

book will provide readers from a linguistic background with thought-provoking fresh insights into many aspects of language contact in a colonial context. It is a complex and dense work which provides challenging though very rewarding reading. It is unfortunate that the price of the book is so high because it is one which many linguists would find well worth acquiring. The book is nicely produced and almost free from typos and the tables and notes are clear. I highly recommend this book.

## References

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*Voices in exile: Jamaican texts of the 18th and 19th centuries*. Ed. by Barbara Lalla and Jean D'Costa. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1989. xiv + 157 pp. US\$24.50;

*Language in exile: three hundred years of Jamaican Creole*. By Barbara Lalla and Jean D'Coste. 1990. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1990. xvii + 253 pp. US\$39.95.

*Reviewed by Jakelin Troy*  
*Research School of Pacific Studies,*  
*Australian National University*

Lalla and D'Costa's books are an ambitious and very successful pair that set out to provide linguists with a documentary background to and an analysis of the history of language contact in Jamaica which produced modern Jamaican Creole. The first volume (Lalla and D'Costa 1989) contains a fascinating, annotated selection of texts illustrative of Jamaica's colonial linguistic history. The companion publication (Lalla and D'Costa 1990) draws upon the sources in the earlier book and additional material to illustrate an analysis of the development of Jamaican Creole. The books are an excellent resource for pidgin-creolists and a model for similar historical research projects. However, their interest and relevance is not confined to specialists nor only to

linguists. The source documents provided in the works and the historical and social commentaries by the authors will engage readers across many disciplines particularly those interested in colonialism, plantation economies and the history of slavery. In the first volume a map and collection of illustrations set the study within a visual context which enables the reader to create a mental picture of life in colonial Jamaica. The editors clearly explain all jargon and provide a glossary of items from the texts which can be easily referred to while reading. A criticism is that the lack of an index makes cross-referencing difficult. In the second volume copious plates, charts, maps, tables, a large glossary of terms gleaned from the quoted texts and a useful index aid the reader in understanding the authors' points. The large bibliography will satisfy anyone with a desire to explore further. A nice touch are the apposite historical quotations which engage the reader at the beginning of each chapter.

Introducing the first volume, the editors state: "this book brings together a strange choir of voices: slaves, masters, and sundry onlookers...so as to give voice and witness to an even stranger event, the birth of a creole culture in Jamaica" (p. 1). They realise that Jamaican history has been the subject of much scholarly debate and study. However, their goal is to provide a set of primary documents gleaned from the

records of the country and produced by as wide a range of sources as possible to allow the actors in Jamaica's history to "speak" for themselves. The kind of language used by each source quoted is taken as evidence for various stages in the social, economic, political and linguistic development of Jamaica.

The book begins with an introduction presenting the editors' rationale for the production of the work (as noted above) and a synopsis of Jamaica's social and linguistic history. The editors point out that modern Jamaica is a country which was built on the experience of exile (p. 1), hence the title for this book. The indigenous population of Arawaks did not survive the colonisation of their country by Spain which lasted until the English seized the colony in 1655. The English used African slave labour in establishing and maintaining a very viable plantation economy until slave emancipation in 1838. Fear of rebellion organised through "subversive communication" drove planters to "uproot and destroy the language and the customs of their new slaves" (p. 5). Contact language thrived in the environment of the plantations "the Creole language...was a necessary creation for the plantation" (p. 6). Unfortunately, the editors found no evidence for the pidgin stage preceding the creole which is documented from the mid eighteenth century forward.

Texts have been selected for quotation within four diachronic periods in the history of colonial Jamaica each of which forms one chapter of the book. Each text is provided with an introduction which contextualises the piece and comments on the reliability of the source from which the item was derived. A criticism I have at this point is that neither the general introduction nor the chapters themselves

contain a statement of rationale behind the historical divisions made by the editors for their chapters. Therefore, readers unfamiliar with Jamaican history will not understand the significance of the cutoff points. The titles of the first two chapters clearly indicate that they deal with the period before emancipation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The texts contain insights into many aspects of "creole culture" and demonstrate the pervasive use of Creole by the native born population.

The title of chapter 3 "Apprenticeship: 1834-1838" is not explained within that chapter. The reader is left with the tantalizing introductory statement "freedom dawned on Friday, August 1, 1834...the disappointments of the apprenticeship experiment still lay ahead" (p. 61). Within chapter 4, "Post emancipation: 1838 and beyond", there is a text which together with the editors' annotations allow the reader to draw some conclusions about the historical connections between slavery, apprenticeships and full emancipation (pp. 75-84). Both chapters would benefit from an introductory paragraph outlining the historical developments of the defined periods. The companion volume provides a more detailed history of Jamaica and enhances any reading of this book.

The second book is divided into two parts and ten chapters. The first part, "Early Jamaican Creole" (EJC), contains six chapters which run through (1) a history of colonial Jamaica; (2) a discussion of the sources available for studying the linguistic history of Jamaica; (3) a reconstruction of the sound system of EJC; (4) an outline of the morphosyntax and lexicon EJC; (5) consideration of language variation in the texts and development of the authors' contention that "extensive language variation

apparently existed between basilectal Jamaican Creole at one end of the spectrum and acrolectal Jamaican English at the other" (p. 79); (6) an examination of the "implications of the data" (p. 99) from the point of view of their contributions to an understanding of the connections between other Caribbean English creoles and West African anglo-phone creoles.

Part two "Data and commentary" contains four chapters divided diachronically into periods which were significant in the history of Jamaican Creole. The contents of the chapters are selected texts relevant to Creole development with annotations by Lalla and D'Costa. There is some overlap of sources between this book and the earlier volume. However, the extracts chosen are completely different and therefore complementary. The texts add to the corpus which the authors make available to researchers who wish to use primary data for studying EJC. A most interesting and useful inclusion is a mid-nineteenth century description of EJC (Russell 1868) which provides a contemporary linguistic (albeit naive) account of the language. The authors have quoted the piece in full (pp. 184-201) because it is unique and "offers useful insights into phonology, morphosyntax, and lexicon" of EJC (pp. 184-85).

Lalla and D'Costa succeed in their aim which is to begin to answer questions about "exactly how and when such languages as Jamaican Creole...came into existence" (p. 1). As they explain "all too often, the questions must be asked in the absence of historical data adequate to determine either the precise timing of the process of creolization or the way in which the speakers of contributing languages shaped the unique language forms now classified as creoles" (p. 1). This book provides an analysis of a large corpus of

data and in presenting the data referred to in full the authors have facilitated alternative and further analyses by other linguists. Their methodology is one which should be practised by all pidgin-creolists. My only criticism is that the analysis of the data is not more extensive. It is particularly disappointing that the chapter dealing with morphosyntax and lexicon is very short (pp. 68-78). The authors excuse themselves with the rider that "extensive syntactic analysis lies well beyond the scope of this volume, partly because the data yields little that contrasts with twentieth-century JC" (p. 68). Readers unfamiliar with the details of contemporary Jamaican Creole syntax will no doubt look forward to the authors, at some future date, writing a more extensive elaboration of the relationship between EJC and modern JC. However, in its defence, this chapter contains a particularly interesting analysis of the data which relates it to Early Modern English dialects and therefore departs from a purely African substratum focus which is more usual (p. 68).

The authors claim that ten years was spent researching, analysing and preparing the books (1990, p. xiii). I can well understand the quantity of research that has gone into making this study. My own several years of research into the history of language contact in colonial Australia has supplied me with a large corpus of texts some of which I have analysed (Troy 1990) and other awaiting analysis (Troy forthcoming). Commonalities between Australian and Jamaican texts suggest the presence in New South Wales of people with experience of Jamaica and also of developmental similarities. As an early colony of England Jamaica must have had some linguistic influence on other English colonies such as New South Wales and therefore on the whole Pacific context. Certainly the matter is worth consideration.

I highly recommend *Voices in exile* and *Language in exile* as books which should be in the libraries of all pidgin creolists, indeed most linguists would find them useful. They are also books which will appeal outside the specialist field and are relevant to many disciplines. Both volumes are very nicely designed and produced. Attention has been given to the use of evocative antique-style scripting and contrast between the fonts used for the annotations and for the texts aids scanning. In the first book, the repeated use of a graphic depicting a slave with a brutal, spiked, iron collar casts the work in an appropriately sinister light reminding the reader of the fundamentally inhumane history of Jamaica. In the second book chapters are headed with a square-rigged ship suggesting the movement of people and their languages across oceans and into exile as the title indicated. The clear reproduction of illustrations and full documentation beneath each picture in the first book is a credit to the authors because so often these are details not given adequate attention. I commend the publishers for keeping the price within the limits accessible to students. Any tertiary course on pidgins and creoles should include both volumes as prescribed reading.

## References

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*An introduction to historical linguistics*. By Terry Crowley. University of Papua New Guinea Press and the Institute of Pacific Studies, the University of the South Pacific, 1987. vi + 306pp. AUS\$29.95

*Reviewed by Tom Dutton  
Research School of Pacific Studies,  
Australian National University*

This is a revised version of a textbook that grew out of lectures on historical linguistics given by the author to undergraduates at the University of PNG in the early 1980s. At that time there was no suitable textbook available for teaching historical linguistics to PNG students for whom English is their second, third, fourth or nth language. Most such textbooks are difficult

to read even for native English speakers because of the rather high percentage of technical terms introduced (and often given in a German form) and the formal academic English style used. Consequently in designing this book the author's aim was to introduce and explain concepts and principles as simply as possible, without "simplifying the concepts themselves" (p.3). He was also at pains to illustrate these concepts and principles with examples taken from languages with which the students are familiar.

The book is divided into twelve chapters covering traditional areas of concern in historical linguistics. The first chapter is an introductory one in which the nature of linguistic relationships and attitudes to language change are discussed. The next three chapters describe and discuss types of sound change (Chapter 2), ways of expressing sound changes (Chapter 3), and phonetic versus phonemic change (Chapter 4). In Chapter 5 the comparative method is introduced and in Chapter 6 problems associated with it are outlined. Chapter 7 is devoted to internal reconstruction and Chapter 8 to grammatical and semantic change. The remaining four chapters have to do with subgrouping (Chapter 9), observing linguistic change (Chapter 10), causes of linguistic