

ABSTRACT

Language Contact in Haiti Sociolinguistic Variation

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This Study examines the phonological dimension of the contact of Creole and French in the Haitian linguistic community. In order to show the effect of such a contact on the phonology of both languages, special attention is directed to the analysis of a wide range of speech acts elicited from monolingual and bilingual Haitians belonging to different social classes and in several communication situations.

Chapter one is concerned with the linguistic situation in Haiti, in urban and rural sectors. Language domains of Haitian Creole and Haitian French are specially emphasized in this chapter. Chapter two focuses on the method and principles adopted for the collection of the data. It provides samples of the kind and variety of data analyzed in the study. It highlights as well the correlation of this data with the most important epilinguistic factors that are indispensable in the study of variation arising in this contact situation. Chapter three comprises two sections: the discussion of approaches in analyzing variation and the analysis of the Haitian data. A thorough analysis of inter and intra-personal variation in speech acts -in Haitian Creole and French- is done for four categories and

sub-categories of speakers. This division is based on their educational and linguistic background and their social class. In the light of this analysis within the parameter of Van Coetsem two transfer types under r1 agentivity and s1 agentivity , different phonological borrowings and impositions arising from the contact Creole-French, are identified for the different categories and subcategories. A comparative analysis allows us to situate our findings within the parameters of linguistic conflict, contact linguistics, diglossia and Creole continuum and mostly Van Coetsem's two transfer types theory. The Study arrives at the classification of phonological variation arising from Haitian Creole and Haitian French in contact within the relevant theoretical framework.