

LINGUA FRANCA, PIDGINS AND CREOLES Part 2

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"Sapos yu kaikai planti pinat, bai yu kamap strong olsem phantom."

"Fantom, yu pren tru bilong mi. Inap yu ken helpim mi nau?"

"Fantom, em i go we?"

These lines are taken from a famous comic strip in Papua New Guinea:

"Sapos yu kaikai planti pinat, bai yu kamap strong olsem phantom."

'If you eat plenty of peanuts, you will come up strong like the phantom.'

"Fantom, yu pren tru bilong mi. Inap yu ken helpim mi nau?"

'Phantom, you are a true friend of mine. Are you able to help me now?'

"Fantom, em i go we?"

'Where did he go?'

PIDGINS AND CREOLES

Originally thought of as:

- Incomplete;
- broken;
- corrupt;
- not worthy of serious attention.
- Pidgins still are marginal: in origin (makeshift, reduced in structure), in attitudes toward them (low prestige); in our knowledge of them.

- Pidgins still are marginal:
 1. in origin because reduced in structure
 2. in attitudes toward them (low prestige).

- Because of colonialism, slavery etc. the prestige of Pidgin languages is very low.
- Many pidgins are 'contact vernaculars', may only exist for one speech event.
- Several were created along the east and west coasts of Africa, to facilitate trading among Africans, Europeans and Arabs. Many others were constructed in North America and the Caribbean, particularly to enable African slaves to talk to one another and to their European masters.

PIDGIN:

An auxiliary language created by people with no language in common. Very many times in human history, people with no language in common have found themselves thrown together and obliged to deal with one another. Sometimes the language of just one group will be learned by the others and used as a **lingua franca**. However, sometimes things happen differently.

Sometimes words from one or more of the languages of the people involved will be taken and stitched together into a kind of crude way of communicating. This is a *pidgin*.

A pidgin is nobody's mother tongue, and it is not a real language at all: it has no recognizable grammar, it is very limited in what it can convey, and different people speak it differently. Still, for simple purposes, it does work, and often everybody in the area learns to handle it.

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Pidgin's Characteristics

- **Phonology:** CV syllable preferred
- **Morphology:** Poor affixation -Reduplication is common
- **Syntax:** SVO pattern preferred-Articles usually omitted (reduced grammatical structure)
- **Pragmatics:** Narrower range of functions
- **Lexicon:** Limited vocabulary
- **Semantics:** Semantic extensions

- There are several possible fates for a pidgin.

- 1- it may eventually drop out of use (to Hawaiian pidgin, now almost entirely displaced by English)
- 2- it can remain in use for generations, or even centuries, as has happened with some west African pidgins.
- 3- it can be turned into a mother tongue.

This happens when the children in a community have nothing but a pidgin to use with other children, in which case the children take the pidgin and turn it into a real language, by fixing and elaborating the grammar and greatly expanding the vocabulary. **The result is a Creole, and the children who create it are the first native speakers of the Creole.**

Creole is a language that was originally a **pidgin** but has become **nativized**, i.e. a community of speakers claims it as their first language.
 used to designate the language(s) of people of Caribbean and African descent in colonial and ex-colonial countries (Jamaica, Haiti, Mauritius, Réunion, etc.)

- In **Creoles**: children almost inevitably take the pidgin and turn it into a real language,
- complete with a large vocabulary and a rich grammatical system.
- This new natural language is a **creole** and the children who create it are the first native speakers of the **creole**.
- The process of turning a pidgin into a creole is **creolization**

Dis ----swain i bin --- fo ----
 De bin alde luk dat ---- --
 Awaka -- a wosu
 Olmaan i kas-im ----
 Li pote sa bay mo
 Mo pe aste sa -----

Dis smol swain i bin go fo maket
 De bin alde luk dat big tri
 Awaka go a wosu
 Olmaan i kas-im chek
 Li pote sa bay mo
 Mo pe aste sa banan

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Dis smol swain i bin go fo maket | A- English based Cape York Creole |
| 2 De bin alde luk dat big tri | B- English based Roper River Creole |
| 3 Awaka go a wosu | C- French based Guyanais |
| 4 Olmaan i kas-im chek | D- French based Seychelles Creole |
| 5 Li pote sa bay mo | E- English based Saran |
| 6 Mo pe aste sa banan | F- German based Papua New Guinea Pidgin German |

Dis smol swain i bin go fo maket
 De bin alde luk dat big tri
 Awaka go a wosu
 Olmaan i kas-im chek
 Li pote sa bay mo
 Mo pe aste sa banan

the old man is cashing a check
 this little pig went to market
 he brought that for me
 I am buying the banana
 they always looked for a big tree
 he walked home

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. dis smol swain i bin go fo maket | a. the old man is cashing a check |
| 2. de bin alde luk dat big tri | b. this little pig went to market |
| 3. a waka go a wosu | c. he brought that for me |
| 4. olmaan i kas-im chek | d. I am buying the banana |
| 5. li pote sa bay mo | e. they always looked for a big tree |
| 6. mo pe aste sa banan | f. he walked home |

1. Dis smol swain i bin go fo maket	a. This little pig went to market
2. De bin alde luk dat big tri	b. They always looked for a big tree
3. A waka go a wosu	c. He walked home
4. Olmaan i kas-im chek	d. The old man is cashing a check
5. Li pote sa bay mo	e. He brought that for me
6. Mo pe aste sa banan	f. I am buying the banana

1. dis smol swain i bin go fo maket this little pig went to market	German based Papua New Guinea Pidgin German
2. De bin alde luk dat big tri They always looked for a big tree	English based Roper River Creole
3. A waka go a wosu He walked home	English based Saran
4. Olmaan i kas-im chek The old man is cashing a check	English based Cape York Creole
5. Li pote sa bay mo He brought that for me	French based Guyanais
6. Mo pe aste sa banan I am buying the banana	French based Seychelles Creole

Thank you for your
 kind attention.