Contents

List of figures page x
List of tables xii
Acknowledgements xiv

1 Introduction 1
  1.1 Variation, style and standards in Jamaica and Trinidad: introductory examples 1
  1.2 What is English in the Caribbean? Approaches to the Creole continuum 3
  1.3 Standards in English in the Caribbean 11
  1.4 Style in English in the Caribbean 15
  1.5 Aims and structure of the study 19

2 The background and context of English in Jamaica and Trinidad 22
  2.1 The Creoles of Jamaica and Trinidad in the context of varieties of Caribbean English Creole 22
    2.1.1 The linguistic geography of the anglo-Creolophone Caribbean 22
    2.1.2 Selected morphological and syntactic features of Jamaican and Trinidadian Creole 23
  2.2 The historical background 25
    2.2.1 Historical aspects of language contact in the Caribbean 25
    2.2.2 Brief sketch of the linguistic histories of Jamaica and Trinidad 27
  2.3 The social context 29
  2.4 The sociolinguistic context 30
    2.4.1 Language attitudes and language functions 30
    2.4.2 Language-in-education and language planning 37
  2.5 A note on Tobago 43
Contents

3 The sociolinguistics of style and the Creole continuum 44
  3.1 Approaches to style in sociolinguistics 44
  3.2 Related research paradigms 53
    3.2.1 Sociolinguistic research on code-switching 53
    3.2.2 Corpus-based register studies 59
  3.3 Approaches to style in Caribbean Creole continua and related research 61

4 Data and methodology 67
  4.1 Data 67
  4.2 Methodology 74

5 Style in Jamaican English: analysis of conversations 79
  5.1 Quantitative analyses of morphological and syntactic variables 79
    5.1.1 Syntax of direct \textit{wh}-questions 81
    5.1.2 Copula forms 85
    5.1.3 Past marking 92
    5.1.4 Agreement marking on verbs 98
    5.1.5 Main verb negation 103
    5.1.6 Noun morphology 107
    5.1.7 Pronoun morphology 107
    5.1.8 Summary 109
  5.2 Inter- and intratextual variation in ICE-Jamaica S1A-001 to 040 110
    5.2.1 Intertextual variation 110
    5.2.2 Intratextual variation 113
    5.2.3 Summary 132
  5.3 Discussion 132
  5.4 Conclusion 135

6 Style and standard in Trinidadian English: analysis of four text categories 138
  6.1 Quantitative analyses of morphological and syntactic variables across four text categories 138
    6.1.1 Syntax of direct \textit{wh}-questions 139
    6.1.2 Copula forms 140
    6.1.3 Past marking 147
    6.1.4 Agreement marking on verbs 153
    6.1.5 Main verb negation and negation in copula environments 157
    6.1.6 A note on \textit{does} 161
    6.1.7 Noun morphology 161
Contents ix

6.1.8 Pronoun morphology 163
6.1.9 Summary 164

6.2 Inter- and intratextual variation in four text categories 166
6.2.1 Broadcast news 166
6.2.2 Unscripted speeches 169
6.2.3 Class lessons 173
6.2.4 Conversations 183
6.2.5 Summary 198

6.3 Discussion 199

6.4 Conclusion 200

7 The modal verbs can/could and will/would in Caribbean and other varieties of English 202
7.1 Background and previous research 203
7.1.1 Caribbean varieties of English 203
7.1.2 Other varieties of English 206
7.2 Notes on methodology and data 210
7.3 Can/could 211
7.4 Will/would 222
7.5 Conclusion 236

8 Conclusion 238
8.1 Variation, style and standards in English in the Caribbean 238
8.1.1 Style in spoken English in the Caribbean 238
8.1.2 Reinterpreting the Creole continuum 241
8.1.3 Style and the construction of identities in discourse 243
8.1.4 Standards in English in the Caribbean 244
8.2 Comparison with other New Englishes and implications 245
8.2.1 ‘Angloversals’ and language contact in the New Englishes 245
8.2.2 Style and social meaning in the New Englishes 249

Appendix A: Markup symbols 255
Appendix B: Biodata form 256
References 258
Index 277