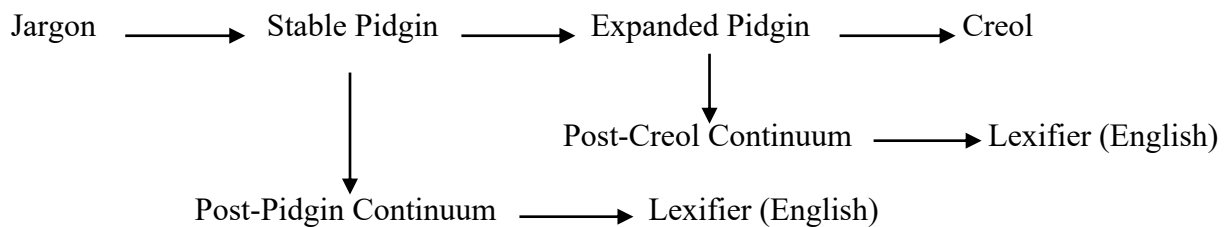


Figure 1. Evolutionary Cycle of Pidgin and Creole Languages

Figure 1 shows that stable pidgins can develop into extended pidgins if they are used in a variety of functions, such as art, not just commerce. If pidgins are heavily influenced by lexifiers, this can result in a post-pidgin continuum, which includes variations from basic pidgins to standard languages (such as English). Extended pidgins can become mother tongues (creoles) or turn into a continuum with a lexifier at one end. However, not all of these developments are historically recorded, and not all creole scholars agree that creoles must be preceded by pidgins or expanded pidgins.

It is important to note that the terms used by linguists often differ from the terms used by speakers. For example, the terms “jargon” and “pidgin” may not correspond to technical definitions. There is no clear boundary between jargon, pidgin, extended pidgin and creole. A pidgin can be the mother tongue of a small number of people, but its status as a pidgin or creole can be questionable. In this chapter, social criteria will be formulated to distinguish between these categories, and the criteria will correlate with structural properties. The terminology used will be compared with other terms in creole studies.

Jargon is characterized by high variation, influence from the speakers' mother tongue, experimentation with words from different languages, simplification of structure, short and simple phrases, and lack of structural norms. A jargon can evolve into a pidgin. Pidgins feature structural norms and less variety than jargon. There is less experimentation on the part of the speaker. Pidgins are morphologically less elaborated than their lexifiers, and categories such as tense, aspect, and plurality are rarely obligatory in pidgins (Bakker, 2008).

### The Evolutionary Process of Pidgin and Creole Languages

There are several stages in the evolution of pidgin and creole languages

Evolution of pidgin languages

#### a. Genesis

Pidgins are formed through the interaction of language contact phenomena, often derived from the way people communicate with strangers which involves simplification such as slow pronunciation and omission of function words. These practices evolved into registers used by communities when communicating with outsiders, important in the emergence of pidgins such as Fijian Pidgin and Chinook Jargon. In Fiji, language registers were established for communication with foreigners, reflecting speakers' desire to maintain their language. For example, Amerindian Chinook resisted non-native speakers, which led to the formation of Chinook Jargon for trade. Although pidgins can arise without an established model of foreigner talk, sociolinguistic trends suggest that foreigner talk can contribute to the origin of pidgins.

#### b. Pidginization and simplification as a line

Pidginization occurs on many levels, from full acquisition, through language shifters like Irish English and Yiddish, to pidgins like Russenorsk and Tok Pisin. Various pidgins fall between Russenorsk and Yiddish, reflecting wider structural and lexicon complexity. These cases usually arise from richer contact between speakers of the superstrate and substrate languages, or from close genetic links between the two languages.

#### c. Life cycle issues

Pidgins are depicted in the life cycle of contact languages by Hall (1966) as an initial stage that progresses to creolization and eventual decline towards lexifiers. While creolization

is one alternative, pidgins can also experience stasis or death. Creolization is related to the expansion of structural forms, turning the pidgin into a more complete language. According to Hall and other contact linguists, creolization is equated with nativization, i.e. adoption as a first language by children. However, research shows that the transformation of pidgins into creoles often occurs through the expansion of social domains, so it is more appropriate to equate this transformation with the expansion of social roles, not just nativization.

d. Distribution

Pidginization is often considered an “exotic” phenomenon and “extreme” language restructuring in the literature, but this view may be influenced by a monolingual Western perspective. While creole languages are commonly found in tropical locations where European powers established colonies, pidgins have been documented on all indigenous inhabited continents. Pidgins reflect a universal response to the need for limited communication between groups speaking languages that are not understood, a need that can arise anywhere in the world. The unfamiliarity of pidginization is evident in the many under-documented pidgins, such as the Indo-Aryan pidgins of India and the numerous unrecorded pidgins of Papua New Guinea, which has high linguistic diversity. Awareness of the many pidgins lost in history also reinforces this view; for example, in the eighteenth century, Scandinavia had various trade pidgins such as Borgarmålet, a Swedish-Lapish hybrid.

Creole Language Evolution

a. Creole language features and subtypes

Creoles are usually more complex and structured than pidgins, but the distinction between the two is not always clear, especially if the pidgin has been around for a long time and was stable before nativization, such as Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea. However, the distinction is clearer in the case of early creolization, where creoles acquire native speakers quickly after initial contact, when the languages involved are still in the pre-pidgin or jargon stage. Thomason and Kaufman (1988) refer to this process as sudden creolization, which occurs in many creoles, including those that emerged in the context of the European slave trade. They and Bickerton (1988) agree that early creole languages are the norm, but Bickerton also considers Hawaiian Creole English (HCE) to fall into this category.

b. Theories of origin

One of the main issues in pidgin-creole studies is how these languages arose and explaining their similarities and simplified characteristics. Initially, there was a rivalry between the polygenetic theory, which holds that varieties arose independently in different times and places, and the monogenetic theory, which holds that varieties originated from a single or multiple ancestors. However, in the last two decades, bioprogram theory, which falls into neither category, has dominated the discussion. Polygenetic theory is attractive because it can be applied universally without the assumption of historical relationships between all pidgins and creoles, but it faces challenges in explaining similarities among varieties that are considered independent. Polygeneticists attempt to explain these similarities by pointing to factors in contact situations that may have led to the parallel development of pidgins and creoles.

c. Creole continuum and decreolization

The controversy over the creole continuum involves more than just diachronic issues related to decolonization. There are also debates about whether synchronic variation within continuum communities is continuous or unidimensional, whether continuum analysis adequately considers social, stylistic and human dimensions, and whether the assumption that continuum change is always unilinear towards acrolect is correct..(Rickford & McWhorter, 2017).

## CONCLUSIONS

Pidgins and creoles serve as fascinating examples of how languages are formed and transformed through contact between linguistic communities. The study of these languages has a long history, spanning over two centuries, with significant sociolinguistic interest emerging at the advent of modern sociolinguistics. This article aims to explore the theoretical, methodological, and practical importance of pidgins and creoles within the field of sociolinguistics. Additionally, it delves into the global evolution of these language varieties, emphasizing their role in understanding language dynamics and cultural interactions.

Despite its comprehensive scope, the article falls short in providing detailed accounts of the various patterns and specific examples of the evolution of pidgin and creole languages worldwide. While the broader discussion highlights their significance, it lacks the depth needed to fully understand the diverse trajectories and adaptations of these languages across different regions. The author calls on future researchers to address this gap by conducting further investigations into the intricate processes and unique examples of pidgin and creole development globally. Such efforts would enrich the existing literature and contribute to a more holistic understanding of these linguistic phenomena.

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