

Contact Languages

Why do groups of speakers in certain times and places come up with new varieties of languages? What are the social settings that determine whether a mixed language, a pidgin, or a Creole will develop, and how can we understand the ways in which different languages contribute to the new grammar? Through the study of Malay contact varieties such as Baba and Bazaar Malay, Cocos Malay, and Sri Lanka Malay, as well as the Asian Portuguese vernacular of Macau, and China Coast Pidgin, the book explores the social and structural dynamics that underlie the fascinating phenomenon of the creation of new, or restructured, grammars. It emphasizes the importance and interplay of historical documentation, socio-cultural observation, and linguistic analysis in the study of contact languages, offering an evolutionary framework for the study of contact language formation – including pidgins and Creoles – in which historical, socio-cultural, and typological observations come together.

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Contact Languages

Ecology and Evolution in Asia

Umberto Ansaldo

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Series editor's foreword

The series *Cambridge Approaches to Language Contact* (CALC) was set up to publish outstanding monographs on language contact, especially by authors who approach their specific subject matter from a diachronic or developmental perspective. Our goal is to integrate the ever-growing scholarship on language diversification (including the development of Creoles, pidgins, and indigenized varieties of colonial European languages), bilingual language development, code-switching, and language endangerment. We hope to provide a select forum to scholars who contribute insightfully to understanding language evolution from an interdisciplinary perspective. We favour approaches that highlight the role of ecology and draw inspiration both from the authors' own fields of specialization and from related research areas in linguistics or other disciplines. Eclecticism is one of our mottoes, as we endeavour to comprehend the complexity of evolutionary processes associated with contact.

We are very proud to add to our list Umberto Ansaldo's *Contact Languages: Ecology and Evolution in Asia*. This is, to my knowledge, the most comprehensive account to date of 'contact language formation' in Monsoon Asia, including Sri Lanka, the Malaysian-Indonesian region, and Southern China. Providing a rich socio-economic history of layers of colonization of various kinds in the region, by Asians and Europeans alike, the book sheds light on the spread of indigenous languages such as Malay and Chinese, which, incidentally, have not developed identical ethnographic functions in the new geographical spaces of their expansion. It articulates clearly the relevant ecological factors that favoured both the geographical expansion of some languages indigenous to Asia and the emergence of new varieties such as Bazaar, Baba, and Cocos Malay, especially the 'city-ports' in relation to which the actual agents of these particular evolutions are identified. It is likewise informative to find out where and how colonial European languages indigenized, producing 'pidgins', 'Creoles', or other less divergent local varieties, and even why the evolution of each language was not uniform from one colony to another.

The reader will certainly be curious to find out why the languages of the economically and/or politically more powerful did not always prevail. Some of the explanations are to be sought in the ways in which the European colonization

of Monsoon Asia not only varied internally, such as between the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British, but also differed from the layers of the Asian colonization that preceded it. It is certainly as important to ask why the Asian language varieties that spread are the non-standard ones as to query why neither Arabic nor Hokkien or Cantonese became major lingua francas, when both the Arabs and Southern Chinese had been trade superpowers in the region before the arrival of Europeans in the sixteenth century. The ecologies of the contact and competition between Chinese and Malay, both before and during the colonization of the region by the Europeans, are especially very informative.

No less significant is the question of how 'contact language formation' in Monsoon Asia differs from or resembles what we have learned to date about language contact in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, regions which have informed our hypotheses the most about 'language change under contact conditions'. Umberto Ansaldo contributes critically to the old debate about universalist, substratist, and superstratist hypotheses, highlighting the merits of the ecological and uniformitarian approach to the subject matter. *Contact Languages* is impressive in its eclecticism too. Not only does it fruitfully bridge views by various creolists, historical linguists, and language typologists, but it also shows how various theories of evolution outside linguistics enable us to better understand both the mechanisms and the ecological factors that drive language speciation. The theoretical bridge between the linguistic effects of colonization in Monsoon Asia and the hitherto better-documented cases of the emergence of Creoles both around the Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean is as commendable in this case as the comprehensive coverage of the relevant literature in various complementary research areas, which is quite in the spirit of CALC. The reader will find in this book several useful references to language contact outside creolistics, to language acquisition, to linguistic anthropology, to the philosophy of science, to language evolution, and to colonial history, among others. Experts and non-experts alike will appreciate especially the wealth of information that the book provides about its subject matter.

SALIKOKO S. MUFWENE, *University of Chicago*

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Abbreviations

ABL	Ablative
ACC	Accusative
ANIM	animacy
BM	Baba Malay
BZM	Bazaar Malay
CCP	China Coast Pidgin
CL	classifier
CLF	contact language formation
CM	Cocos Malay
CONT	continuous
DAT	Dative
DEM	demonstrative
DEF	definiteness
DOM	definite object marker
FT	foreigner talk
LC	linguistic citizenship
LOC	Locative
MM	<i>Macau Monograph</i>
N	noun
NEG	negation
NP	noun phrase
NOM	nominative
NUM	number
O	object
PASS	passive
p.c.	personal communication
PDM	Pidgin-derived Malay
PFV	perfective
PK	Papia Kristang
PL	plural
POSS	Possessive
PP	prepositional phrase

PROG	progressive
PST	past
Psych V	psychological verb
RG	<i>Redhaired Glossary</i>
SVC	serial verb constructions
SLM	Sri Lanka Malay
S	subject
TA	tense and aspect
TM	typological matrix
TMA	tense, mood, and aspect
TRANS	transitive
V	verb
VP	verb phrase