Identifying the Dialect Sources of Lexico-phonetic Inputs from England into Sranan

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What do lexico-phonetic correspondences between Sranan words and their English dialectal etyma tell us about where within England this influence might have originated?

2. What can one (1.) tell us about the competing hypotheses concerning the source of the lexico-phonetic input in Sranan, i.e. a pan dialectal account versus a mono-dialectal account?

3. What kind of corroboration or contradiction do we find in the historical records for the dialect area(s) of input?

DATA IDENTIFICATION & SELECTION

SRANAN SOURCE (SECONDARY DATA)

CORE:
Dictionary of Sranan Tongo

SUPPLEMENTARY:
Herlein (1718), Fermin (1769), Schumann (1778, 1873), Doncie & Voorhoeve (1963)

ENGLISH SOURCE (SECONDARY DATA)

CORE:
Orton et. al 1962-71 & 1998

Survey of English Dialects (SED)
&
Linguistic Atlas of England

ENGLISH HISTORICAL SOURCE

1. The Bristol Registers of Servants Sent to Foreign Plantations, 1654-1686

2. Colonial State Papers

3. Various classical and contemporary historical literature

DATA PROCESSING

LEVEL 1 PROCESSING

TOOLS:
Sranan, Dutch, Portuguese Dictionaries, Smith ([2008] 1987), Sranan Wordlists

Create wordlist and sift out words with possible 17th century Dutch, and Portuguese etyma

RESULT: Wordlist of Sranan items of clear English origin

LEVEL 2 PROCESSING

List all English etyma found in Orton (1962-71) for Sranan reflexes of clear English origin

FEATURE TAGGING: Lexical & phonetic feature tagging of English etyma & their Sranan reflexes (Based on Orton 1964)

SEARCHABLE EXCEL DATABASES

SRANAN INPUT DATASET (Sranan45)

Contains the 45 Sranan reflexes of English origin

SURVEY OF ENGLISH DIALECTS REFERENCE DATASET (SEDRDS)

Contains all recognized English etyma of the Sranan reflexes of the Sranan45

DATA ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS 1: CALCULATING 'BY-CHANCE' PROBABILITY

TOOLS: Sranan45 dataset & SEDRDS.

match both datasets for sorrespondences. Match found: calculate probabilty (P) of match being by chance.

STEPS:
1. Determine possible combinations (PC) of SEDRDS word variables: $2n$ ($n=$ ±SEDRDS word variant i.e. word variant with/without the exact lexical and phonetic (lexico-phonetic shape seen with the Sranan45 cognate)

2. Determine actually existing combinations (EC) of SEDRDS variants across England.
Two working EC values:
   a. Number of informants in the SED study
   b. Population of England and Wales during the study

3. Calculate probability of a match being 'by-chance': $P = EC/PC$

ANALYSIS 2: GEO-LINGUISTIC FEATURE MAPPING

TOOLS: SED based geolinguistic feature maps.

Plot on SED maps, the dialectal distribution of SEDRDS variants for each Sranan45 reflex to see if distribution is confined to a specific region or spread all over England

ANALYSIS 3: HISTORICAL CORROBORATION

TOOLS: www.virtualjamestown.org/ (electronic version of Bristol registor); www.british-history.ac.uk/ (online repositry of Colonial State Papers).

Establish chain of migration from:
1. All SED localities to Suriname

2. All SED localities to English colonies from which Suriname was settled.

3. Determine origins of:
   a. Free Whites (Governors etc)
   b. Indentured Servants
   c. Whites who left Suriname for Jamaica after 1667

INTEGRATED FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS FROM ALL THREE ANALYSES