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Lisa Lim and Umberto Ansaldo
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Languages in Contact

Introducing new findings from popular culture, the globalised new economy and computer-mediated communication, this is a fascinating study of contact between languages of pre-modern and modern societies. Lim and Ansaldo bring together research on multilingualism, code switching, language endangerment and globalisation into a comprehensive overview of world Englishes, creoles and other contact languages. Illustrated with a wide range of original examples from typologically diverse languages, including Sinitic, Austronesian, Dravidian and other non-Indo-European varieties, the book focuses on social and structural analyses of Asian ecologies and their relevance for current theories of contact phenomena. Full of new insights, it is essential reading for students and researchers across linguistics, culture and communication.

- Features numerous original examples and case studies, with a particular focus on Asia
- Critically evaluates the key issues and debates
- Analyses language contact in the context of globalisation and computer-mediated communication

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521149259

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First published 2016

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Lisa Lim and Umberto Ansaldo, authors.

Languages in contact / Lisa Lim and Umberto Ansaldo.

pages cm. – (Key Topics in Sociolinguistics)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-76795-8 (Hardback) – ISBN 978-0-521-14925-9 (Paperback)

1. Languages in contact. I. Lim, Lisa, author. II. Title.

P130.5.A64 2015

306.44 – dc23 2015012530

ISBN 978-0-521-76795-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-14925-9 Paperback

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Preface

On a little dot of a tropical island in Southeast Asia just above the equator, a decade and a half ago, the Department of English Language and Literature of the National University of Singapore witnessed an encounter between two colleagues, one newly hired. Neither imagined that that contact would lead to any output of substance or significance, for the simple reason that they came from very different academic backgrounds and had, at that point, minimal knowledge or interest in the other's fields. One had trained as a phonetician and was working on a New English in the World Englishes paradigm. The other was a creolist and typologist specialising in Sinitic varieties. A standing joke was that we would never be talking about work when we got together outside office hours, so distinct and compartmentalised were our interests and expertise.

This ontological anecdote underlines the essence of this book. The studies of pidgin and creole languages on the one hand and World Englishes on the other are almost always written about as separate animals; an exception is John Platt, whose writing in the 1970s and 1980s did integrate the study of New Englishes with pidgin and creole studies, as is, more recently, Bao Zhiming. One primary aim of this book was indeed to bring our collective expertise in our respective fields together in an integrated view, such that what is common and comparable in the sociolinguistic factors and structural processes involved in the evolution of contact varieties – whether creoles, New Englishes or mixed codes – might be recognised. Our discussions in the early years planted the seed. Half a dozen years at the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Centre for Language and Communication – in particular our engagement with colleagues in the Language Creation and the Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism groups and other scholars in Europe and the US, who were doing critical, cutting-edge research – profoundly influenced our thinking, especially in developing an analysis of New Englishes from a contact perspective. That being said, it might still appear surprising to the reader that it is a mere two

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chapters that appear to be dedicated to pidgin and creole languages and linguistics, these being the cornerstone of the study of languages in contact, when the majority of books in the field usually devote themselves entirely to them. However, the goal of this book was not to try to encompass what other colleagues have much more comprehensively and magnificently covered in other books on pidgins and creoles. Rather – as but one facet of the book – we aimed to distil the main topics in creole studies and provide a critical account for the reader to be able to better evaluate the significant issues and major debates in the field. Above all, what we wanted to do with this book was to integrate perspectives and research from the fields of multilingualism and code switching, language shift and endangerment, and language and globalisation – fields we have also been engaged in actively in our research and which are all significant in a consideration of languages in contact. To this end, a chapter is devoted to each of these. With the burgeoning in the past decade of language and globalisation studies, in particular, we felt it imperative that this book should also consider the new sites of contact that globalisation affords, including those arising in computer-mediated communication, popular culture and the globalised new economy. The phenomena of contact, its processes and products are manifested in myriad forms, beyond pidgin and creole languages, and extend beyond past scenarios into contemporary contexts.

Our remit, in the conceptualisation of this book, was also to bring to bear our research and expertise in contact scenarios of Asia. Thus, while we have endeavoured to give a sense of the central issues and classic examples of the various topics covered, we have foregrounded research and illustrations from Asia. These involve typologically diverse languages in contact, including Sinitic, Austronesian, Dravidian and other non-Indo-European varieties – many of them presented for the first time – from our own work and the work of others, and we discuss their relevance for current theories of contact phenomena.

This book, then, is one that is for students and scholars not only of creole studies but also of World Englishes, language endangerment, language and globalisation, language and communication, and policy and education. It is for anyone interested in considering the outcome of contact of all kinds – New Englishes, mixed codes, endangered languages – that have occurred and continue to occur in diverse ecologies. It is for the reader who is keen on exploring this field with fresh eyes, and on considering current and future research areas of promise for a deeper and renewed understanding of language contact in modern societies.

Acknowledgements

Contact begets outcomes. In a serendipitous encounter at a conference in Cape Town in 2007, Rajend Methrie, over a sublime Pinotage on a beautiful South African evening, invited us to contribute a volume on contact linguistics to his series, reflecting our unique perspective. As things happen in life, numerous events occurred and our trajectory evolved in the years that followed. We traversed continents to relocate from North Sea climes to the subtropical zone, back to the region we hold so dear: Asia. We both took up positions at the University of Hong Kong, involving critical administrative responsibilities. We became besotted parents. The pause all this brought to the writing of this book notwithstanding, we believe that our more recent years in Hong Kong, involving teaching on diverse courses related to contact linguistics and new research projects based in the region, collude to make this a much richer book than it would have been had we written it more quickly a few years earlier. We are grateful that Raj never got too impatient with us; on the contrary, he has been a source of unstinting support and encouragement. We are also extremely grateful for his pointed and constructive comments on the content and style of our drafts, which have been invaluable for shaping the manuscript for the Key Topics in Sociolinguistics series. His thoroughness, thoughtfulness and good humour are much appreciated.

We have had the privilege and pleasure over the years to share our views and engage in discussion over issues in contact linguistics, language endangerment and emergent varieties with numerous colleagues, and we are grateful for how our thinking and research have been shaped and sharpened by them: Enoch Aboh, Jacques Arends, Peter Austin, Dik Bakker, Peter Bakker, Bao Zhiming, Walter Bisang, Kingsley Bolton, Ariane Borlongan, Adrienne Bruyn, Hugo Cardoso, Jasone Cenoz, Katherine Chen, Michel DeGraff, Hans den Besten, Ana Deumert, David Gil, Durk Gorter, Ulrike Gut, Bernd Kortmann, Nicholas Evans, Nicholas Faraclas, Nikolas Gisborne, Martin Haspelmath, Bernd Heine, Raymond Hickey, Wolfram Hinzen, John Holm, Magnus Huber, Randy LaPolla,

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Lee Cher Leng, Sarah Lee, Claire Lefebvre, Jakob Leimgruber, Li Wei, Ee-Ling Low, Christian Mair, Stephen Matthews, Rajend Mesthrie, Miriam Meyerhoff, Susanne Michaelis, Salikoko Mufwene, Pieter Muysken, Sebastian Nordhoff, Anne Pakir, Martin Pütz, Edgar Schneider, Armin Schwegler, Devyani Sharma, Geoff Smith, Larry Smith, Norval Smith, Rajendra Singh, Christopher Stroud, Uri Tadmor, Tan Ying Ying, Lionel Wee, Kofi Yakpo, as well as other colleagues in the Language Creation and the Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism groups of the Amsterdam Centre for Language and Communication during our years there.

Significant portions of the material in this book stem from courses we have been teaching at the University of Hong Kong: CCGL9024 *The life and death of languages: Diversity, identity and globalisation*, CCGL9038 *English as a global language in Asian contexts*, ENGL2030 *World Englishes*, LCOM1002 *Language, communication, society, field*, LCOM2005 *Language, communication and globalisation*, LCOM3001 *Cultural dimensions of language and communication*, LING2056 *Sociolinguistics* and LING2040 *Languages in contact*. Were it not for our students, we would not have developed some of the topics in this book, such as Chapter 6 on shift and endangerment, and Chapter 7 on contact and globalisation, and would not have expressed them in the way that we do. We have also drawn from our previous and ongoing research. The sections on Sri Lanka Malay are based on some of Umberto Ansaldo's and our joint articles and chapters, including: 'Identity alignment in the multilingual space: The Malays of Sri Lanka', in E. Anchimbe (ed.), *Linguistic Identity in Postcolonial Multilingual Spaces* (2007); 'Revisiting Sri Lanka Malay: Genesis and classification', in K.D. Harrison, D. Rood and A. Dwyer (eds.), *A World of Many Voices: Lessons from Documenting Endangered Languages* (2008); 'Contact language formation in evolutionary terms', in E.O. Aboh and N. Smith (eds.), *Complex Processes in New Languages* (2009); 'Identity alignment and language creation in multilingual communities', *Language Science* 32(6); 'Metatypy in Sri Lanka Malay', in R. Singh and G. Sharma (eds.), *Annual Review of South Asian Languages and Linguistics 2011* (2011); 'The lifecycle of Sri Lanka Malay' in *Language Documentation and Conservation* 7 (2014); 'Citizenship theory and fieldwork practice in Sri Lanka Malay communities', in L. Lim, C. Stroud and L. Wee (eds.), *The Multilingual Citizen: Towards a Politics of Language for Agency and Change* (forthcoming). Much of Chapter 5 on contact and ecology is based on and developed from Lisa Lim's work on particles and on tone, principally 'Mergers and acquisitions: On the ages and origins of Singapore English particles', *World Englishes* 26(4): 446–73 (2007); 'Revisiting English prosody: (Some) New Englishes as tone languages?', *English World-Wide* 30(2): 218–39 (2009); and the chapter on 'Southeast Asia' in M. Filppula, J. Klemola and D. Sharma (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of World Englishes* (2014).

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Lisa Lim's grant for her project on *The ecology and evolution of Asian Englishes*, from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) General Research Fund (GRF) 2011/12 Exercise, provided her with two precious semesters with little or no teaching in the autumns of 2012 and 2013, which afforded her time to ponder and compose. Several locations around Hong Kong – cafés in Central en route to yoga practice, and cha chaan tengs in Wah Fu while waiting for playgroup to be over – provided conducive atmospheres to write with a purpose.

For discussions and comments on parts of this manuscript and other work that contributed to this book we are especially grateful to Hugo Cardoso, Stephen Matthews, Christopher Stroud and Viveka Velupillai. We are also grateful to our research assistants at various points of the compilation: Bonnie Wong and Vesela Dimitrova for background research and Jackie Lai for the most diligent, meticulous and swift assistance with the bibliography and the Chinese and Japanese scripts in the examples.

At Cambridge University Press we thank Andrew Winnard, Executive Publisher in Social Sciences, for his interest in and support of this project from the outset and his advice and patience throughout the writing of this book; Bethany Gaunt (who took over from Helena Dowson), Assistant Editor for Language and Linguistics, for her efficiency, support and good cheer, and especially for expediting things to the production process; production editors Ed Robinson and Chloé Harries for their clarity and competence; and Lydia Wanstall for her impeccably meticulous and thoughtful copy-editing.

We dedicate this book to our own most dazzling, inspiring and precious creation of contact, Kiran Jun Tito Ansaldo.

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Abbreviations

APiCS	<i>Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures</i>
CLF	contact language formation
CMC	computer-mediated communication
CP	Creole Prototype
<i>eWAVE</i>	<i>Electronic World Atlas of Varieties of English</i>
H	‘high’ variety of a language; or high-level tone
HC	Haitian Creole
HCE	Hawai‘i Creole English
HKE	Hong Kong English
IIUM	International Islamic University Malaysia
JC	Jamaican Creole
L	‘low’ variety of a language; or low-level tone
L1	first language
L2	second language
LBH	Language Bioprogram Hypothesis
M	‘middle’ variety of a language; or mid-level tone
MaLE	Malaysian English
MOEI	Migrant Outreach Education Initiative
NHCSLV	non-hybrid conventionalised second-language varieties
NigE	Nigerian English
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
PerE	Peranakan English
SgE	Singapore English
SLA	second language acquisition
SLM	Sri Lanka Malay
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
StdM	Standard Malay
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
TMA	tense, mood and aspect
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation