

ABSTRACT

Papiamentu's Portuguese-lexified linguistic features shared with Papiá Kristang: Additional direct and indirect aspects connecting Papiamentu with other Portuguese-lexified Creole languages and Vernacular Brazilian Portuguese

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The main aim of the present study is to further deepen the study of the lexical origins of Papiamentu (PA). It investigates the connections PA has with its ultimate lexical source, the Portuguese language, by means of comparing it with Papiá Kristang (PK), an Asian Portuguese-lexified Creole, historically not directly related to the West African Portuguese-lexified Creoles and PA. Positive linguistic connections between PA and PK are established, showing the deeper connection between these two Portuguese-lexified Creoles, which offers evidence that they come from the same lexifier and serves as further argument that a Spanish origin of Papiamentu should be dismissed once and for all. Historical and linguistic aspects of the origins and development of Papiamentu are investigated and evaluated. Several linguistic features of PA and PK are analysed and compared. The results point to numerous similarities that do not allow for an argument of a possible diverse lexical origin of these two Creole languages. Secondly, the claim of a common lexical origin is also reinforced by means of comparing PA elements with similar features present in other Portuguese-lexified Creole languages and Vernacular Brazilian Portuguese. After its formation, it is undisputed that PA underwent a relexification and a lexical expansion process heavily influenced by Spanish. The present study, focussing on the origins of PA, shows conclusively that the similarities and equivalences between PA and PK are significant, and proves to be relevant in the establishment of Portuguese genetic ties, further helping to elucidate the origins of PA.

Keywords: Origins of Papiamentu; Portuguese; Papiá Kristang; Portuguese-lexified Creole languages; Vernacular Brazilian Portuguese