

## Pidgins and Creoles

Pidgins and creoles were not given much attention in the past, but some linguists are now interested in studying them since it provides information regarding intriguing traits. A pidgin is a reduced version of a language, particularly when spoken by someone who is not a native speaker. Certain linguistic elements, such as articles, copula, grammatical inflections, etc., are said to be absent from pidgins and creoles (Wardhaugh, 2006). According to Hymes (1971), pidgins and creoles were marginal languages, and some even referred to them as "bad languages" due to the stigma associated with their origins. The present course provides valuable information about pidgins, creoles, as well as the reasons why these linguistic types were once viewed negatively.

### 1. The Definition of Pidgin

Pidgins are simplified languages derived from two or more languages in search of a method of communication (Britannica, 2014). This is particularly common in commerce, plantations, and colonization. Pidgin is defined as language with reduced grammar, word order, and so on because it is created in an accidental manner, or it is the result of incomprehensible languages, according to Bickerton (1984). Not all simplified languages are pidgin. Many people study it as a second language rather than being native speakers. According to Jeff (2008), pidgin and creole are emerging languages that are necessary for communication among individuals who don't speak a single language, such as plantation workers from various geographical backgrounds. Pidgin is a language system that emerged among individuals who do not share a common language. It is a language of interaction in situations when a common language is not available.

According to Wardhaugh (2006) and Murphy (2012), a pidgin is just used as a contact language for communication; it has no native speakers and is not a person's first or mother tongue. It is asserted that the strength of the language when its speakers dominate other language speakers in social and economic spheres may also be a contributing factor to pidginization. The phrase "reduced variety" is occasionally used in everyday speech.

Alternatively, it is the normal language with a shortened vocabulary, phonetic variant, or grammatical structure. Sawant (2011) concurs that political, social, and economic circumstances contributed to the formation of pidgins. More importantly, It is formed when individuals from various languages simplify the prevailing language for communication. Nigerian Pidgin English, sometimes known as "bad English," is a commonly learned pidginized language that lacks accuracy . To explain more; Pidgins are created by persons who do not speak the same language but share a geographical location. Long-term use of pidgins can lead to creoles. Long-term use can cause a structure to grow and become complicated. Children born in a pidgin-speaking area learn it as their first language, resulting in the formation of a creole (Polome, 1971).

## **2.Reasons of Pidgin**

Pidgins are created due to a lack of a common language, leading to the necessity for communication. In the 19th century, African slaves were imported to North America to labor on plantations. They were from various regions of their country. They did not have a common language. Their leaders selected individuals from various regions to hinder communication and escape. To communicate effectively, they needed to create a language, which described as a pidgin language Cassidy (1971).

A pidgin can also develop as a result of colonization. Because of their influence over colonies, the majority of pidgins were derived from French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Dutch. It is clear that the majority of a pidgin's vocabulary must always come from a dominant and superior language (Versteegh, 2008). Superstrate languages are those that are dominating. English was the superior language in the Papua New Guinea Creole. Substrate languages, on the other hand, are all the other minority languages that go into making Pidgin. Pidgins and creoles are mainly derived from superstrate languages, which are typically the languages of the colonial population (Arends et al., 1995).

## **3.Creoles Definition**

Creoles occur when a pidgin becomes the first language of a new generation born in a pidgin-speaking environment. Some pidgins, such as Nigerian Pidgin English and West African Pidgin, can also be considered creoles. According to Wardhaugh (2006.p. 73), pidgin can become a creole when learned as a mother tongue.

Children born in multilingual environments create creoles. It's noteworthy to note that creoles are more similar to one another than to any other languages. According to Wardhaugh

(2006,p.94), pidginization is second language acquisition with restricted input, while creolization is first language learning with limited input as well.

Pidginization typically comprises linguistic simplification, tolerance of phonological diversity, and reduced complexity (Wardhaugh; 2006,p.61). The pidgin serves several roles and borrows heavily from local mother languages. Creolization differs from pidgins in that it entails expanding morphology and syntax, regularizing phonology, increasing the number of language functions, and developing a stable vocabulary system. Differentiating between pidgin, enlarged pidgin, and creole varieties can be challenging at times. Tok Pisin may be referred to as a creole or pidgin.

As a result, many people agree that Haitian is a creole. It is the primary language of nearly all Haitians. This creole originated from normal French and developed through pidginization. The vocabulary is French, but the pronunciation and syntax are distinct from conventional French. The grammatical structure differs from French and resembles Creole Portuguese, Creole Spanish, and Creole English. Creolists do not consider it a French dialect (Wardhaugh, 2006,p.63).

#### **4.Similarities between Pidgins and Creoles**

Pidgins and creoles resemble conventional languages, but have reduced morphology and phonology. Although pidgins originated from diverse languages, they contain many similarities (Wardhaugh, 2006: 61).pidgins and creoles have well-organized language systems. Even if a vocabulary is acquired from a native language, it must still be learned rather than simply simplified for use. Simplifying vocabulary and grammar is insufficient for speaking Tok Pisin.

Creole and pidgin languages have fewer and simpler sound combinations than mainstream languages. Pidgins do not have morphophonemic variation, however creolization may result in this variety. Creolization often results in the creation of embedded or relative sentences (Wardhaugh 2006,p. 67). According to Bloomfield (1994), there is no evidence for the "foreigner-talk" or "baby-talk" theories regarding pidgins and creoles. Instead, Europeans intentionally reduced their languages to connect with others.

#### **5.Differences between Pidgins and Creoles**

According to Wardhaugh (2006), pidgins swiftly evolve into a language, but are known as creoles due to their roots. Creoles and pidgins evolve at different rates. Creoles and pidgins

vary in that pidginization occurs fast, whereas creolization takes around two generations. Creoles are typically connected to a dominant language, resulting in a creole continuum. When an English Creole interacts with the standard language, it can evolve into several variants. A continuum is when two linguistic variations are the same.

## **6. Examples of Pidgins and Creoles**

### **6.1. Examples of Pidgins**

Tok Pisin (early stage) – An English based pidgin initially used between English speaking and native groups in Papua New Guinea for trade and work purposes.

Chinook Jargon – A historical pidgin between the Native Americans and European traders in the Pacific Northwest region of North America.

West African Pidgin English (early forms) – used on the West African coast between English traders and natives.

Beach-la-Mar (Bislama, early stage) – An English-based pidgin which has been adopted in some parts of the South Pacific among speakers of different native tongues and Europeans.

### **6.2. Examples of creoles**

Haitian Creole – this is a French-lexifier creole that is spoken in Haiti; it is a product of communication between enslaved Africans and French colonists and has become one of the official languages in Haiti.

(Tok Pisin today) – In some part of Papua New Guinea, it has developed its native speakers, a creole and no more a mere Pidgin.

Hawaiian Creole English (Hawaii “Pidgin”) – an English-based creole spoken in Hawaii, serving as a local identity marker and used first language by many.

Sranan Tongo – English-based creole spoken in Suriname, created on plantations among African, European, and Indigenous peoples.

Nigerian Pidgin (creolized varieties) – in some urban centers, children learn it as their first language, thus making it a creole. Simple way to contrast in class And you might summarise for students like this:

The Pidgin example of Tok Pisin was rudimentary and used only for trade purposes, and its speakers did not become natives. A creole like Haitian Creole or Hawaiian Creole English is also spoken natively by the entire community and in all domains of life.

