

The Language Situation in the Low Countries

Lecture 9. Dutch-based creole languages | Afrikaans

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Last week

- ▶ organisational matters
 - ▶ exam
- ▶ Dutch dialects
 - ▶ linguistic characteristics
 - ▶ sociolinguistic factors
- ▶ Frisian
 - ▶ linguistic characteristics
 - ▶ sociolinguistic factors

Aims for today

- ▶ Dutch-based creole languages
- ▶ Afrikaans

Pidgins and creoles

Pidgin languages

- ▶ grammatically simplified means of communication that develop between two or more groups that do not have a language in common
- ▶ trade
- ▶ low social prestige
- ▶ no native speakers

Examples

- ▶ Basque-Icelandic pidgin
- ▶ Russenorsk
- ▶ Bamboo English

Pidgins and creoles

Creole languages

- ▶ stable natural language on the basis of a pidgin
- ▶ fully developed vocabulary and grammatical system
- ▶ natural language with native speakers

Substrate and superstrate

- ▶ language contact
- ▶ indigenous variety (*substrate*)
- ▶ imposed variety (*superstrate*)

Dutch-based creole languages

- ▶ Dutch colonies in the Americas and Southeast Asia
- ▶ after the 17th century expansion of Dutch maritime power
- ▶ most of them are extinct

Creole	Location	Status
Berbice	Guyana	extinct
Skepi	Guyana	extinct
Negerhollands	US Virgin Islands	extinct
Petjo	Indonesia	critical/extinct
Javindo	Indonesia	extinct
Ceylon	Sri-Lanka	critical/extinct
Portuguese-Dutch		
Mohawk Dutch	US	extinct
Jersey Dutch	US	extinct

Dutch-based creole languages

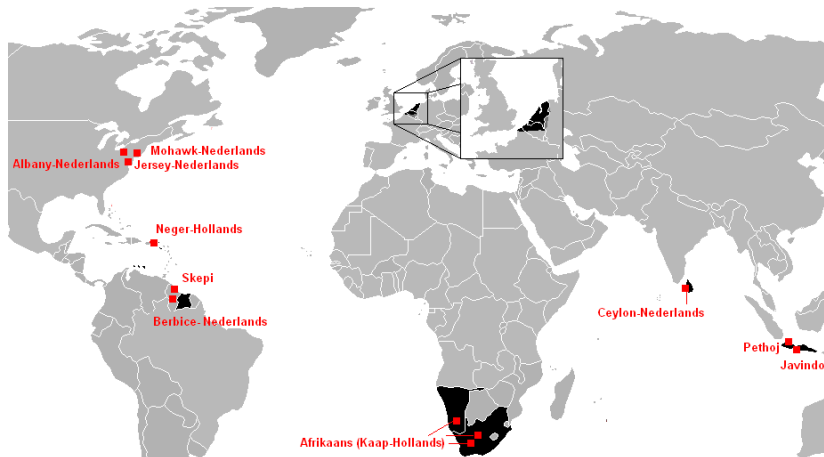


Figure 1: Dutch-based creoles

Dutch-based creole languages

- ▶ no creoles developed on other formerly Dutch territories (e.g. New York)
- ▶ why not? – discuss!

Afrikaans

- ▶ West Germanic (descendant of Dutch)
- ▶ South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe
- ▶ first language of most of the Afrikaner and Coloured people of South Africa

Afrikaans as a West Germanic language: Word order

(1) V2 word order in main clauses

- a. *Jan **reis** môreoggend na Kaapstad.*
Jan travel.PRS tomorrow.morning to Capetown
- b. *Môreoggend **reis** Jan na Kaapstad.*
tomorrow.morning travel.PRS Jan to Capetown

(2) verb-final word order in embedded clauses

*Ek dink [dat hy my (waarskynlik) **haat**.]*
I think.PRS that he me probably hate.PRS
'I think that he probably hates me.'

Afrikaans as a West Germanic language

Vocabulary

- ▶ mostly Dutch-based
- ▶ some loanwords from indigenous languages of South Africa

Afrikaans as a West Germanic language

Afrikaans	Dutch	English	German
ek is	ik ben	I am	ich bin
jy is	jij bent	you are	du bist
hy is	hij is	he is	er ist
ons is	wij zijn	we are	wir sind
julle is	jullie zijn	you are	ihr seid
hulle is	zij zijn	they are	sie sind

Afrikaans as a West Germanic language: unique features

Afrikaans	English
Ek het nie geweet dat hy sou kom nie .	I didn't know that he would come.
Ek het geweet dat hy nie sou kom nie .	I did know that he wouldn't come.
Ek het nie geweet dat hy nie sou kom nie .	I didn't know that he wouldn't come.
Hy sal nie kom nie , want hy is siek.	He won't come, as he's ill.

Afrikaans culture

- ▶ Tema van jou lied