

Language and Society (CL2.203)

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Language Contact and Convergence

When communities speaking different languages co-exist, several linguistic outcomes emerge.

* A linking language, or lingua franca emerges. * The languages borrow from each other. * The languages converge, sometimes leading to the creation of new languages (pidgins and creoles).

Lingua Franca

Borrowing

Convergence

Pidgins and Creoles

A pidgin is a restricted language developed by two non-intersecting communities which interact frequently, and between which one is in a more dominant position.

It is *not* a result of borrowing. It has no native speakers and is used only in very restricted domain. It typically has a simplified grammar.

A pidgin, once it acquires native speakers, is called a creole. The process whereby a pidgin becomes a creole is called creolisation.