

ABSTRACT

The thesis presents a description of the hitherto unexamined St. Lucian Creole which I consider to be a regional variety of Antillean French Creole. It is not an exercise in theoretical linguistics but an attempt at formal presentation of the dialect analysed in terms of its own structure, and as far as possible, without reference to other languages. Historical aspects of the dialect are avoided in the analysis even though on occasions the origin of a sequence may be transparent. The thesis does not adhere to what is known as transformational and generative approach to language description, although it has benefited from studies which use this approach, for example Bailey: Jamaican Creole Syntax, A Transformational Approach. My study is eclectic in nature drawing on various methodologies of descriptions as seen fit for efficient analysis.

The Phonology and Morphology are presented in summary analysis along Bloomfieldian lines, while the Syntax establishes Morpheme Classes and Sentence Components before proposing a basic sentence type. Other types of sentences are presented as transformations or expansions of the basic sentence. It was not felt necessary to append a glossary since all examples are glossed within the analysis.

The study has been undertaken with pedagogical intent as the first step in the scientific analysis of language learning problems in St. Lucia.