Kabuverdianu

Wade Caves
Primarily spoken in Cape Verde, but also in Angola, Brazil, Portugal, and a number of European countries

Between 925,000-950,000+ native speakers

Nine creole variants compartmentalized under two regional dialects, Barlavento (Brava, Fogo, Maio, Santiago) and Sotavento (Boa Vista, Sal, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, São Vicente)

Lexifier: Portuguese; Substrates: Niger-Kordofanian languages, including West-Atlantic languages (Wolof, Fula, Serer, Balanta, Manjak, Mankan, Bola, etc.) and the Mande languages (Malinke, Bambara, Diola, etc.)
Cape Verde
History of the creole is disputed. Potential theories:

- Creole formation ("simplification") by Portuguese native speakers, for ease of communication with African slaves
- Creole formation by African slaves
- Creole formation from a Portuguese pidgin on the island of Santiago, becoming the basis for all the Cape Verdean creoles

Creole spreads.

- 1450s to 1600 – Islands Santiago and Fogo invaded
- 1650s to 1700 – Islands São Nicolau and Santo Antão occupied
- Until 1900 – Island natives continue to populate remaining islands
National language of Cape Verdean: Portuguese
- Language used in schools, mass, formal events, international relations
- Diglossia
  - Results in decreolization
  - Amongst younger generations, decreolization is happening at a faster rate, especially in respect to inflection of irregular verbs

Writing system
- ALUPEC – Writing system, officialized for government use but not accepted by all creole speakers
# Phonology – Consonants

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<th>Dental/Alveolar</th>
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### Phonology – Vowels

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90%+ of lexicon is derived from Portuguese

Remaining lexicon is based out of multiple West African languages

Vocabulary is recognizable for native speakers of Portuguese, but the grammar is unintelligible
Kabuverdianu is a SVO language; direct objects follow indirect objects (S-V-IO-DO)

Noun classes are minimal, differentiating solely between animate and inanimate objects, and specifying number is only used in required situations

Verbs do not conjugate, and have two base forms: past and present
Santiago variant

- *Bú pôdî djudâ-m’?*  
  Gloss: Can you help me?  
  [bu 'podi d'u 'dē]

- *M’ sâ tâ cânta?*  
  Gloss: I am singing.  
  [ŋ sə te 'kânte]

- *Bû tâ cânta.*  
  Gloss: You sing.  
  [bu te 'kâte]

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*Paradigm examples from Wikipedia*


