

## Lexical diffusion and the glottogenetics of creole French

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There are four parts to this posting: I. On lexical diffusion, II. On convergence and beyond: "creolisms" in koine genesis, III. The frills of French in the genesis of creole French, IV. Serialization in French, V. Conclusions and references. Footnotes appear within brackets in the text. This version 2 of the handout, elaborating mostly on examples 25ff.

### PART I On lexical diffusion

	-back				+back	
	-round		+round			
	-short	+short	-short	+short	-short	+short
+high	é	i	eú	u	ó	ou
	e	è	(eu)	(eù)	o	ò
+low		à			a	

Magoua vowels (Wittmann 1996)

### PART II On convergence and beyond: "creolisms" in koine genesis

- (1)a Jan **i** màlàd <Jean est malade>  
"John is sick" [adjectival [-past]]
- (1)b Jan (**i**) te màlàd <Jean était malade>  
"John was sick" [adjectival [+past]]
- (2)a Jan **i** àpre à-manjé à-pòm la <Jean mange la pomme>  
"John is eating the apple" [non-stative progressive [-past]]
- (2)b Jan (**i**) te àpre à-manjé à-pòm la <Jean mangeait la pomme>  
"John was eating the apple" [non-stative progressive [+past]]
- (3)a Jan **i an**-manj d à-pòm <Jean mange des pommes>  
"John eats (a lot of) apples" [non-stat. non-prog. [-past]]
- (3)b Jan **i an**-manj-e d à-pòm <Jean mangeait des pommes>  
"John used to eat (a lot of) apples" [non-stat. non-prog. [+past]]
- (4)a Jan **i à**-em ti-seúr <Jean aime la petite soeur>  
"John loves (his) little sister" [stative [-past]]
- (4)b Jan **i à**-em-e ti-seúr <Jean aimait la petite soeur>  
"John loved (his) little sister" [stative [+past]]
- (5)a mwén **j'\*(à)** kòne Ti-Ouiz <\*moi je la connais Louise>  
[I **AGRS** \*(**AGRO**) know Louise] "I know Louise."
- (5)b mwén **j'\*(à)** kòne èl <\*moi je la connais elle>  
[I **AGRS** \*(**AGRO**) know her] "I know her."
- (6)a m Ø a àlé **\*(l)** wér Pòpòl <\*moi va aller le voir Paul>  
[I Ø FUT go \*(**AGRO**) see Paul] "I'm going to visit Paul."

- (6)b m Ø a àlé **\*(I)** wér lui <\*moi va aller le voir lui>  
[I Ø FUT go **\*(AGRO)** see him] "I'm going to visit him,"
- (7)a {Jan, **l-ga (la)**} (pàre) **\*(i)** {màlàd-màlàd, dòkteur} (Magoua)  
"{John, **CL-man (DET)**} (seems) **\*(AGRS)** {rather sick, a doctor}"
- (7)b {Jan, **l-ga \*(la)**} (pàre) **\*(s)** {en-dòkteur, l-bòs **(la)**}  
"{John, **CL-man \*(DET)**} (seems) **\*(AGRS)** {one doctor, the boss} **\*(DET)**"
- (8)a {Jan, nèg **\*(la)**} (genlè) **\*(Ø)** {malad-malad, doktè} (Haitian Creole)  
"{John, man **\*(DET)**} (seems) **\*(AGRS)** {rather sick, a doctor}"
- (8)b {Jan, nèg **\*(la)**} (genlè) **\*(se)** {yon doktè, bòs **la**}  
"{John, man **\*(DET)**} (seems) **\*(AGRS)** {a, the} {doctor, boss} **\*(DET)**"
- (7)ba Jean semble l'être (le patron). [object [+def]]
- (7)bb Jean semble **en** être (un docteur). [object [-def]]

### PART III The frills of French in the genesis of creole French

- (9)aa n-a-**\*(u-)**ona **m-ti** (gender 2, class 3 SG  
"I-PRESENT see the tree")
- (9)ab n-a-**\*(ki-)**ona **ki-tabu** (gender 4, class 7 SG)  
"I-PRESENT see the book"
- (9)ba n-a-**\*(i-)**ona **mi-ti** (gender 2, class 4 PL)  
"I-PRESENT see the trees"
- (9)bb n-a-**\*(vi-)**ona **vi-tabu** (gender 4, class 8 PL)  
"I-PRESENT see the books"
- (10)a **ma-tunda \*(zi-)\*(Ø-)**chunga (gender 6, class 10b PL)  
**CL-fruits \*(AGRS-)\*(CL-)**bitter  
"The fruits are bitter" (stative predicate)
- (10)b **ma-tunda \*(ni-)\*(ma-)**chunga (gender 6, class 10b PL)  
**CL-fruits \*(AGRS-)\*(CL-)**bitter  
"The fruits are bitter ones" (non-stative DP predicate)
- (11)a. Swahili has 16 noun class prefixes (surviving from the original 18 of Bantu) pairing into 7 genders. If we were to add nouns with non-third-person reference (nouns referring to "I", "we", "you") paired into genders, we would have 9 genders controlling each one its own set of gender agreement prefixes whereas we'd have in Magoua 4 genders controlling sets of clitics marking gender incidentally.
- (11)b. In Swahili, agreement marks definiteness only in object positions and with inanimate nouns that do not belong to gender 1; in all other cases, agreement is obligatory and based on gender only.
- (11)c. Magoua agreement is not sensitive to nominal class membership with non-definite subject agreement, indirect object agreement, locative agreement and reflexives.
- (11)d. Agreement markers are "bound" affixes in Swahili implying fusional inflective morphology, clitics in Magoua. [For Magoua, conventional /-/ is to be interpreted

as clitic if it antecedes the item it cliticizes on, affixal when it follows; in Swahili (and in Bantu in general), /-/ has always affixal interpretation.] Absence of fusional inflection was McWhorter's yardstick number one out of three to measure the "creole prototype" (cf. Wittmann 1999). [McWhorter, in the publication I'm referring to, just talks about inflection implying fusional inflection via bound affixes. Any language, even the most isolating one, would have to have inflection, fusional, clitic or isolating, in order to qualify as a natural language. Any non-lexical "functional" item is inflective by definition. Isolation-fusion is a matter of degrees along a continuum which doesn't contribute significantly to typological differences. Movement rules or strictly fixed word order are conceivable anywhere along that continuum.]

- (11)e. Gender 7 of Swahili has only one intrinsic member (-hali "place").
- (11)f. Noun class prefixes are the only pronominal material there can be in Swahili which gives the illusion they're "agglutinated" whereas in most other languages PRODUCTIVE noun class markers have to compete with other material in the same syntactic position.
- (11)g. In present tense contexts, the zi/ni alternation of (10a)/(10b) corresponds to the i/sé alternation of Magoua in (7a)/(7b). [In (8b), AGRS agrees superficially with the class clitic of the subject but is coindexed semantically with the object DET; in (10b), the same effects are achieved almost identically, except that object "DET-ness" surfaces as a class prefix which, though agreeing superficially with the subject, retains in this context a "functional load" inherited from its past as an article.] Though this seemingly reflects subject agreement marking historically derived from an earstwhile copula, Swahili has overt copula phenomena emerging in typical copula positions with non-present tense reference just as they would in Hebrew and Arabic (I can't go into details here on the difficult subject of the copula in Swahili). This is not so for Magoua.

- (12)a je\_suis tait
- (12)b t\_es tait
- (12)ca il\_est tait
- (12)cb elle\_est tait
- (12)cc c\_est tait
- (12)da on\_est tait
- (12)db c\_est tait
- (12)ea on\_est tait
- (12)eb son tait
- (12)ec c\_est tait
- (12)fa son tait
- (12)fb c\_est tait

- (13)a je **LE** suis  
"I'm that, I'm the one" (direct object reference)
- (13)b j'**EN** suis  
"I'm one of them" (indirect object reference)
- (13)c j'**Y** suis  
"I'm there" (locative reference)

- (14)a (mouén) ch-**te** màlàd <je\_suis tait malade>  
"(I) was sick"

- (14)b (mouén) ch-pa-**té** màlàd <je\_suis pas (é)té malade>  
 "(I) wasn't sick"

#### PART IV      **Serialization in French**

- (15)a. Magoua as well as most related dialects have lative, comparative and instrumental serialization but no benefactive serialization.
- (15)b. HC as well as all the ba-varieties of creole French have lative and comparative serialization but no benefactive or instrumental serialization. [Ba-varieties of creole French are: Haitian Creole, the Creoles of a string of isles extending from Saint-Bart to Trinidad, the Creole of French Guiana, and the various varieties of Karipuna Creole spoken in the Amapá federal territory of northernmost Brazil.]
- (15)c. LC and the IO creoles would have instrumental serialization to the extent that the verb can move into TENSE but no benefactive, lative, or comparative serialization.
- (15)d. Benefactive interpretations of /ba/ are recent developments based on superstrate interferences reanalyzing the ba/pu alternation of Creole in terms of the à/pour alternation of Standard French.
- (16) j-à-**pong** là-hàch j-à-kup là-branch  
 AGRS-AGRO-**take** CL-ax AGRS-AGRO-cut CL-branch  
 "I cut the branch **with** the ax."
- (17)a mon pti frér i trávàv **plus**  
 [**pàs** (k) mouén (ch-trávàv mwéns) dpu j-màlàd]  
 "My little brother works **MORE**  
 [**PASS = THAN** I (work less) since I'm sick]"
- (17)b Jan **pi** ro (**pase** Mari)                      (Haitian Creole)  
 "John (is) **MORE** tall (**PASS = THAN** Mary)"
- (17)ba                      \*Jan ro **pase**  
 (17)bb                      \*Jan **pase** ro
- (18)b ó tóbi **jù** (mí **lo**)                      (Yoruba)  
 "he (is) big **PASS = MORE** (me **GO = THAN**)"  
 "He is bigger (than me)."
- (18)c àfi lè suè **wú** (dàdì)                      (Gbe)  
 "mouse is small **PASS = MORE** (cat)"  
 "The mouse is smaller (than the cat)."
- (19)a                      mwen te pote liv-la **ba** **Mari**                      (Haitian Creole)  
 "I PAST bring book DET **SER** **Mary**"
- (19)ba                      mwen te pote liv-la **pou** **Mari**  
 "I PAST bring book DET **PREP** **Mary**"
- (19)bb                      mwen te pote **Mari** liv-la  
 "I PAST bring **Mary** book DET"

- (20)a I gave/brought a book **to/for Mary** (English)  
 (20)b I gave/brought **Mary** a book
- (21)a j'ai apporté un livre **pour Marie** (Standard French)  
 (21)b j'ai apporté un livre **à Marie**
- (22)a (mouén) j-vyen l-mné l-liv **pou Mari** (Magoua)  
 (22)ba (mouén) j-vyen l-mné l-liv **à Mari**  
 (22)bb (mouén) j-vyen i-mné **Mari** son liv
- (23)a mè ná àgbàlê **Kòfí** (Gbe)  
 "I gave [= passed on] book **Koffi**"  
 (23)b mè tsó àgbàlê **ná Kòfí**  
 "I gave [= gave as a gift] book **to Koffi**"
- (24) **baille-ly** belle, la queue ly pu (Nisard 1876:17)  
 "**At it** truly, his tail stinks"
- (251) (a)ke "with, and" (HC ake, Karipuna Creole ke): Karipuna ke "with, and".
- (252) ka "to become, to be able, could" (French <qu'à>, replaces HC /ap/ [progressive] in all ba-varieties except HC): French <qu'à> (cf. Magoua /ch-ka fer sa/ "I just have to do that"), Karipuna k- [attributive] + -a- verbalizing prefix, or -ka [stative, durative] (cf. Palikour -ka/-ki [+passive, -perfective] as in /ri-hepka tamak-ka duwwe/ "he-face painted-is red", Karipuna Creole /so fas ka pentire rouj/ "his face is painted red").
- (253) kaba "finished, after, already": Karipuna k-a- (as in 252) -ba [imperfective] (-ba is past imperfective as an aspect, future as a tense), originally conflating with Spanish <acabar> "complete".
- (254) ke [future] (in all ba-varieties except HC, from an earlier k(a)- (as in 252) + ale/ay): Karipuna k-a- (as in 252) + a conflating calque based on Karipuna ba "aller" ou -ba [future].
- (255) ki "which", ki-sa "what" (in Sylvain 1936:71 also for "who"), sa "what, that, it is": Karipuna ka/ki (a phonological rule determining the distribution) "what, which, who", ka sa "what" (also employed to form phrases meaning why).
- (256) la DET: Karipuna l(i-k)a [demonstrative] (meaning as in French "ce ... là").
- (257) li, l, i "he, she", competing with "he/his, she/her": Karipuna l-, -i "he, his", t-, -u "she, her".
- (258) pa- [negative]: Karipuna -pa [negative] (competes with privative ma- as in 26).
- (259) t(e) [past]: Karipuna -t(i)- [aorist].
- (25A) pou/ba: (This is the alternation we already talked about which came here in the list.)

- (25B) (v)a [future] (from earlier "go" in French, competes with ke of 254): Conflating calque based on Karipuna ba "to go", -ba [future]. Conflating calquing "helping along" in the ba-area is not inconsistent with the fact that forms based on /va/ generalized elsewhere.
- (25C) yo/ye "they, their, -s" PRO-POSS-PL: Karipuna -yen, -yan, -yón, same meaning (I used here in 25C transcription conventions borrowed from Magoua).
- (26) mabi "boisson (sp.)", mabuya "mauvais génie, lézard (sp.), se remuer", mafya "esprit malveillant, canaille", maho "arbre (sp.), fibre (sp)", makawa "rhumatisme", makwa "sans élégance", makwali "mal bâti", manarè "crible (de farine de manioc)", manyòk "manioc", mapu "kapokier", marasa "jumeaux", maraka "hochet (de calebasse)", marengwen "moustique", maribouja "fruit de la passion", maripa "sans harnachement", masisi "sans testicules, homosexuel", masuru "sans parents", matabi "presse à manioc", matete "besoin, manque", matuni "bigorneau", mayipuri "tapir", matutu "plat/riz de crabe", maveve "plante (sp), remède (sp.)", mawali "petit poisson (sp.)", mayayuka "moquerie, jeu de dérision", mayi "maïs", mazora "sans dents, édenté"
- (27) kannò-t "barque, canot", karè-t "tortue de mer", kayimi-t "caïmite", maku-t "sac en paille", pipiri-t "petit oiseau (sp.)", ravè-t "blatte, cancrelat", zandoli-t "lézard (sp.)"
- (28)a somebody+tense something **BRING TO** somewhere
- (28)b **TAKE GO CARRY LAY-DOWN SAY**
- (29) ix däd go ge Eshinge ge shaffe go  
 [I would GO GO Donaueschingen GO work GO]  
 "I might as well go to work in Donaueschingen"