

## ABSTRACT

Virgin Islands Dutch Creole, now virtually extinct, is the only creole language known to have over two hundred years of linguistic records made of it. The first grammar of Dutch Creole was published in 1770; the last substantial written record was made in 1923-24 by a Danish-Dutch Archeological Expedition and consists of over 2,000 lines of phonetic transcriptions (our main corpus for this study) supplied by eleven native informants.

Two recent grammars analyze Dutch Creole from a Germanic linguistic position. The first is limited in scope to simple structures, and the second contains erroneous conclusions and inaccuracies. Our grammar aims at expansion and correction of these two. Using over 500 Creole examples in a generative-transformational framework, the base component phrase structures, embedding processes, sentential and phrasal conjoining devices and transformational rules of Dutch Creole are described. These, occupying four chapters of the thesis, are followed by a sample 550-item lexicon. Preceding all of this is a detailed historical background of the language and literature, and a chapter outlining our objectives, scope and procedures.

Unlike previous investigators, the conclusions arrived at attempt to establish more African sources and universal characteristics in the language than those purely European. It is further concluded that,