

Comments on Karl Franklin's "Etymology of *pidgin*" paper

I have two comments on Karl Franklin's interesting paper on the etymology of the word "pidgin", published earlier this year. These are intended as stimuli to further research and not necessarily as criticisms of his theory, which is certainly worthy of consideration.

1. Is there any evidence in Early Melanesian Pidgin of the term *pisin* (or something like that) being used to refer to anything other than birds? In other words, if Chinese Pidgin English *pisin* meant **either** 'business or 'fashion', has this been found **in this form** with either of those meanings in any of the early pidgins spoken in PNG/Solomons/Vanuatu?
2. An examination of the data in the paper shows a pretty straightforward correspondence between the vowels of CPE words and the corresponding vowels of the English words from which they derive. **If** *pisin* derived from 'fashion' and not from 'business', then, how do we explain the quite irregular change of /æ/ to /i/ in the first vowel?

John Lynch