
Induction of French structures into Creole grammar

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Plan of the presentation

I Presentation of the study

I	1	State of the art Present study	<i>Details about the present corpus study</i>
I	2	Lesser Antilles French Creole Evolution of the sociolinguistic ground	<i>Presentation of the language</i>
I	3	Rise of Creole in the media Who's mirroring whom? (<i>Kreolenspiegel</i>)	<i>Specific points about Creole spoken on the radio</i>

II Theoretical models

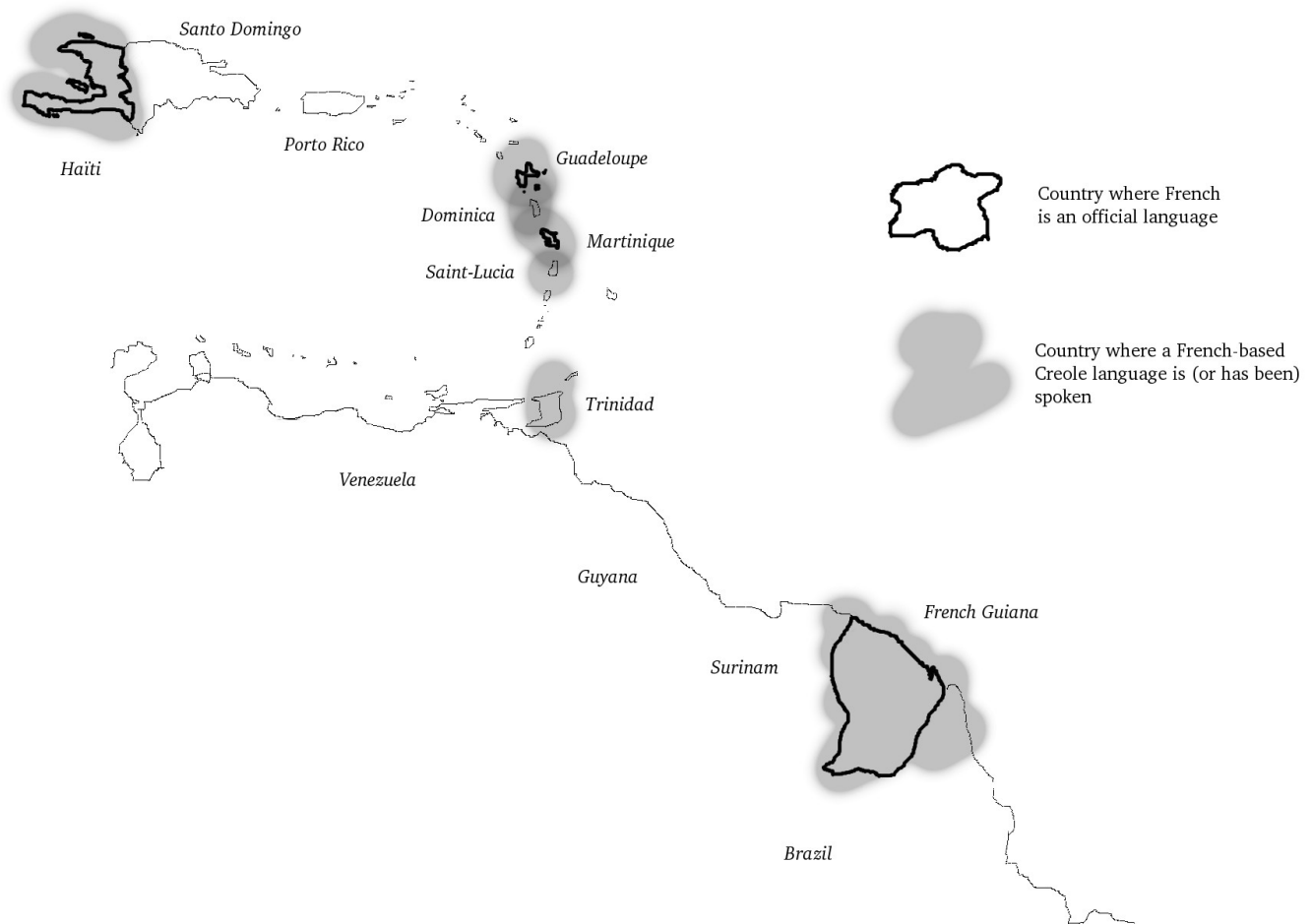
II	1	Sociolinguistic models: diglossia vs. continuum	<i>Macro-sociolinguistic models</i>
II	2	The interlect, <i>live</i>	<i>(What does the interlect actually look like?)</i>
II	3	Contact linguistics models: convergence or decreolization? Contact linguistics models: convergence and attrition Contact linguistics models: convergence through code mixing	<i>Contact linguistics models</i>

III Examples of syntactic phenomena

III	1	« Le créole n'a pas de grammaire » (folks wisdom)	<i>Introduction to variation</i>
III	2	Reflexivity in Antilles French Creole (1) Reflexivity in Antilles French Creole (2) Use of "kò + POSS" in the Lengrai-Moustin corpus What happened to <i>my body</i> ?	<i>Focus on a specific phenomenon: the calque of French reflexives</i>
III	3	Expressing the plural of nouns Expressing the plural of nouns: variation and choice Relative clause Subordinate clause	<i>Other examples of syntactic variation and possible French influences</i>
III	4	Remarks on the contexts of occurrence	<i>Contextual constraints</i>

IV 1 Synthesis

French-based Atlantic Creoles



Examples (except when otherwise specified, all examples in Martinican Creole)

II.2.

(1) *C'est le fait que* vèn a pé subi *des stress les plus **diverses**, des stress répétés comme par exemple le fait que* ou ka manipulé *des charges plus ou moins **lourd**, ou bien des charges pli léjè mais de manière fréquente*, ou pé ni an *environnement* ki pé, ki ka favorizé *mauvaise circulation* an, *par exemple, le fait que* ka fè cho, *le fait que* ni humidité, *le fait que* ou ka travay, *par exemple*, adan an navion éti ou ka ni *des différences de pression* ki ka exercé ko yo *au niveau (Ø) circulation et au niveau* ko'w, sé pou sa lé moun ki ka voyajé ében yo sav bien ke lè ou adan avion-a sa ka rivé'w *de manière épisodique, de manière rare*, mais ou ka santi *quand même que* lè ou asiz adan avion-a, lé ou asiz adan avion-a pendant witè d'tan *eh bien* jamb ou ka vini lou *et que souvent* si ou tiré soulié'w adan avion-a *eh bien* ou pa a rivé mété soulié-a an didan pié'w paske pié i gonflé *et que* soulié-a limenm i pa gonflé i pa dilaté ko'y.

- From a “popular science”-type radio broadcast: *Vrèyé kriyé doktè ba mwen* (go fetch a doctor for me), on radio APAL (*Asé Pléré Annou Lité*), Martinique, 29.11.2005. Theme of the day: bloodstream problems.

Italics: French. - Bold: conflicting language features.

III.2.

Non-reflexive verbs:

- (2) I ka promènè (cmp. French *je me promène*)
3SG IMPF stroll
He's strolling
- (3) Man ka alé benyen (cmp. French *je vais me baigner*)
1SG IMPF go bathe
I'm going to bathe
- (4) Joseph, lèvé! (cmp. French *Joseph, lève-toi!*)
Joseph stand
Joseph, stand up!

Canonical ("true") reflexivity (self-accusativity):

- (5) Adan di i séré **ko -y** pas i wè i té tou ni
Adam say 3SG hide body -3SG.POSS because 3SG see 3SG PAST all naked
Adam said he hid himself because he saw he was naked
- (6) Jenn -an lé ba **ko -y** balan
Young DEF want give body -3SG.POSS impulse
The young person wants to get in motion

Bare pronoun reflexive forms:

- (7) Ou ka alé benyen **'w** (Guad)
2SG IMPF go bathe -2SG
You are going to bathe
- (8) Alé sizé **'w** (Guad)
Go sit -2SG
Go get seated

Calques of French reflexive verbs:

- (9) Ou ka eséyé rantré adan an lojik ka permet ou **esprimé ko 'w**
2SG IMPF try get_in into INDF logic IMPF allow 2SG express body -2SG.POSS
You're trying to get into a logic which allows you to express yourself
- (10) Man ka **di ko mwen** [...] (cmp. French *je me dis*, Creole *man ka sonjé*)
1SG IMPF tell body 1SG.POSS [...] *I'm thinking (to myself) [...]*
- (11) Nou ka **rann ko nou kont** anlè téren an (cmp. French *nous nous rendons compte*, Creole *nou pé wè*)
1PL IMPF give_back body 1PL.POSS account on terrain DEF
On the field, we realize that

- (12) Yo **mété ko yo** à chanté
 3PL put body 3PL.POSS to(FRENCH) sing
They started to sing
 (cmp. French *ils se mirent à chanter*, Creole *yo pran chanté*)

III.3.

lé + *N*:

- (13) Man li **lé** pawol ki manniè bondié krée nonm
 1SG read PL word which way God create man
I read the words about how God created man
- (14) **lé** oditè ka palé kréyol
 PL listener IMPF speak creole
The listeners speak Creole
- (15) [...] sa yo kriyé *interactivité* an fwansé épi **lé** zodité
 what they call *interactivity(FRENCH)* in french with PL listeners
 [...] *what is called “interactivité” in French, with the listeners*

lé + *N* + *DEF*:

- (16) **lé** jenn **-lan** pa lé travay pou anyen
 PL young -DEF NEG want work for nothing
The young people don't want to work for nothing
- (17) **lé** moun **-lan** ka palé
 PL people DEF IMPF talk
People do talk

dé + *N*:

- (18) **dé** moun ka poté **dé** chaj
 PL.INDF people IMPF carry PL.INDF load
Some people carry loads

(Note: this creates an ambiguity with the numeral *dé* = two; *dé moun* may mean “some people” or “two persons”)

Functional specialization sé/lé ?

- (19) [...] **sé** moun **-lan** té kontan, soutou **lé** moun **-lan** ki soti lot bò
 PL1 people DEF PST happy espec. PL2 people DEF REL come_from other side
The people were happy, especially those people coming from abroad

(Hypothesis: PL1 specifies a set of entities, PL2 delineates a subset)

Relative clauses:

- (20) **dé** moun **ki** ka palé kréyol osi
 PL.INDF people REL.SBJ IMPF speak creole too
Some people who speak Creole too

- (21) ni dé moun Ø ka palé ba zot an fwansé
 have PL.INDF people IMPF speak to 2PL in french
There are some people who will address you in French
- (22) le potage **que** j' ai mangé était chaud
 DEF soup REL.OBJ 1SG have(AUX) eat.PART be.PAST hot
- (23) soup -la Ø man manjé a té cho
 soup DEF 1SG eat DEF PAST hot
- (24) soup -la **ke** man manjé a té cho
 soup DEF REL.OBJ 1SG eat DEF PAST hot
The soup I ate was hot
- (25) oswè -a man ka risouwrè [...] Sonia Mark di la Soso Ø tout moun konnet
 evening DET 1SG IMPF receive Sonia Mark tell "la_Soso" every people know
This evening, I am welcoming Sonia Mark a.k.a. "la Soso", whom everybody knows
- (26) yo kontan trouvé bagay **ke** moun ka fè
 3PL happy find thing REL.OBJ people IMPF make
They are happy to find objects actually made by [the local] people
- (27) je pense **que** tu es venu
 1SG think CMPL 2SG be(AUX) come.PART
- (28) man ka pansé Ø ou vini
 1SG IMPF think 2SG come
- (29) man ka pansé **ke** ou vini
 1SG IMPF think REL.OBJ 2SG come
I think (that) you came
- (30) man ka pansé Ø pa ni jenn ankò
 1SG IMPF think NEG have young still
I think there is no youth anymore
- (31) mwen ka pansé **ke** lé bay ki important *c' est de cerner les causes déclencheuses*
 1SG IMPF think that PL thing REL important it is to spot the cause.PL triggering.F.PL
I think that what is most important is to spot the triggering causes

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