China Coast Pidgin
(Chinese Pidgin English)
ISO- 639-2
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Chinese Pidgin English was developed in 17th century for use as a trade language or lingua franca between the British and the Chinese. The Pidgin English of the Chinese ports originated at Canton and spread as far north as Shanghai and the Yangtse and temporarily to Tientsin. It took shape around the first quarter of the eighteenth century. During the twentieth century its use declined until it is now it is listed as extinct. (Oceanic 1975)
In the history of CPE, four main periods are to be distinguished:

1. Origin at Canton and Macao, ca. 1715-48
2. ‘Classical’ period, use at Canton, 1748-1842
3. Period of expansion and greatest use, in Hong Kong, Treaty Ports, and Yangtze valley, 1842-ca 1890
4. Decline (as consequence of social and political disfavor) 1890- Present time

(Hall 1944)
THE CHINA TREATY PORTS

- 🧘 Original ports opened in 1842-44
- 🛰 Ports opened by 1865
- 🌐 Ports opened by 1900
- 🌀 Ports opened by 1920
- ⚖ Major cities that were never treaty ports

After Murphey
Sociolinguistic Background

• Chronology of Language contact:
  Population: no estimate available. (most research says thousands of persons but official web says no estimate.) (Lewis, 2009)

• Sociolinguistic variation:

  Past: The social situations in which it is used are primarily those of master (foreigner) and servant (Chinese), and of business relations, especially in retail shops catering to foreigners.

  Present: Decline as consequence of social and political disfavor and preference for stand English.

• Classification of the contact language:
  English based, Pacific.
Trade pidgin- Chinese Pidgin English, spoken from 1715 until recently on the China coast in contacts between Chinese and Europeans, is more of a trade pidgin than a maritime pidgin, though spoken exclusively in sea ports. (Arends, 1995)
Lexcion

- Based on a vocabulary of about 750 English words.
- Portuguese
- Hindi
- Malay

(Bauer, 2009)
Phonology

- Consonants are: p t k b d g m n ŋ f v θ ð s š ž č ģ z l r h j w. By English speakers, these are pronounced as in their native dialects. By Chinese speakers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and by most, if not all, in the present day, certain of these phonemes are not used, and are replaced as follows: fricatives by the nearest corresponding stops (f by p, v by b, θ by t, ð by d), r by l, š by s, ž by z.

- Vowels are: ī [i], i [ɪ], ē [ɛ], e [ɛ], æ, a, ə, [ʌ stressed, ə unstressed], o [ɔ], ō [o], u [ʊ], ū [u]. All may occur in any syllable of a word. In British speaker usage and in that of some American speakers, ər is represented by [ɛ, ɚ].

(Hall, 1944)
Words ending in l, r and sometimes d, may occur with or without the final consonant
ex. mō(r) ‘more’
   bētə(r) ‘better’

Lateral [l] for retroflex liquid [r]
   ex. flen ‘friend’

Interdental fricatives replaced by corresponding dental stops
   ex. mata ‘mother’

(Hall, 1944)
Morphology

- Morphology: Pidgins have reduced inflectional and derivational morphology, inflectional will be totally absent,

Ex. Boy! Make pay my that two piecee book.
   Boy make give ISG that two class book
   “Give me those two books, boy!”

P.31, Arends

- Compounds
  Noun + Noun
  górdén-mæn – gardener

Adjective + Noun
Própər-tók – having proper speech. Polite. (Hall, 2009)
Noun( Number) + numeral
Nəmbər wən - first
Verb + noun
siŋ -soŋ - singing
Adverb-Compounds
hwá-fó(r) - why

(Hall, 1944)
Syntax

The Vocabulary of a pidgin is relatively small and the syntax is fairly simple. (S)VO

CPE: Wanchee maykee numba wun ledda
Eng: I want a pair made of the best leather

CPE: Wanchee finis chop-chop; can do?
Eng: I want them at once, if you can.

CPE: My catch dat piecee wifoo.
Eng: I could select, married her

(Bauer, 2009)
Bibliography


