

ABSTRACT

This study describes the language of training college students against the background of language usage in Jamaica. Some indication of teacher education in the island is given. The study also looks at writings on linguistic variation in both the United States of America and the Caribbean. It expands on the situation out of which the speeches which have been analysed were taken. It examines the phonology, morphology and syntax of students, as well as the students' evaluation in relation to language. It looks at the students' impression of standard and creole language usage. The language analysed was taken from both formal and informal situations. The range of language usage by a select number of students was also identified.

A number of findings emerged out of the study. One is that speakers have definite standard or creole habits in relation to specific lexical items. Another is that speakers tend to control or strive to control their production of creole or creole-influenced forms in formal situations. Again, the range of creole-influenced usages of the variables which appear is wide, covering both formal and informal situations. Phonological features seem to take a longer time

to be decreolized than morphological ones. In 'impression' speech as in normal speech variation is the rule rather than the exception. There is not a wide difference from one student to another in range of language usage from creole-influenced to standard variables. Students both speak and choose mesolectal language as 'acceptable'.

The final chapter contains possible views on the implications which arise from a consideration of the findings of previous chapters. Suggestions are also made as to the steps to be taken in the language teaching both in the college and in schools.