

ABSTRACT

SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS IN CARIBBEAN CREOLE

Denis Vincent Solomon

This dissertation applies the methods of form-content analysis to data from Caribbean Creoles to demonstrate that the relationship between meaning and message can be adequately rendered for these languages, and by extension for all languages, only by a theory that recognises the linguistic sign as being composed of an invariant unit of meaning associated with a fixed unit of form, such signs being organised into systems of opposition related to utterance meaning, or message, by the operation of strategies of inference. It is contended also that form-content analysis throws light on the order of acquisition of forms by Creoles and the reality of the post-Creole continuum.