

Pidgins/Creoles, Multilingualism, the Linguistic Act, & Language Acquisition

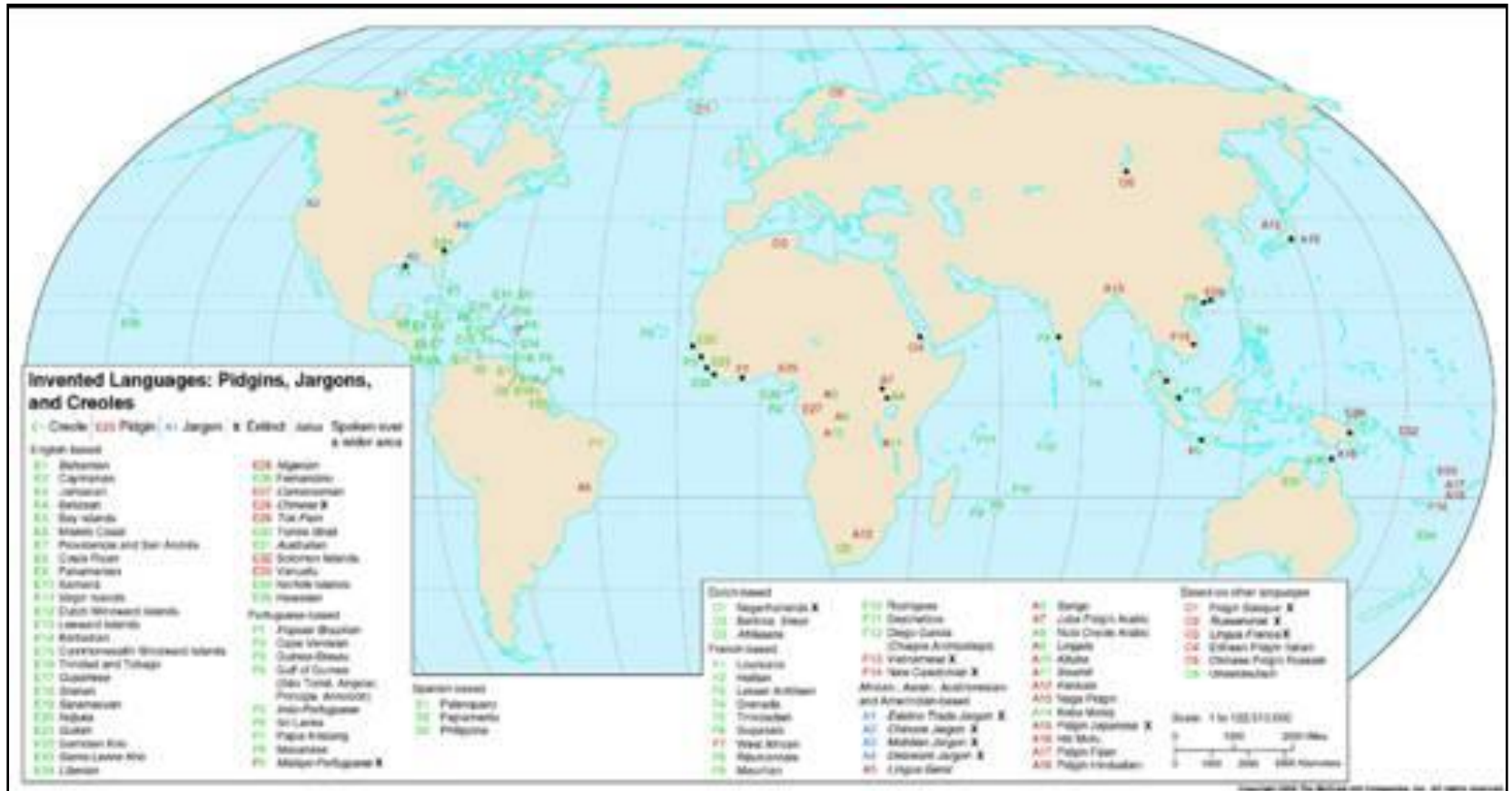
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LCD 102: Analyzing Language

PIDGINS & CREOLES

Creoles and Pidgins around the world



Source: alex.roedach.at/kottak/map%2013.jpg

Tok Pisin



- An English lexifier creole spoken in Papua New Guinea.
- Official language of PNG
- Lingua Franca

Example 1

At a travel agency:

L: Ahm, wanpela sit i stap lo fotint.

D: Oke, putim mi lo dispela. Ating bihain long apinun otumora mi ...mi gat wanpela tiket bai mi...mi no bin yusim from Lae kam long hia.

L: OK. Em i bilong go long we? Lae o Mosbi?

D: No, long hia i go long Mosbi.

L: Oke.

D: So tiket mi toktok long en, mi holim long Mosbi ... i kambilong Kavieng tasol mi bin wokabout long narapela rot.

L: Ah, oke, oke.

D: Iya. Bai yumi senisim, tasol.

Example 2



Translation:

L: Ahm, wanpela sit i stap lo fotint.

Hmm, there is a seat on the 14th.

D: Oke, putim mi lo dispela. Ating bihain long apinun otumora mi ...mi gat wanpela tiket bai mi...mi no bin yusim from Lae kam long hia.

OK, put me on that one. Perhaps later this afternoon or tomorrow I... I've got a ticket that I... I haven't used it from Lae to here.

“Broken” English

- Lots of varieties of speech are called:
 - Broken
 - Bad
 - Creole
 - Pidgin

Iya. Bai yumi senisim, tasol.
‘Yeah, we’ll just change it.’

em ples bilong me
‘It’s my place.’

Pidgins & Creoles

- These arise in language contact situations between:
 - A superstrate (or lexifier) language. This is the language used by the more powerful group. (Typically European languages.)
 - And one or more substrate languages.
- Many pidgins and creoles developed in colonial settings, such as on plantations, 17th-20th c.

Pidgins

- Technical
 - A new variety which arises from two groups who are communicating in the L2
 - The term Pidgin English, which apparently derives from ‘business English’ originated in Canton to denote a trade jargon.
 - L2 typically dominant, colonialist/imperialist language
 - Not used between members of a single group
 - No native speakers
 - Restricted context of use—instructions to slaves/plantation workers
 - Limited vocabulary. Just words and very basic syntax (if any)
- Common
 - A degenerate form of a language

Creoles

- Are languages with native speakers that have developed out of pidgins.
- Learned as a first language rather than as a second language by their speakers.
- Are used between members of a group.
- Broader social contexts of use than pidgins.
- Expanded vocabulary and grammar
- Emerge in colonial situations (Haitian Kreyol) and/or as lingua francas (Tok Pisin).

MULTILINGUALISM

Multilingualism

- The majority of the world speak more than one language
- Situations of multilingualism:
 - Diglossia
 - Multidialectalism
 - (Im)migration
 - Colonialism/Imperialism
 - Multiethnic Nation States
 - Urbanization

Use of Multiple Languages

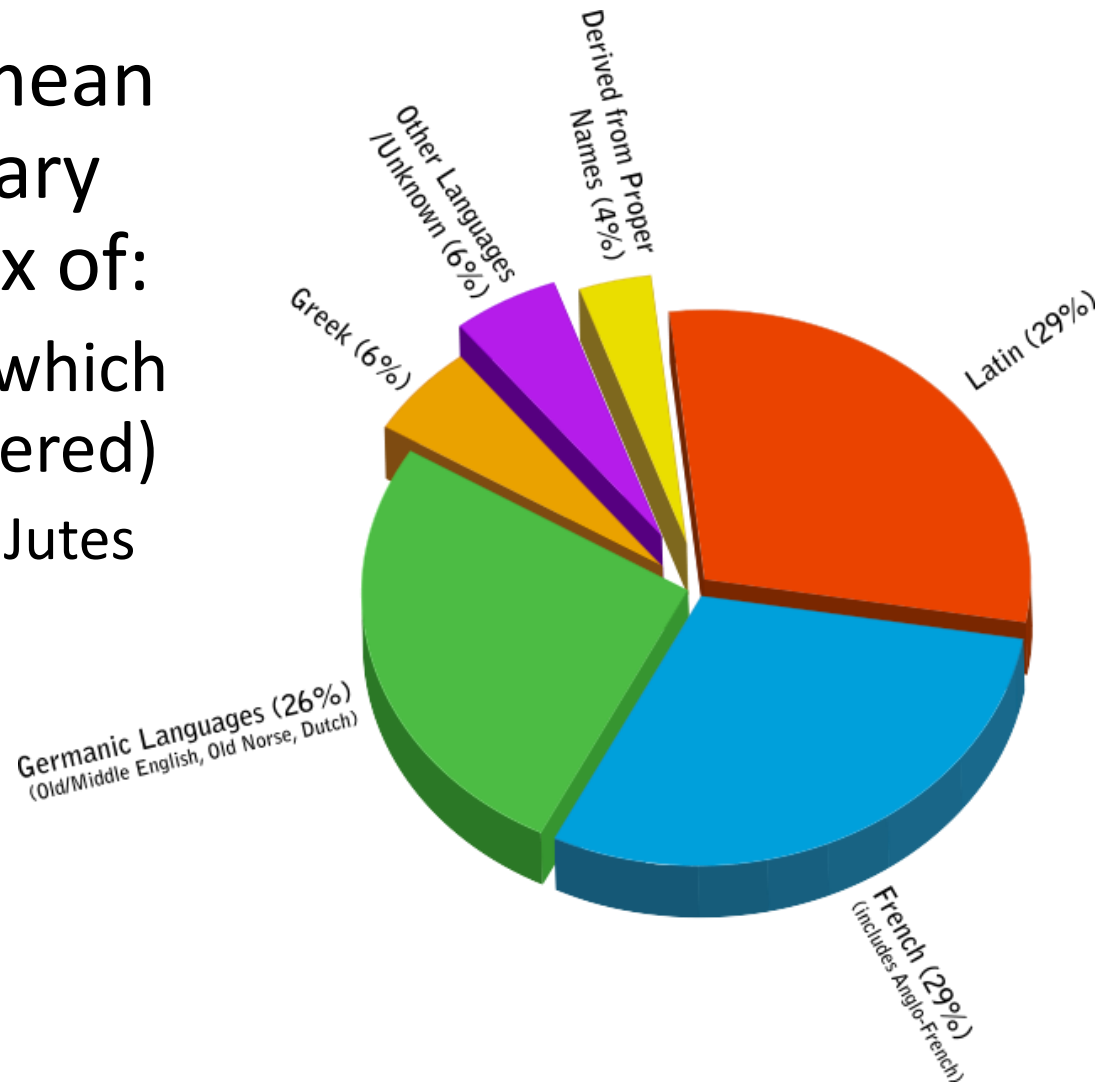
- Languages mixing to create new language
 - Pidgins and Creoles
- Using words from one language in another language
 - Borrowing
- Switching between two languages
 - Code Switching

Borrowings

- Languages supplement their “native” vocabulary by borrowing words
 - Vacuum
 - New concept
 - New object
 - For specialized meaning
 - Language Contact
 - Code switching
 - Colonialism
 - Forced use

Borrowings

- These contacts mean that the vocabulary of English is a mix of:
 - 26% Germanic (which English is considered)
 - Angles, Saxons, Jutes
 - Old Norse
 - 58% Romance
 - French
 - Latin



Code Switching

- Switching between two languages
- Attitudes towards code switching vary by community and status of languages and speakers:
 - Posh
 - “snobby”
 - “affected”
 - Linguistic deficiency
 - “Can’t speak Spanish well”
 - “Spanglish”

Code Switching

- **Posh**
 - English-French
- **Western/Modern**
 - Moroccan Arabic-French in Morocco
 - Egyptian Arabic-French
 - Hindi-English
- **Cultured/International/Exotic**
 - English-Spanish by non-Latino Americans
- **Poor use of language**
 - Spanish-English, English-Spanish in US by Latinos
- **In-group membership**

Multilingualism

- How is this represented in the mind?
 - Distinct independent grammars
 - Could have deficient grammars compared to a monolingual standard
 - One interconnected grammar
 - Multicompetence
 - No deficient or incomplete grammar. Fundamentally different.

Types of Bilinguals

- Bilinguals
 - Heritage speakers
 - Simultaneous bilingual
 - Sequential bilingual
 - L2-dominant bilingual
- Notions of “native” speakerness are difficult and are more about identity than scientific fact.