PAPERS ON KRIOL: THE WRITING SYSTEM AND A RESOURCE GUIDE

John R. Sandefur

Summer Institute of Linguistics
Australian Aborigines Branch
Darwin
April 1984
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INTRODUCTION TO

SERIES B VOLUME 10

Developing an orthography and writing system for a particular language is perhaps the most difficult and sensitive task a linguist may encounter. Not only must he deal with the interpretation of raw data, but he must also take into consideration the emotional and psychological aspects of writing a person's language. People feel very strongly about the way their language is written. When working in a language such as Kriol, the problems are magnified due, in part, to the continuum between 'light' and 'heavy' Kriol and the fact that it is an English-based creole spoken in an Aboriginal culture. In the first two articles of this work paper, the author discusses some of these issues, explains the basis on which decisions have been made, and presents some of the questions still to be dealt with.

The last article is a resource guide giving a description of materials available in and about Kriol. Also included are references dealing with various aspects of Kriol as well as a bibliography of books published in Kriol.
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A RESOURCE GUIDE TO KRIOL

John Sandefur

0. INTRODUCTION

This resource guide is divided into three sections. The first provides a brief description of the available materials in and about Kriol. The second section is a list of references dealing with various aspects of Kriol. Each of these references is commented on in the first section. The last section of this resource guide is a bibliography of the books in Kriol which have been published to date.

1. DESCRIPTION OF KRIOL MATERIALS

Kriol has been fairly extensively documented, although much research remains to be done. [For a survey of literature on other varieties of English-related Aboriginal speech throughout Australia, see Sandefur (in press).] Initial surveys to determine the status and virility of Kriol were carried out by Wood (1972) and Sandefur (1973a, 1973b) in the Roper River area. More recent surveys to determine the extent of Kriol have been carried out by Sandefur and Sandefur (1979a, 1980) in the Kimberleys; Sandefur, Gumbuli, Daniels and Wurrarara (1980, 1982) in Queensland; and Glasgow (in press) in the Barkly Tableland area. Additional information on the extent of Kriol is included in Sandefur (1983c).

A brief general sketch of the grammar of Kriol is provided by Sharpe (1983). The Ngukurr dialect has been very briefly sketched by Sharpe (1975), Sharpe and Sandefur (1976, 1977), and Sandefur (1981b), with the phonology, morphology and syntax of the Ngukurr and Bamyili dialects more extensively described by Sandefur (1979). Syntax and reduplication in the Bamyili dialect has also been described by Steffensen (1977a, 1977b, 1979a). Aspects of the phonology and syntax of the Fitzroy Valley dialect have been described by Fraser (1974, 1977a), verb structure by Hudson (1982), and aspects of grammar and semantics more extensively described by Hudson (1983a). No practical analytical materials for use in the classroom are yet available.
The continuum nature of Kriol has been discussed by Sandefur (1982a, 1982b, 1983a). A study of speech variation in the social context has been made by Jernudd (1971). Sections of Davidson (1976, 1977), Fraser (1977a), Hudson (1983a), Sandefur et al (1982) and Meehan (1983) are also relevant to variation. Linguistic change in Kriol through time has been briefly discussed by Sandefur (1975, 1981d). Aspects of the changing function of Kriol has been discussed by Sandefur (1982c, 1982d), and the Aboriginality of Kriol has been argued by Sandefur (1981a, 1981f) and Roberts and Sandefur (1982). McConvell (1983) provides a set of hypotheses regarding creolisation in North Australia. The relation of Kriol to other English-based languages and dialects currently spoken by Aborigines is briefly discussed by Sandefur (1983d). Most of the relevant information in all of these items has been included in Sandefur (1983c).

Comparison of Kriol with traditional Aboriginal language is provided by Richards and Fraser (1975), Hudson (1977, 1983a), Sharpe (1983), and in part by Sandefur (1979). Comparison with English is provided by Sharpe (1974b), and in part by Sandefur (1979).

The historical relation of Kriol amongst South Pacific pidgins and creoles is discussed by Clark (1979), with other aspects of history provided by Hudson (1983a), Sandefur (1981d, 1983c) and Harris (1981). Sandefur (1981d) gives a brief overview of the history of Kriol. In the near future a detailed account by John Harris of the early development of Kriol in the Northern Territory should be available.

Kriol word lists have been compiled by Sharpe (1976a), Fraser (1977b), Sandefur and Sandefur (1979b), Hudson (1981) and Sandefur (1983f). A study of homophony is provided by Rumsey (in press), an example of lexical expansion by Steffensen (1979b), a brief look at the Kriol word marluga by Sandefur (forthcoming), and a brief comment on Kriol colour terms by Hargrave (1982). The only readily available 'dictionary' of Kriol is Sandefur and Sandefur (1979b). Compilation of a fuller dictionary, which will incorporate all of the above items, is currently being undertaken. Computerised printouts will hopefully be available in the not too distant future.

A brief survey of the use of Kriol in education is provided by Sandefur (1982e) and Harris and Sandefur (1983), with a more detailed discussion provided by Sandefur (1983c).
Recommendations and submissions for education programs using Kriol have been made by Sharpe (1974a), Steffensen (1975), Thompson (1976), Davidson (1977), and Hudson (1983b). A discussion of the literacy component of the Bamyili School Kriol bilingual education program is provided by Meehan (1981), and an evaluation of the program by Murtagh (1979, 1982). An evaluation of the Kriol writing system is provided by Sandefur (1983e), with various aspects of the system being described by Sandefur (1983b, 1983f). Readers interested in the use of Kriol in education are referred in particular to Meehan (1981), and those interested in writing Kriol are referred in particular to Sandefur (1983f).

The need for translating/interpreting services in Kriol is provided by Brennan (1979). Aspects of the Kriol Bible translation project are discussed by Sandefur (1981e) and Rivers (1982). Annual reports of work being undertaken in Kriol by the Summer Institute of Linguistics are provided by SIL (1980, 1981, 1982).

Before the Bamyili School Kriol bilingual program was established, there were no published books in Kriol. Bamyili Press has since published over 200 titles in Kriol. In addition, over 80 titles have been published by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Wycliffe Bible Translators, The Bible Society, the School of Australian Linguistics and others. Although near the end of 1983 Kriol could lay claim to having over 300 published titles, in addition to numerous one-off books, Kriol literature production is still in its infancy. The vast majority of the titles published thus far are directly related to the Bamyili bilingual program and church-related ministries. As Davidson (1977:21) has pointed out, one of the great lacks is adult literature. For adults interested in secular material there is very little to read in Kriol.

A bibliography of the Kriol literature published to date is included at the end of this resource guide. While many of the older titles are now out of print, there is a fairly large selection of Kriol titles currently available from Bamyili Press, the Summer Institute of Linguistics and The Bible Society. Secular titles include traditional stories, experience stories and Kriol translations of classic children's stories. Biblical titles include story books, comic books and scripture. In addition to books, Bamyili Press puts out a local 'newspaper' which includes items in Kriol. Many of these items can be purchased from their respective publishers, the addresses of which are given below.
A Kriol language learning course for people desiring to learn to speak Kriol has been prepared by Sandefur and Sandefur (1981). This course, consisting of a manual and six cassettes, is available from the Summer Institute of Linguistics for $20.

Over fifty video programs in and about Kriol have been produced by WBT Media Australia. These include: Kriol Kantri, a forty episode series of half-hour programs in Kriol based on the 'Playschool' and 'Sesame Street' concepts; a ten minute Kriol Kantri promotional program; Skul Gadim Kriol, a twenty-five minute program in English on the Kriol bilingual program at Bamyili School; Schools of the Roper, a fifteen minute program in English and Kriol on the Ngukurr and associated outstation schools; Thri Biligut and Thesdi Sen Brog, two programs, ten and five minutes respectively, of Queenie Brennan from Bamyili reading two Kriol books; Malawan Spiya, a ten minute program in Kriol of Brian Dan Daniels from Ngukurr talking about spears and traditional culture; Buk Blanga Kriol, a ten minute program in English on the production of Kriol literature; Cinderella Comes of Age, a ten minute program in English on SIL's role in the Kriol Bible translation project; Roper River Church Service, a twenty minute program mostly in Kriol of a church service at Ngukurr with a sermon by Michael Gumbuli; Wallace and Dorothy Dennis, a ten minute program of a Kriol scripture reading and short teaching; Costello Outstation Testimonies, a twenty-five minute program in Kriol of several testimonies from Christians at one of Ngukurr's outstations; Bamyili Church Service and Testimonies, a twenty-five minute program mostly in Kriol of a church service at Bamyili with a sermon by Nero Timothy followed by several testimonies; and Cain and Abel, a five minute program in Kriol of Rosy Milingwanga from Bamyili telling a Bible story.

A number of Kriol cassettes are also available. Most of these are biblical in nature and are available from the United Aborigines Mission. They include songs, sermons and teachings in Kriol as well as the reading of Kriol scriptures, Bible story books and Bible comics. There are also a few secular Kriol cassettes available, mostly from the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The secular cassettes are mainly the reading of published Kriol books.
Most of the above mentioned items are available from their respective publishers/producers or through local agents:

Bamyili Press
PMB 25
Katherine N.T. 5780
phone 089-75 2502

The Bible Society
P.O. Box 39061
Winnellie N.T. 5789
phone 089-85 1096

Kimberley Kriol Centre
P.O. Box 157
Halls Creek W.A. 6770

The School of Australian Linguistics
P.O. Batchelor N.T. 5791
phone 089-76 0026

The Summer Institute of Linguistics
P.O. Berrimah N.T. 5788
phone 089-84 4488

United Aborigines Mission
P.O. Box 926
Geraldton W.A. 6530
phone 099-21 4996

Wycliffe Bible Translators
P.O. Berrimah N.T. 5788
phone 089-84 4488

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----- 1977. 'A Preliminary Report on Traditional Culture Learning and Aboriginal Pidgin as Part of the School's Bilingual Programme at Bamyili, N.T.'. Canberra: AIAS. MS

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----- 1977b. 'A Tentative Short Dictionary of Fitzroy Crossing Children's Pidgin'. Darwin: SIL. MS

GLASGOW, Dave. in press. 'Report on Survey of Central Northern Territory'. *Work Papers of SIL-AAB*.


HARRIS, John. 1981. 'Pidgins and the Social Conditions Under Which They Develop'. Paper presented at a post-graduate seminar, Department of Anthropology, University of Queensland. MS


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----- 1981. 'Fitzroy Valley Kriol Word List'. Darwin: SIL. MS

----- 1982. 'Transitivity and Aspect in the Kriol Verb'. Darwin: SIL. [Submitted to Pacific Linguistics.]


----- 1983b. 'Why English Should be Taught as a Second Language in Aboriginal Schools in the Kimberleys. [Submitted to Wikaru.]


----- 1983. 'Kriol Comprehension Amongst First-Year Kormilda College Students--A Pilot Study'. Mount Lawley C.A.E. MS


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SANDEPUR, John R. 1973a. 'Roper River Lingua Franca Survey'. Darwin: SIL. MS


----- 1981f. 'Emergence of a New Aboriginal Language - Kriol'. Paper presented at a post-graduate seminar, Department of Anthropology, University of Western Australia.


----- 1983c. 'A Language Coming of Age: Kriol of North Australia'. M.A. Thesis, University of Western Australia.

----- 1983d. 'English-Based Languages and Dialects Currently Spoken by Aboriginal People - Suggestions Towards a Consensus on Terminology'. Paper presented at the 53rd ANZAAS Congress, Perth.

----- 1983e. 'Aspects of Developing a Writing System with Particular Reference to the Revision of the Kriol Orthography'. Work Papers of SIL-AAB. This volume.

-----, in press. 'Modern Australian Aboriginal Languages: The Present State of Knowledge'. *English World-Wide*.

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----- and -----, 1980. 'Pidgin and Creole in the Kimberleys, Western Australia'. *AIAS Newsletter* 14:31-37.


SIL. 1980. 'Report to the Ngukurr and Bamyili Community Councils on Work with Kriol Speakers Undertaken in 1980 by John and Joy Sandefur (S.I.L. Linguists)'. Darwin: SIL.


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------. 1977a. 'A Description of Bamyili Creole'. Darwin: N.T. Department of Education. MS


THOMPSON, Holt. 1976. 'Creole as the Vernacular Language in a Bilingual Program at Bamyili School in the Northern Territory'. Thesis for Advanced Diploma in Aboriginal Studies, Torrens C.A.E.


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-----, Mr. Flai [Mr. Fly]. Bamyili School. 1976. 18 pp.


3.2 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1977:


3.3 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1978:


3.4 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1979:


PERINPANAYAGAM, Gnani T., comp. and ed. *Stories for Bi-lingual Situations*. S.A.L. 1979. (Stories in 3 booklets according to reading level, each booklet available in 4 different forms: stories-questions in Kriol-Kriol, Kriol-English, English-Kriol or English-English). Level Two, 8 stories by 5 authors. 16 pp. Level Three, 10 stories by 6 authors. 28 pp.


San Im Oludwan [The Sun is Hot]. (Stories by 8 children, infant class, Bamyili School). Bamyili Press. 1979. 17 pp.


Stori Burrum Baibul Namba 1 [Stories from the Bible Set 1]. (Sunday school activity sheets). The Bible Society. 1979. 11 sheets.

Stori Burrum Baibul Namba 2 [Stories from the Bible Set 2]. (Sunday school activity sheets). The Bible Society. 1979. 11 sheets.

Stori Burrum Baibul Namba 3 [Stories from the Bible Set 3]. (Sunday school activity sheets). The Bible Society. 1979. 9 sheets.


Materials in the Bamyili Literacy Kit include 56 Indicator Cards and the following:

Units 1-6:


Units 7-12:


Dadi Im We:k Langa Kemp [Father Works at Home]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1979. 5 pp.


Units 13-18:


Mami Im Gugumbat ola Fish [Mother Is Cooking the Fish]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1979. 5 pp.

Mibala Dum Ola We:k La Skul [We Do All the Work at School]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1979. 5 pp.


Units 19-24:


Dijan Lil Donggi Nomo Gadim Mami En Dadi Bobala [This Little Donkey Has No Mother and Father, Poor Thing]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1979. 5 pp.


Units 25-30:


Wanbala Lilgel Imin Go Langa Ju Bla Logabat Ola Enimul [A Little Girl Went to the Zoo to See All the Animals]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1979. 5 pp.


3.5 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1980:


*Kriol Song Buk* [Kriol Song Book]. St. Matthew's Church, Ngukurr. 1980. 26 pp.


Materials in the Bamyili Literacy Kit:

Units 31-36:


Dijan Tubala Lilboi Nomo Bin Abum Dadi [These Two Little Boys Don't Have a Father]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1980. 5 pp.


Units 37-42:


Units 43-48:


Fraidei Moning Sambala Ola Olgamen Bin Go La Katherine Bla Shoping [Friday Morning Some of the Older Women Went to Katherine to Shop]. (Reader). Bamyili Press. 1980. 5 pp.


3.6 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1981:


----- and Queenie BRENNAN. Ola Fish Brom Bamyili Eriya [Fishes From the Bamyili Area]. Bamyili Press. 1981. 10 pp.


----- and -----. *Dijan Im Keinggurrug* [This is a Kangaroo]. (Experience reader). Bamyili Press. 1981. 20 pp.


3.7 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1982:


-----. *Jisas En Jat Strongbala Stom* [Jesus and the Storm]. The Bible Society. 1982. 27 pp.

-----. *Jisas Im Laibala* [Jesus is Alive]. The Bible Society. 1982. 32 pp.


3.8 KRIOL BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 1983:


-----. *Olgamen En Im Dubala Doda* [The Lady and Her Two Daughters]. Bamyili Press. 1983. 16 pp.


Bamyili Phonic Puppet books:


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Aspects of developing a writing system with particular reference to the revision of the Kriol orthography;
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