

LING-UA 1 *Language*
Pidgins & Creoles, FRH Ch. 7

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Week 12 3:30PM, 1 December 2025

Logistics

▶ **Exam 3:**

- ▶ Tuesday, 16 Dec, 2–3:15PM (during class)
- ▶ **19 University Place, # 102** (new room)
- ▶ Bring a laptop/tablet (on Brightspace)
- ▶ ~30 multiple choice questions, 3–5 from each lecture since Exam 2
- ▶ **Review Session** on Monday 15 Dec, after recitation (4:45–close)

▶ **HW 8:**

- ▶ Due on Dec 8
- ▶ Basically a study guide for the exam

Questions from HW/Lecture?

Lingua Franca

- ▶ **Lingua Franca** = a language of mutual convenience
- ▶ Spoken by speakers who don't share any other common language
- ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ English (in most places)
 - ▶ Russian, in fmr USSR
 - ▶ Yiddish, for Jews in pre-WW2 Europe
 - ▶ Swahili in East Africa
- ▶ Named after a Mediterranean trade language spoken from 1000–1800CE

Pidgins

- ▶ **Pidgin** = deliberately invented language to facilitate communication
 - ▶ Highly simplified, lacking overt morphology
 - ▶ No native speakers, everyone also speaks something else
- ▶ They are *contact languages*
 - ▶ Found in costal areas due to trade/exploration/colonialism
 - ▶ Incorporate elements of multiple languages

Pidgins

- ▶ Pidgins share features from multiple languages
 - ▶ **Lexifier/superstrate** language(s) contribute vocabulary words
 - ▶ **Substrate** language(s) contribute grammar
- ▶ *generally*, lexifier language is associated with power

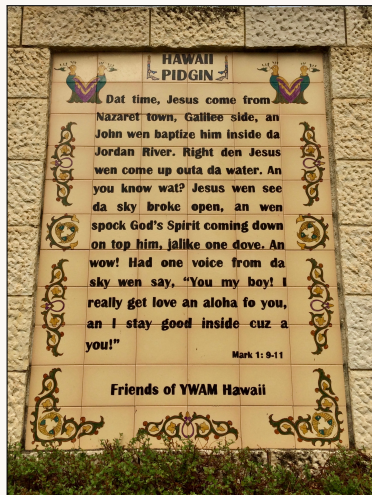


Figure: Hawaiian Pidgin

Pidgin Features

- ▶ Few(er) phonemes, grammatical words
- ▶ Less morphology
- ▶ Simpler pronouns
- ▶ Reduplication, compounds
- ▶ Lexical class ambiguity
- ▶ Simple clause structure
- ▶ Variable word orders

Pidgins → Creoles

- ▶ **Creole** = pidgin acquired as a native language
- ▶ “Creolization” reduces variability, expands domains of use
 - ▶ **Gradualist model:** slow process, no single moment/generation of nativization
 - ▶ **Other models:** Relexification, Monogenetic (Afrogenesis)
- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ Jamaican Creole
 - ▶ Haitian Creole
 - ▶ Tok Pisin
 - ▶ Krio
 - ▶ Martinican Creole
 - ▶ Nigerian Pidgin

Creole Features

- ▶ (Some) inflectional morphology
- ▶ More complex pronoun systems
- ▶ Fewer compounds
- ▶ More complex syntax

Domains of Use

- ▶ Language(s) are not always used in the same conditions for the same things
- ▶ **diglossia** = co-use of two languages in different areas of society
 - ▶ Example: Modern Standard Arabic & lehjah / darijah / 'amiyyah

