The English Creole Spoken in Panama: A Bibliography

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The shift from homogeneity to variety in the study of language has contributed to the development of sociolinguistics. This shift has also fomented the ranks of specialists in Creole languages, a confirmed province of this science. The French-based Creoles have been often appraised and A. Valdman's *Le créole: structure, statut et origine* (Paris: Klincksieck, 1978) is a handy synthesis. Other Creoles (Portuguese-based, Spanish-based, etc.) are still awaiting a summary of equivalent scope. Studies have also been published on the English-based varieties. Of these, the Jamaican dialect extended to Panama has been a poor relation, despite its vigorous presence and special characteristics: it has thrived on the Isthmus of Panama since 1820 where, over the years, fresh waves of West Indian native speakers have contributed to give rise to Isthmian dialects. These offshoots of Jamaican Creole have been in close contact with other Caribbean Creoles (whether English- or French-based); with Spanish, the dominant and official language, and with American English. Scientific interest in Panamanian Creole English has dawned late and there is still much to be done.

The following is a bibliography of (mostly unpublished) pioneering works which establish guidelines for scholars and attest to the growing interest in the language.


Falcó S., Manuel E. A Description of Some Relevant Phonological Features of Chilibre Creole: Vowels and Consonants. Unpublished thesis, University of Panamá, 1983, x, 89 pp. Structural analysis of the speech of six informants, ranging from 62 to 81 years of age, four of whom were born in Jamaica, the other two being native to Panama.

Fuentes de Ho, Gloria. "El bilingüismo y sus facetas." Primeras jornadas lingüísticas: el inglés criollo de Panamá, pp. 99-107, also pp. 203-11 in English. Phonic interference (four sounds are considered) in the Spanish of bilingual speakers of Creole English of the province of Panama.


Jones, Adelaida Alphonse. "Comparación fonológica del inglés criollo de Panamá y el inglés de los negros de los Estados Unidos de América." Primeras jornadas lingüísticas: el inglés criollo de Panamá, pp. 85-98, also pp. 189-202 in English. Contrastive analysis of varieties spoken by two black groups whose vernacular are originated in Creole languages and which are subjected to different types of interference.

still unpublished. It covers influences, phonology (including suprasegmentals and juncture), grammar, kinesics and vocabulary.


Rodríguez, Emigdio O. “Pasado, presente y futuro del inglés criollo de Panamá.” *Primeras jornadas lingüísticas: el inglés criollo de Panamá*, pp. 2-19, also pp. 111-26 in English. Comments on the need to study Creole English in Panama.


Spragg, Marva Myles. “Naturaleza del dialecto inglés de Colón.” *Primeras jornadas lingüísticas: el inglés criollo de Panamá*, pp. 51-83, also pp. 153-88 in English. Description of the phonology of Colon English Creole compared to American Standard English. Comments on morphology and syntax. (This is a partial publication of her *Origin and Nature* mentioned below.)