new languages **CREOLES**

When groups of people speaking different languages come together and intermix, a common improvised second language, called a pidgin, occasionally develops. It allows speakers of two or more non-intelligible native languages to communicate with each other. Subsequently, such a language can replace the settlers’ original language and become the first language of their descendants. Such languages are called creoles. The difference between pidgins and creoles is that people grow up speaking creoles as their first language, whereas nobody speaks pidgin as their first language. There is no single accepted theory that explains the genesis of creole languages.

The term creole comes from the French creole, from Spanish criollo ’person native to a locality’. The word was coined in the 16th century and applied to people born in the colonies, to distinguish them from European-born immigrants. In the Portuguese-speaking world, the term referred specifically to people of mixed European and non-European ancestry.

Since most creole languages developed in the colonies they are typically based on English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, the languages of the superpowers of the time. However, there are also numerous creoles based on other languages such as Arabic, Hindi, and Malay.

Over time, creoles develop expanded vocabularies and more complex grammatical features that were not present in the pidgins from which they evolved. Most creole speakers control a number of levels and can shift up and down. At the highest level, creoles can merge with the standard variety of the language on which they were based. For instance, there is indication that Jamaican Creole has merged with Standard Jamaican English, and that Hawai’ian Creole at its highest level has merged with Hawai’ian English.

[Creoles were] initially defined as languages which developed on European plantation settlements throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, combining elements of European and local languages. The majority of these languages developed on coasts of the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

In more recent years, some linguists have expanded the definition of “Creole” to include languages that emerged due to contact between two non-European languages, rather than one European and one non-European tongue. Examples include Kinubi, a language based on Arabic that is spoken in Uganda and the Sudan, and Lingala, a language based on the African Bobangi language, which is spoken in the Congo.

The key defining factor of all the various types of Creole is that they each developed as a means of communication between two mutually-unintelligible linguistic groups. For example, Standard French and native languages of Haiti were eventually fused together to form Haitian Creole. Creole languages tend to develop in isolated areas, especially on islands like Haiti.

Sources

[aboutworldlanguages.com/creole-languages](file:///E%3A%5Caboutworldlanguages.com%5Ccreole-languages)

[alsintl.com/resources/languages/Creole/](http://www.alsintl.com/resources/languages/Creole/)