Contact and Community

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**Language switching**

Background *(Fishman 1972)*:

1. Flemish is a variety of Dutch spoken in Belgium.
2. Almost all, if not all, speakers of Flemish are bilingual in French and Flemish; most speak standard Dutch as well.
3. French is the language in which government business is transacted.

**Linguistic repertoire of Flemings** (speakers of Flemish)

Two languages, several varieties of each

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language/Dialect</th>
<th>Situation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French (formal)</td>
<td>Government business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (educated)</td>
<td>educated circles in Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French (colloquial)</td>
<td>a particular dialect of French spoken by Flemings to each other in informal situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flemish</td>
<td>to other Flemings, relatively informal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch (standard)</td>
<td>to other Dutch speakers, possibly other Flemings in more formal situations (business)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language contact</td>
<td>When speakers of two languages or two varieties of one language live in the same community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code-switching</td>
<td>Switching back and forth between varieties in a language contact situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situational code-switching</td>
<td>Code-switching in a single situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sometimes I’ll start a sentence in English y termino en español.
Code-switching

Nonce borrowing

Chicago Polish za-park-owalem 'I parked.'
Acadian (Canadian) French J’ai parké 'I parked.'
J’ai hangé around 'I hung around.'

Grammar

Acadian

le gars que j ’ai donné la job à
the boy that I Aux give(pp) the job to
the boy I gave the job to

Standard

le gars auquel j ’ai donné le poste
the boy to-whom I Aux give(pp) the job
### Permanent borrowings

1. **Spanish**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>el legarto</td>
<td>'the lizard'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arroyo</td>
<td>'brook/creek'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>arroyo dry creek bed (fills after rain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mosquito</td>
<td>mustang, ranch, barricade, bravado, guitar, ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Native American languages**: avocado, cacao, canoe, chipmunk, chocolate, chili, hammock, hominy, maize, moccasin, moose, papoose, pecan, possum, potato, skunk, squaw, succotash, squash, teepee, terrapin, tobacco, toboggan, tomahawk, wigwam
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Terminology</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lingua Franca</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pidgin</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lexifier Language</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creole</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- English in Singapore: Malay, Chinese, Tamil
- French in Haiti
- Latin 100 A.D.
Pidgin Examples

Trade situations, post-colonial situations, large immigrant communities

1. Neo-Melanesian
   mi stap lony biglain, mi kətim kopra
   I was in the work-group, cutting copra.

2. Chinese
   bifɔ mai sɛll-ɛm fɔ rɛ ten ɛlɔ
   I sold it for ten dollars.

3. Nauru Pidgin (Island of Nauru)
   mi hasibeŋ flɛŋ no waifu
   My husband’s friend has no wife.

4. Features
   Few lexical items One word: multiple meanings pay = pay and give
   No complement clauses I think that John is coming
   No bound morphemes Past tense expressed with a word modifying verb.
   Simple syllable structure CV syllables
Vocabulary must grow. Devices for vocabulary increase needed.

1. Compounding (Tok Pisin, Papua New Guinea)
   - mausgras  mouth + grass  ‘moustache’
   - daiman  die + man  ‘corpse’

2. Reduplication (Sranan, Surinam)
   - fatu  ‘fat’  fat(u)fatu  ‘a bit fat’
   - ferfi  ‘paint’  ferfiferfi  ‘paint a lot’
Preverbal tense marking (time of the action of the verb) and aspect marking (duration of the action of the verb); invariant pronouns (no *I/me*);

1. Australian Roper River Creole
   de bin alde luk dat big tri
   3PL PAST always look that big tree
   They always looked for a big tree.

2. Sranan
   a ben e sidon fow en anu na ondro en kakumbe
   3SG PAST PROG sit fold 3SG hand LOC under 3SG chin
   He was sitting as usual with chin on his hands.

3. Saramaccan
   di biku aki mi bi ta lesi
   the book here 1SG PAST PROG read
   The book here I have been reading
The Creole continuum

Code-switching revisited: Creole coexists with lexifier language, resulting in a range of ways of saying *I gave him one*.

Guyanese English (Bell 1975)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basilect</th>
<th>the most Creole-like</th>
<th>mi bìn gi: əm wan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acrolect</td>
<td>the least Creole-like</td>
<td>ai ɡeɪv hǐm ɡan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesolects</td>
<td>a range of dialects in between</td>
<td>a ɡɪ dɪ i: ɡan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-creole_continuum