Today:

- Introductions and Syllabus
- Issues associated with genetic relatedness
- History of pidgin and creole studies
  - Origin of terms
- Creole languages: types and socio-historical background:
  - Characteristics
  - 3 types
  - Process of becoming a creole

Key terms

**Substrate**: (1) The linguistic variety(ies) spoken by non-prestige group(s) in language contact situations; (2) the linguistic group(s) whose language is determined to have provided much of a creole’s grammatical infrastructure

**Superstrate**: (“lexifier”) (1) The linguistic variety(ies) spoken by high prestige groups in language contact situations; (2) the linguistic group(s) whose language is determined to have provided much of a creole’s surface lexical forms

**Adstrate**: (1) Term used to refer to two languages of roughly equal prestige; (2) languages not from the substrate or superstrate that are involved in the genesis of a creole (e.g., show a later influence)
Where are they spoken?


Where are they spoken? (cont.)

Genetic Relatedness and Creole Languages

- **abrupt beginnings** under unique socio-historical conditions
- Always related to more than 1 language
  - Recall definitions of superstrate (lexifier) and substrate
  - Determination of superstrate and substrate not always easy
- Do not necessarily change to look more like other existing dialects of either parent.
- In some cases, historical reconstruction is difficult -- no records

Key terms:

- **Creole**: “a language that develops by prolonged use when pidgin-speaking parents transmit the pidgin to their children (nativization); undergoes rapid expansion of vocabulary (or “lexicon”), grammar, and social settings of use, enabling it to meet all of its speakers’ communicative needs”
- **Nativization**: acquisition of a local language via parental transmission supported by cultural sociolinguistic norms
Research into Pidgin and Creole Languages

The early years: A gentleman’s pastime

- 16th-17th century travelers and colonial administrators

Churchill, 1911

“Beach-la-mar is an amusing speech; in this brief treatise, we have studied it with gaiety of enjoyment which it would be a shame to have repressed.”

Aitken-Cade 1951, booklet on Fanakalo (South Africa)

“BEAT, vb…chaiya. ‘I’ll beat you.’ ‘Mena chaiya wena.’ If you are going to get any effect do it first and talk later.

GO, vb., Int..mba (hortative-footsack)

LIE, vb…..It is extraordinary that there are so few words to describe this national pastime of the native Africans…”
Research into Pidgin and Creole Languages

Dubious forms for ‘piano’ in Pacific Pidgin English:
‘big fellow box spose whiteman fight him he cry too much’ (Hesse-Wartegg, 1902)
‘big fellow box white fellow master fight him plenty too much, he cry’ (Daiber, 1902)
‘big fellow box, stop house, suppose you fight him, him cry’ (Neffgen, Samoan Times, March, 1915)

All are different, phonologically implausible. More likely:
‘fight-im bokis moosik’ to play the piano (Shelton-Smith, 1929)
‘bikpela bokis bilong krai taim yu paitim na kikim em.’ (Balint, 1969 dictionary)

Useful tips regarding creole language searches

Soundfiles
YouTube can be used with some success
E.g., “Andre’s old aunty speaks Haitian Creole”

Searches on specific languages best
E.g., http://www.jamaicans.com/speakja/sound.htm (actual soundfile links with glosses)
E.g., http://roberteklund.info/PNG-TokPisin.htm
http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/publications/files/lflu10_sounds.html (Belizean)

General search terms hardly provide useful information
E.g., ‘pidgin language .wav’ gets 124,000 mainly on Hawaiian Creole
‘Creole .mp3’ gets 1,250,000

Linguistics sites
Open Language Archives (OLAC) is helpful http://www.language-archives.org
...but not the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC)
http://www.ldc.upenn.edu/
Research into Pidgin and Creole Languages

Addison Van Name, “Contributions to Creole Grammar” (1869-70)  
First to notice structural features common to Caribbean Creoles:

**Syntax:**  
1. 3rd pl pronoun to indicate plurality  
2. serial use of the verb to mean “give”  
3. stative verbs take no progressive marker  
4. use of the word for ‘body’ as a quasi-reflexive pronoun

**Lexicon:**  
5. word for ‘it has’ meaning ‘there is’  
6. ‘too much’ meaning ‘very’

**Phonology:**  
7. regressive nasalization of vowels

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Research into Pidgin and Creole Languages

Hugo Schuchardt (1842-1927)  
• Primarily concerned with the influences of the substratum grammar
• Introduced theoretical questions, notably questions about the origins of pidgins and creoles—universalist and substratist theories
• Authored a series of articles on:  
  Portuguese-lexifier creoles of São Tomé, Annobón, Senegal, Cape Verde,  
  Príncipe; Indo-Portuguese, Malayo-Portuguese.
Origin of term “pidgin”

Many proposals:
- OED: a Chinese “corruption of English ‘business’”
- A Chinese corruption of the Portuguese word *ocupação* ‘business’
- Yago (South American Native language) *pidian* ‘people’
- Hebrew *pidjom* ‘exchange, trade, redemption’
- South Seas pronunciation of English *beach* [bitʃi] from the location where the language was typically used.

**Lexical conflation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Tok Pisin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tolai</td>
<td>atop ‘thatched roof’</td>
<td>antap ‘on top, roof’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twi</td>
<td>doti ‘dirty’</td>
<td>English dirty, Jamaican Creole dati ‘dirty’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polynesian</td>
<td>kanaka ‘human being’</td>
<td>English cane, Queensland Kanaka English kanaka ‘black laborer’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Origin of term “creole”

Fewer proposals:
- Dutch Moravian missionary (1739) for Negerhollands (Virgin Islands) *carriolsche*
- Spanish: *criollo* (1) ‘New World White’ (person); (2) ‘slave in European employment’; (3) ‘descendant of European or Negro settler in the W. Indies’
- Emerged in one of Portugal’s colonies in the 16th c. from *criar* ‘to nurse, breed, nourish’
- Schuchardt distinguished between *Vermittlungssprachen* ‘communicative languages’ or go-between languages’ with adjacent mother tongues, and *Kreolische* ‘languages that develop as mother tongues’
“Creole”

Traditional definition:
- “a language that develops by prolonged use when pidgin-speaking parents transmit the pidgin to their children (nativization); undergoes rapid expansion of vocabulary (or “lexicon”), grammar, and social settings of use, enabling it to meet all of its speakers’ communicative needs”

Characteristics
- Emergence may be dated fairly precisely
- Exhibits an abrupt break in historical development
- Results from linguistic (and frequently social) violence
- Develops from a prior jargon or pidgin
- Often spoken in the same location as its lexifier language

Three types of Creoles (creole life cycle)

(Mühlhäusler, 1986)
Creolization

- Creolization as accelerated language change:
  - Van Name: "The changes which [creoles] have passed through are not essentially different in kind, and hardly greater in extent than those, for instance, which separate the French from the Latin, but from the greater violence of the forces at work they have been far more rapid...here two or three generations have sufficed for a complete transformation." (1869-70:123)

- Involving decay, innovation and restructuring:
  - "The process has to be sure been mainly, but not altogether, one of decay; the extent of the loss has made some compensation necessary, and we find, if not many new formations, numerous instances of old material put to new uses." (1869-70:123)

Plantation Creoles (ex. Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, Haiti, Surinam, Annobón)
Atlantic region—
- large numbers of African slaves
- slaves purchased from Western coast of Africa (and, in smaller numbers, Amerindian slaves, indentured Asians, and poor Europeans)

Fort Creoles (ex. Guinea Coast Creole English)
West African Coast—
- communication between Africans of different languages (bozals)
- between Africans and Europeans
- between European men living in mixed households with African women (lançados)

Maroon Creoles (ex. Ndjuka, Jamaican Maroon Spirit Possession Language, Saramaccan)
- Inland, isolated regions away from plantations

Question: Do differences in settlement history and demographics yield structural linguistic differences?
Creolization

Importance of demographic features:
- Relative population density
- Speaker group providing the largest number of slaves
- Founder’s Principle
- Structure of the plantation

LEXIFIER Pop’n
Creoles

Event 0
Event 1
Event 2
Event 3

SUBSTRATE Pop’n

Initial contact
Numerical Parity
Number of local-born Creoles reaches a “critical mass”

End importation of substrate speakers