

ABSTRACT

Variation in Creole continuum communities has never ceased to intrigue linguists as demonstrated by the number of studies done in this area. In spite of this, the area of negative marking, which in the Jamaican situation shows as much variation as any other, has been largely neglected. This study represents a first step towards filling this gap in knowledge. It will concentrate on the markers no, duont and nat. The syntactic and stylistic constraints on the use of these markers will be explored and an explanation of the distribution of duont and nat at the mesolectal level will be offered. This study, it is hoped, will stimulate more research into this highly complex and interesting area.