Today:

• Pidgin varieties:
  • Stages
  • 3 types
  • Process of becoming a pidgin, sociolinguistic background
  • Linguistic Features

• Examples:
  • Chinook Jargon (Northwest United States, WA)
    • http://tenaswawa.home.att.net/sj11.htm#klootzman
  • Solomons Pijin (Solomon Islands, formerly New Hebrides)

Key terms

Pidgin: “a reduced language that results from extended contact between two or more groups of people with no language in common; evolves out of necessity for verbal communication, but no group learns the native language of any other group.” (Holm, 1988)
Key terms

Stages of pidgin evolution:

**Jargon**: most rudimentary form a pidgin can take; severely domain-restricted; no first speakers; serves as a target for language acquisition

**Domain**: a specific social setting associated with use of the language
- religion (proselytizing)
- political negotiations (hierarchy of governance)
- trade (bartering)
- workforce settings (instructional exchanges)

**Stabilized Pidgin**: less domain-restricted; not a first language although subjected to established use; structurally simple

**Expanded Pidgin**: no longer domain-restricted (“most widespread languages in their area”); sometimes a first language when subjected to established use (nativized but young); structurally complex (may be creole-like in terms of structure)

Pidginization

- Types:
  - Nautical pidgins (ex. Lingua Franca, Solomons Pijin)
  - Trade pidgins (ex. Chinook Jargon, Chinese Pidgin English, Pidgin Eskimo)
  - Work force pidgins (ex. Fanakalo)
Pidginization and language formation

“Picking up words and making them function”

- rudimentary trade jargon:
  limited lexicon, specific types of messages (“bring me my...”, “a little bit”)

- lexicon derived almost exclusively from one language (turns out to be
  because of unequal status of the groups. Where there is equal status, lexical
  influence is quite different=mixed equally and random)

- continue to exist depending on continuation of need

Pidgins

Linguistic features

“individual solutions to the problem of cross-linguistic communication, where
each person uses their own strategy”

Holophrastic discourse: chunking of linguistic material into fixed phrases.

ex.:

- ‘Me like boys’ the white man says to the black man, ‘plenty kaikai (food)’.
  ‘No fight (corporal punishment)?’ asks the black. ‘Yes, plenty kaikai and no
  fight’, the white replies. ‘What you pay me?’ the owner of a slave or a village
  chief asks. ‘One fellow anikow (an axe)’, the recruiter replies. (Ribbe
  1903:223)

- Chinese: Tuo-shao Ch’ien ‘what is the price’ Russenorsk: [doj][cn]
**Pidgins**

**Linguistic features**

1. Holophrastic discourse - any word order possible
2. Temporal adverbs express tense, mood and aspect
3. Typically source languages provide host of synonyms
4. Lexicon has a single source
5. Reduced inflectional and derivational morphology, or
6. Bare stem for all forms
7. Simplified compared to lexifier (no absolute notion of simplicity possible)
8. Variation between groups present in contact situation

---

**Discourse structuring devices:**

ex.: (H.V. = HEALTH VISITORS, M. = MOTHERS)

H.V.: HUSBAND WORK/
M.: yes
H.V.: FACTORY/
M.: factory yes
H.V.: ALL DAY/
M.: yes all day so:=
H.V.: SO YOU ON YOUR OWN/
M.: yes
H.V.: BABY ALL RIGHT/
M.: all right
H.V.: MILK ALL RIGHT/
M.: all right
Pidgins

**Linguistic features**

**Linguistic Features:**

**Morphology**

- reduced inflectional and derivational morphology:
  - option 1.) use one form for all persons, tenses, etc.
  
  | Tene-mos | hambre | (Spanish) |
  | have-1PL  | hunger  |           |

  | Nosotros | tiyeéne | ?lamre   |
  | 1PL       | have-3SG| hunger   |
  We are hungry.  (Chileno; Amerindian Pidgin Spanish)

--ex.:

Chinook Jargon song, *Klootzman kopa Wayhut* “Woman on the Road”
by Duane Pasco (.mp3)

- lexical items and phonology varied “with tribal affiliation”
- first attestation: 1792 Capt. John Gray, Columbia
- contacting groups: Nootka, Chinook, English

[http://tenasiwawa.home.att.net/sj11.htm#klootzman](http://tenasiwawa.home.att.net/sj11.htm#klootzman)
**Pidgins**

*Linguistic features*

**Linguistic Features:**

**Morphology**

- option 2.) use bare stem for all forms
- -ex. Tok Pisin:
  - *Mi stap long Fiji wan faiv yia pipo.* “I was in Fiji fifteen years ago.”
  - *Plenti Yuropin i wokim long suga.* “Many Europeans are employed in the sugar industry.”

where lexifier has no morphology, morphology is totally absent in the pidgin (CPE)

---

**Word Order**

- typically SVO

**Kenya Pidgin Swahili**

- *mimi na-piga yeye*
  - I- Aorist-hit he

**Standard Swahili**

- *ni-ta-m-piga*
  - I-FUT-him-hit
  - “I shall hit him.”
Pidgins

Linguistic features

Linguistic Features:

Phonology
- typically simplified as compared to the lexifier:
  5-vowel inventory for Tok Pisin, Torres Strait Broken English and West African Pidgin English: \([i\ e\ a\ o\ u]\) which became 7 in expanded pidgin \([i\ e\ \epsilon\ a\ ə\ o\ u]\)
- variation between groups in the contact situation:
  “Sorry” : \([sɔri], [sɔwi], [sɔli]\)
- \((C)(C)V(C)(C)\) syllable structure: “straight” (Eng.)
  CV(C) - early Tok Pisin - \(st\uret\)
  CCVCVC - 1930s - \(st\ere\)

Lexicon
- single source: typically the substrate variety(ies)

Syntax
- TMA marking achieved by temporal adverbs
  - different from both parent languages and from creoles
  - time adverbs, rather than inflection on verb or preverbal markers
  - no marking of aspect