Hawai’i Creole English
Some Facts about hwc

- ISO639-3: hwc
- Spoken on the Hawaiian Islands and U.S. mainland
- Alternate names: Pidgin, Da Kine
- Dialect: varying phonology and syntax depending on superstrate contact
- Classification:
- Population: 600,000
Languages in contact

- hwc has its roots as a trade pidgin
- Later hwc becomes a plantation pidgin
- Substrate is Hawaiian
- Many superstrates including English, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean and Portuguese
- Adstrates include Tagalog, Ilocano, Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Spanish, and Samoan
Status of contact languages

- English used by plantation owners and skilled workers
- Cantonese, Japanese, and Korean used by plantation workers: not accorded the same status as English
- Adstrates exert less influence on hwc but some lexical items can still be found
Chronology of language contact

- First contact between Hawaiian and English in 1778
- The first non-Hawaiian terms recorded in 1791
- 1876-1897: Chinese migrant workers numbering 46,000
- 1886-1900: Japanese numbering 60,000
- 1906-1913: Portuguese families numbering 17,500
- 1907-1931: Philipinos numbering 120,000
# Phoneme Inventory

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<th>labio-dental</th>
<th>dental</th>
<th>alveolar</th>
<th>post-alveolar</th>
<th>palatal</th>
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Vowels: [i] [ɪ] [e] [ɛ] [æ] [a] [i] [ɛ] [œ] [ʌ] [ɔ] [ʊ] [ɑ] [ɑ]

Diphthongs: [eɪ] [ou] [ar] [au] [ɔɪ] [ju]
Phonology and Variation

• hwc is a syllable timed language
• Intonation for interrogatives has a falling pitch
• Some dialects are non-rhotic: \[\varkappa\] \[\rightarrow\] 0 / V_
• Word final [l] omitted: [l] \[\rightarrow\] 0 / __\#
• Labio-dental fricatives become alveolar stops: [\theta] \[\rightarrow\] [t] and [\delta] \[\rightarrow\] [d]
Syntax

• Copula often deleted in sentences referring to permanent states of being
• Temporary states of being are denoted by the addition of the verb ‘stay’
• To mark tense hwc uses auxiliary verbs
  – Past tense marked by ‘went’
  – Future tense marked by ‘going’
  – Negative marker ‘never’
  – Infinitive marker ‘for’
Lexicon

- Primary lexifier is English with 75% of the vocabulary
- Hawaiian contributes the second most to the lexicon.
- Chinese
- Words from all other superstrates/addstrates found throughout the various dialects of hwc
Some hwc phrases

- Stink eye
- Broke da mouth
- Like Beef?
- Suk face
- Wop your jaws!
- All buss
- You go stay go, I go stay come
Bibliography


