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Creole Languages in a World-Wide Perspective

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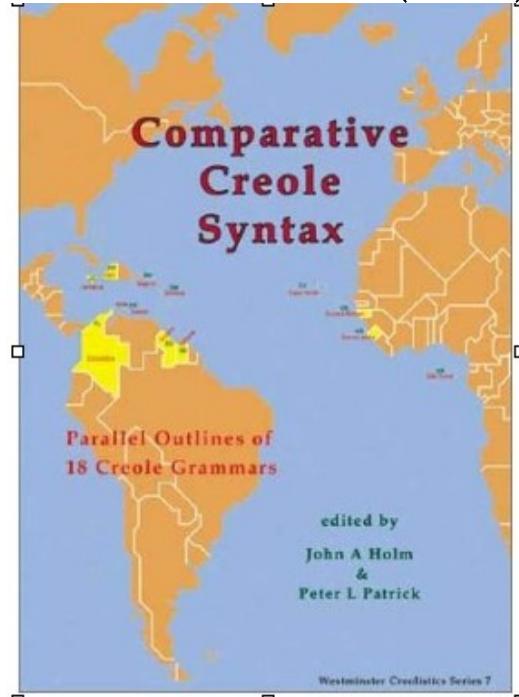
1. Towards a systematic comparison of pidgin and creole language structures

- Creole studies have seen various ambitious attempts at explaining the grammatical features of creole languages (substrates, superstrates, and universal principles)
- BUT: many of these claims were often based on a relatively small amount of merely suggestive data of only one or a few languages (e.g. Bickerton 1981, Chaudenson 1990); even McWhorter (1998, 2001) does not base his claims on a solid systematic database.

Some earlier comparative creole studies, e.g.

- Ivens Ferraz (1987) for Portuguese-based creoles
- Goodman (1964) for French-based creoles
- Hancock (1987) for Atlantic English-based creoles
- Baker (1993) for Pacific English-based pidgins/creoles

Holm & Patrick (2007), *Comparative creole syntax* (London: Battlebridge)



- the first collaborative project: 18 creole languages are described with respect to a questionnaire of 97 morphosyntactic features
- limited to morphosyntax, to 18 languages, and to a book publication without automatic search options
 - no summarizing tables for all creoles, no synopses
 - features are Atlantic-biased
 - some mixing of synchronic and diachronic features, e.g. 8.5 Subordinator from superstrate 'that'; 15.3 Definite article (from superstrate deictic)

2. The APiCS project

- large-scale collaborative project gathering grammatical information on 75 pidgin, creole and mixed languages, for 120 grammatical features plus phonological segments and some 25 sociolinguistic features
- each language is the responsibility of a single author (or small author team)

- the four editors (Susanne Michaelis, Philippe Maurer, Martin Haspelmath, Magnus Huber) put the data together and publish them in three forms:
 - a printed atlas with 140 maps showing the geographical distribution of features (structural, phonological, sociolinguistic)
 - publication of an easily searchable electronic version (freely available online)
 - 3 survey volumes of survey chapters giving a concise outline of the structures and sociohistorical profiles of these languages.
- the data were gathered by means of a very detailed, technically sophisticated questionnaire (using FileMaker Pro software)
- authors come from many different countries, and include both leading specialists and junior linguists
- the project setup was discussed in detail in a series of workshops in Leipzig and at a number of creolist conferences (Gießen, Amsterdam, Cayenne, and

elsewhere)

For more information and questionnaire download,
see <http://apics-online.info>

3. The final *APiCS* questionnaire (released in 2008)

Main layout, here for feature 9 ("Position of Definite Article in the Noun Phrase"):

APiCS Main Haitian Creole Dominique Fattier go set lang Help

Examples Segments Feature tallies References Contributor/s > go Print Layo

9 < sort Position of Definite Article in the Noun Phrase

A definite article is a morpheme which accompanies nouns and which codes **definiteness** or **specificity**, like *the* in English. This is a somewhat broader use of the term definite article than is common, since it includes (i) affixes on nouns that code definiteness; and (ii) demonstratives, if those demonstratives are used as markers of definiteness.

In this feature we ask whether the definite article (if it exists) occurs **before** or **after** the noun or simultaneously before and after (**circumposed** article).

If you choose value 4, no other value may be chosen.

When a demonstrative is extended to the definite article use, it may not be easy to tell whether we are already dealing with a definite article. In APiCS, we consider such a word as a definite article (and not merely a demonstrative in anaphoric function) if it can be used in **associative contexts** (e.g. *I bought a new bicycle. The saddle is very comfortable*). (See APiCS Glossary, "definite article").

General comments on value assignment

WALS No. Select if no information available

Feature Source Page: Dejean 1982 14

More lects add le Lect my default lect

my default lect view

Lect count 1

Custom field for database use

Revised (but still not final) data		Multiple-choice feature		numeric	Example request
Values	Value annotation	Value Choice & Confidence >	True False	Relative importance	Please one example per value,
1 Definite article is preposed	Nicaraguan Creole <i>Di watch man woz de.</i> [ART.DEF watch man COP.PST DEM.LOC]	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>		1	go ▲ go ▼
2 Definite article is postposed	Kinubi <i>'jua 'de</i> [house=DET]	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	Very certain	1	64 Malerèz la prete lajan go ▲ go ▼
3 Definite article is circumposed	Possibly Mauritian Creole <i>sa lakaz la</i> [DEF house DEF]	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>		1	go ▲ go ▼
4 The language has no definite article	Chinuk Wawa	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>		0	go ▲ go ▼

- For each of the 120 features, a set of between two and nine possible values has been formulated among which the contributors have to choose.
- For example, for Feature 9 "Position of Definite Article in the Noun Phrase" the four permitted values are:

- 1. Definite article is preposed
 - 2. Definite article is postposed
 - 3. Definite article is circumposed
 - 4. The language has no definite article
-
- For those features where this makes sense, the contributors may choose several values.
 - Since the different choices are often not equally important in terms of usage frequency, the contributors have the chance to indicate a quantitative weighting of the alternative possibilities.

- Example layout (15,240 glossed and translated examples)

The screenshot shows the APiCS software interface for the Angolar language. The top menu bar includes options like Main layout, IPA chart, References, Help, and My file. The main window displays an example entry with the following details:

- Example number:** 91
- Example Type:** naturalistic spoken
- Example source (Author Year):** Maurer 1995
- Pages:** 162
- Primary text:** *Anton alê tha futarô.*
- Analyzed text:** (empty)
- Gloss:** then king COP thief
- Translation:** Then it is the king who is the thief.
- Other translation:** Alors, le voleur, c'est le roi.
- Comments:** (empty)

Related features:

Feature #	Feature Name	Typical_example
73	Predicative Noun Phrases	Main layout Mary is a singer
76	Predicative Noun Phrases and	Main layout (i) Mary is a singer; (ii) Mary is in town.

- Segments/IPA-chart layout

• sociolinguistic features layout

 APiCS Socioling. data Main layout IPA chart References Socioling. Feature tallies Languages
Maps Segments Examples Korlai

Feature No. 19 Feature Name **Contact with other languages**

Incomplete fields
Complete!

Feature Annotation

Which is the most important language that currently has a contact influence on your pidgin/creole/mixed language? (You may give additional information in the "General comments" field.)

Feature Source
Author Year Pages

Clements 1996	ch6	go
		go

Values Value Choice & Confidence Select if no information available

1 The main lexifier language

General comments on value assignment
Marathi is the main adstrate language. It's the official language of the state of Maharashtra, India.

2 A major world language that is not the main lexifier

3 A neighboring language that is neither the main lexifier nor a major world language Very certain

4 Several different kinds of languages are equally important in terms of contact

Questions/comments for editors

Comments (private)

4. The languages in APiCS

Ambon Malay	Creole	Hawai'i Creole	Creole
Angolar	Creole	Jamaican	Creole
Batavia Creole	Creole	Kinubi	Creole
Belizean Creole	Creole	Korlai	Creole
Berbice Dutch	Creole	Krio	Creole
Cape Verdean		Kriol	Creole
Creole of Brava	Creole	Louisiana Creole	Creole
Cape Verdean		Martinique Creole	Creole
Creole of Santiago	Creole	Mauritian Creole	Creole
Cape Verdean		Negerhollands	Creole
Creole of São Vicente	Creole	Nengee	Creole
Cavite Chabacano	Creole	Nicaraguan Creole	
Creolese	Creole	English	Creole
Diu Indo-Portuguese	Creole	Norf'k	Creole
Early Sranan	Creole	Palenquero	Creole
Fa d'Ambô	Creole	Papia Kristang	Creole
Guadeloupe Creole	Creole	Papiamentu	Creole
Guinea-Bissau		Principense	Creole
Kriyol	Creole	Reunion Creole	Creole
Gullah/Geechee	Creole	San Andrés Creole	Creole
Guyanais	Creole	Santome	Creole
Haitian Creole	Creole	Saramaccan	Creole
		Seychelles Creole	Creole

Sranan	Creole	Singapore Bazaar	
Sri Lanka Portuguese	Creole	Malay	Pidgin
Tayo	Creole	Yimas-Arafundi	
Ternate Chabacano	Creole	Pidgin	Pidgin
Trinidad English Creole	Creole	Bislama	Pidgincreole
Vincentian Creole	Creole	Cameroon Pidgin	
Zamboanga Chabacano	Creole	English	Pidgincreole
Gurindji Kriol	Mixed	Ghanaian Pidgin	
Ma'a/Mbugu	Mixed	English	
Media Lengua	Mixed	Juba Arabic	Pidgincreole
Michif	Mixed	Kikongo-Kituba	Pidgincreole
Chinese Pidgin English	Pidgin	Lingala	Pidgincreole
Chinese Pidgin Russian	Pidgin	Nigerian Pidgin	Pidgincreole
Chinuk Wawa	Pidgin	Pichi	Pidgincreole
Eskimo Pidgin	Pidgin	Sango	Pidgincreole
Fanakalo	Pidgin	Tok Pisin	Pidgincreole
Pidgin Hawaiian	Pidgin	African American	
Pidgin Hindustani	Pidgin	English	Semi-Creole
		Afrikaans	Semi-Creole
		Bahamian Creole	Semi-Creole
		Singlish	Semi-Creole
		Sri Lankan Malay	Semi-Creole

APiCS languages by world region

Juba Arabic	Africa-Central	English	(America)
Kikongo-Kituba	Africa-Central	Palenquero	Atlantic-New World
Kinubi	Africa-Central	Papiamentu	Atlantic-New World
Lingala	Africa-Central	San Andrés Creole	Atlantic-New World
Ma'a/Mbugu	Africa-Central	Saramaccan	Atlantic-New World
Sango	Africa-Central	Sranan	Atlantic-New World
Afrikaans	Africa-Southern	Trinidad English	Atlantic-New World
Fanakalo	Africa-Southern	Creole	Atlantic-New World
African American English	Atlantic-New World	Vincentian Creole	Atlantic-New World
Bahamian Creole	Atlantic-New World	Angolar	Atlantic-West Africa
Belizean Creole	Atlantic-New World	Cameroon Pidgin	Atlantic-West Africa
Berbice Dutch	Atlantic-New World	English	Atlantic-West Africa
Creolese	Atlantic-New World	Cape Verdean	Atlantic-West Africa
Early Sranan	Atlantic-New World	Creole of Brava	Atlantic-West Africa
Guadeloupe Creole	Atlantic-New World	Cape Verdean	Atlantic-West Africa
Gullah/Geechee	Atlantic-New World	Creole of Santiago	Atlantic-West Africa
Guyanais	Atlantic-New World	Cape Verdean	Atlantic-West Africa
Haitian Creole	Atlantic-New World	Creole of São Vicente	Atlantic-West Africa
Jamaican	Atlantic-New World	Fa d'Ambô	Atlantic-West Africa
Louisiana Creole	Atlantic-New World	Ghanaian Pidgin	Atlantic-West Africa
Martinique Creole	Atlantic-New World	English	Atlantic-West Africa
Negerhollands	Atlantic-New World	Guinea-Bissau	Atlantic-West Africa
Nengee	Atlantic-New World	Kriyol	Atlantic-West Africa
Nicaraguan Creole	Atlantic-New World	Hawai'i Creole	Atlantic-West Africa

Krio	Atlantic-West Africa	Gurindji Kriol	Pacific/Australia
Nigerian Pidgin	Atlantic-West Africa	Kriol	Pacific/Australia
Pichi	Atlantic-West Africa	Norf'k	Pacific/Australia
Principense	Atlantic-West Africa	Pidgin Hawaiian	Pacific/Australia
Santome	Atlantic-West Africa	Pidgin Hindustani	Pacific/Australia
Mauritian Creole	Indian Ocean-Islands	Tayo	Pacific/Australia
Reunion Creole	Indian Ocean-Islands	Tok Pisin	Pacific/Australia
Seychelles Creole	Indian Ocean-Islands	Yimas-Arafundi	
Diu Indo-Portuguese	Indian Ocean-South Asia	Pidgin Chinese Pidgin	Pacific/Australia
Korlai	Indian Ocean-South Asia	Russian	Russia
Sri Lanka Portuguese	Indian Ocean-South Asia	Ambon Malay	SE Asia
Sri Lankan Malay	Indian Ocean-South Asia	Batavia Creole	SE Asia
Chinuk Wawa	North America	Cavite Chabacano	SE Asia
Eskimo Pidgin	North America	Papia Kristang	SE Asia
Michif	North America	Singapore Bazaar Malay	SE Asia
Bislama	Pacific/Australia	Singlish	SE Asia
Chinese Pidgin	Pacific/Australia	Ternate Chabacano	SE Asia
English	Pacific/Australia	Zamboanga Chabacano	SE Asia
		Media Lengua	South America

5. First APiCS maps

Feature 1: Order of Subject, Object, and Verb

Feature 51: Unmarked stative and dynamic verbs

Feature 18: Politeness Distinctions in Second Person Pronouns

Feature 12: Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions

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- McWhorter, John (2001a), "The world's simplest grammars are creole grammars", in: *Linguistic Typology* 5, 125-166.
- McWhorter, John (2001b), "What people ask David Gil and why: Rejoinder to the replies", in: *Linguistic Typology* 5, 388-412.
- McWhorter, John (1998), "[Identifying the creole prototype: Vindicating a typological class](#)", *Language* 74 (4): 788-818.

Appendix

APiCS questionnaire by Feature number

- 1 Order of Subject, Object and Verb
- 2 Order of Possessor and Possessum
- 3 Order of Adjective and Noun
- 4 Order of Adposition and Noun Phrase
- 5 Order of Demonstrative and Noun
- 6 Order of Cardinal Numeral and Noun
- 7 Order of Relative Clause and Noun
- 8 Order of Degree Word and Adjective
- 9 Position of Definite Article in the Noun Phrase
- 10 Position of Indefinite Article in the Noun Phrase
- 11 Order of Adverb, Verb and Object: ‘Often’
- 12 Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions
- 61 Order of Recipient and Theme in Ditransitive Constructions
- 62 Expression of Pronominal Subjects
- 63 Expletive Subject in ‘Seem’ Construction
- 64 Expletive Subject of Existential Verb
- 65 Raining Constructions
- 66 Experiencer Constructions: ‘Headache’
- 67 Experiencer Constructions: ‘Like’
- 68 Experiencer Constructions: ‘Fear’
- 69 Instrumental Expressions
- 70 Comitatives and Instrumentals
- 71 Noun Phrase Conjunction and

- 13 Gender Distinctions in Independent Personal Pronouns
- 14 Dual in Independent Personal Pronouns
- 15 Inclusive/Exclusive Distinction in Independent Personal Pronouns
- 16 Person Syncretism in Independent Personal Pronouns
- 17 Special Dependent Personal Pronouns
- 18 Politeness Distinctions in Second Person Pronouns
- 19 Interrogative Pronouns
- 20 Pronoun Conjunction
- 21 Indefinite Pronouns
- 22 Occurrence of Nominal Plural Markers
- 23 Expression of Nominal Plural Meaning
- 24 The Associative Plural
- 25 Nominal Plural Marker and 3rd Person Plural Pronoun
- 26 Functions of Reduplication
- 27 Anti-Dual of Paired Body Part Terms
- Comitative
- 72 Nominal and Verbal Conjunction
- 73 Predicative Noun Phrases
- 74 Predicative Adjectives
- 75 Predicative Locative Phrases
- 76 Predicative Noun Phrases and Predicative Locative Phrases
- 77 Predicative Possession
- 78 Existential Verb and Transitive Possession Verb
- 79 Motion-to and Motion-from
- 80 Going to Named Places
- 81 Coming from Named Places
- 82 Transitive Motion Verbs: ‘Push’
- 83 Transitive Motion Verbs: ‘Pull’
- 84 ‘Come’ and ‘Go’ Serial Verb Constructions
- 85 ‘Take’ Serial Verb Constructions
- 86 ‘Give’ Serial Verb Constructions
- 87 Reflexive Constructions
- 88 Intensifiers and Reflexive

- 28 Definite Articles
 - 29 Indefinite Articles
 - 30 Generic Noun Phrases in Subject Function
 - 31 Cooccurrence of Demonstrative and Definite Article
 - 32 Pronominal and Adnominal Demonstratives
 - 33 Distance Contrasts in Demonstratives
 - 34 Distributive Numerals
 - 35 Ordinal Numerals
 - 36 Numeral Classifiers
 - 37 Marking of Pronominal Possessors
 - 38 Marking of Possessor Noun Phrases
 - 39 Independent Pronominal Possessor
 - 40 Gender Agreement of Adnominal Adjectives
 - 41 Comparative Adjective Marking
 - 42 Comparative Standard Marking
 - 43 Position of Tense, Mood and Aspect Markers in relation to the verb
-
- Pronouns
 - 89 Reciprocal and Reflexive Constructions
 - 90 Passive Constructions
 - 91 Applicative Constructions
 - 92 Subject Relative Clauses
 - 93 Direct Object Relative Clauses
 - 94 Instrument Relative Clauses
 - 95 Complementizer with Verbs of Speaking
 - 96 Complementizer with Verbs of Knowing
 - 97 ‘Want’ Complement Subjects
 - 98 Complements of ‘Think’ and ‘Want’
 - 99 Temporal Clause Verb Doubling
 - 100 Negative Morpheme Types
 - 101 Position of Standard Negation
 - 102 Negation and Indefinite Pronouns
 - 103 Polar Questions

- 44 Internal Order of Tense, Mood, and Aspect Markers
- 45 Tightness of Link between Past Marker and Verb
- 46 Tightness of Link between Progressive Marker and Verb
- 47 Uses of the Progressive Marker
- 48 Uses of the Habitual Marker
- 49 Tense-Aspect Systems
- 50 Negation and Tense-Aspect-Mood Marking
- 51 Unmarked Stative and Dynamic Verbs
- 52 Aspect Markers and Inchoative Meaning
- 53 Aspect Change in Verb Chains
- 54 Suppletion according to Tense and Aspect
- 55 Ability Verb and Epistemic Possibility
- 56 The Prohibitive
- 57 Marking of Patient Noun Phrases
- 58 Alignment of Case Marking of Full
- 104 Nominal Cleft Construction
- 105 Verb Doubling and Focus
- 106 Focus Particle 'Also'
- 107 Vocative Marker
- 108 Para-Linguistic Usages of Clicks
- 109 Pequeninho
- 110 Save
- 111 Tears
- 112 Hand and Arm
- 113 Finger and Toe
- 114 Body Hair and Feather
- 115 Hear and Smell
- 116 Green and Blue
- 117 Female and Male Animals
- 118 Syllable Onsets
- 119 Syllable Codas
- 120 Tone

Noun Phrases

- 59 Alignment of Case Marking of Pronouns
- 60 Ditransitive ('Give') Constructions