



Dutch-Lexicon Creoles: State of the Art

Bart Jacobs

Jagiellonian University in Kraków

In the wake of the European colonial expansion, a number of new languages, known as “creoles”, emerged from the contact between colonists and the people working in their service. The origins of creole grammars are a topic of controversy, but the source of their lexicon can clearly be identified, and usually traces back to the language of the group that was socially dominant in the original setting. World-wide, three creoles are known to have existed whose lexicon was based on Dutch: Virgin Islands Dutch Creole (or Negerhollands), Berbice Dutch, and Skepi. Through a combination of circumstances, all three Dutch-lexicon creoles are now extinct. However, the extent to which each of them has been documented varies significantly. In this talk, we first provide a brief general outline of these languages. We then look at the type and amount of documentation that is available for each, including recently discovered materials, and discuss what (we think) we know about their origins and the potential genetic relationships between them.