When Two Become One: Creating a Composite Grammar in Creole Formation.
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Terms:

- **Superstrate**: lexifier of the creole; the language that is the source of most of the lexical forms, cannot be the sole source of the grammatical frame because its grammatical structure is not completely available to the learner.

- grammatical frame is largely made up of projections of abstract lexical structure from the substrate language(s) and to a lesser extent from the superstrate

- **Substrate**: remnants of an ethnic group’s former native language that have been retained in the language replacing the first, original language.

- **Lemma level**: the "dictionary" form of a word - so, root plus (usually) all derivational morphology, but no inflectional stuff.

- **Matrix Language Frame**: account for bilingual production; participating languages do not play equal parts;

- Matrix Language - a central role by supplying the grammatical frame and constraining the role of the Embedded Language (EL). It does not have to be one recognizable language; it can be a composite.

Creole Formation and Adult Second Language Learning

In both creole formation and adult second language learning, the speaker does not have full access to the preferred variety. The preferred variety language is the lexifier.

*EX. (10) Today he help dinner (Chinese learner’s Interlanguage; Wei, 1996, p. 422)*

The student knows all the vocabulary of English for the sentence, but not the thematic roles the verbs assign. In Chinese, the verb help assigns THEME to its object, whereas in English help assigns the thematic role BENEFICIARY.

French. “*Tu me manques*” vs. English “*I miss you.*”

What makes Berbice Dutch Unique

In many other creoles of the Caribbean creoles, there is no one single native language of African slaves. Thus the gaps in the Matrix Language had to be derived anew, from scratch. Berbice Dutch, is unique because originally all the shared one language – Eastern Ijc. In general, creoles take lexical items from a given substrate that involve items of social, religious, and material culture retained from Africa, or items that they want to keep secret from Europeans. Unlike other creoles, Berbice Dutch derives a lot of its basic vocabulary from Eastern Ijc.
- Think of words you are more likely to use in your heritage language, and which ones you will only use in English

**Swadesh word list**: used in lexicostatistics and glottochronology to determine the approximate date of first separation of genetically related languages; assumes that the rate of replacement of basic vocabulary is constant over long periods of time.

- In Berbice Dutch, Eastern Ijc is the single source of productive inflectional morphology and derivational morphology.

- Uses independent preverbal morphemes from European lexifier to mark tense and mood; but also retains aspectual suffixes from Eastern Ijc.

- The independent morphemes are probably reanalyzed?

**Similarities to heritage speakers**:

Ex. (13) Berbice Dutch (Kouwenberg, 1994, p.79)

DI HOGO SKUN-ap

the high shoe-PL

‘the high-heeled shoes’

Uses Dutch nouns, but with Eastern Ijc plural marker;

(The determiner di, from a Dutch early system morpheme, die ‘that’, has been reanalyzed in Berbice Dutch at the level of lexical-conceptual structure as a marker of definiteness for all nouns. Its morphological realization pattern conforms to the Dutch pattern: the determiner precedes the noun and its modifiers.)

- Have you used English nouns with plural endings from your heritage language?

- English verbs with heritage langue prefixes and suffixes?

**Reanalyzing Morphemes**

Only early morphemes can come from the superstrate. A late morpheme can only be used, if it can also function as an early morpheme.

Ex. ròb di mó mamā

dress of my mother

‘my mother’s dress’
In French, de can function as any one of two morpheme types: (1) an early system morpheme as in elle vient de Paris ‘she is from [comes from] Paris’, or (2) a bridge morpheme as in le livre de la femme ‘the woman’s book’. Although creole speakers have limited access to the language-specific grammatical mechanism of integrating a possessed noun phrase and a possessor noun phrase into a larger constituent (i.e., the bridge morpheme de), they do have access to those morphemes that are conceptually-activated (i.e., early system morpheme de). In Guyanais Creole French, the bridge morpheme di appears because the creole speakers reanalyzed its French counterpart as a conceptually-activated morpheme.