These Work Papers are being produced in two series by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Australian Aborigines Branch, Inc. in order to make results of SIL research in Australia more widely available. Series A includes technical papers on linguistic or anthropological analysis and description, or on literacy research. Series B contains material suitable for a broader audience, including the lay audience for which it is often designed, such as language learning lessons and dictionaries.

Both series include both reports on current research and on past research projects. Some papers by other than SIL members are included, although most are by SIL field workers. The majority of material concerns linguistic matters, although related fields such as anthropology and education are also included.

Because of the preliminary nature of most of the material to appear in the Work Papers, these volumes are being circulated on a limited basis. It is hoped that their contents will prove of interest to those concerned with linguistics in Australia, and that comment on their contents will be forthcoming from the readers. Papers should not be reproduced without the authors' consent, nor cited without due reference to their preliminary status.

Views expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of SIL.

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Darwin NT 5788
Australia

S. K. Hargrave
Series Editor
INTRODUCTION TO
SERIES B VOLUME 6

Literacy in an Aboriginal context is a complex concern. As the first four papers in this volume indicate, factors that need to be considered are psychological, sociolinguistic and anthropological as well as more directly educational.

The fifth paper is of a different mode but it too presents a factor for the literacy worker to consider — the growing importance of Kriol as an Aboriginal language. Whether one considers it a simplifying or complicating factor, it cannot be ignored.

All of the contributors are SIL field workers who themselves face the challenge of literacy in an Aboriginal context.
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DEVELOPING A LITERATURE FOR KRIOL

John R. Sandefur

KRIOL - AN OVERVIEW

Kriol is a relatively new Aboriginal language spoken by more than 15,000 Aborigines in the north of Australia mainly in the pastoral districts from western Queensland to the coast of Western Australia.

Kriol speakers themselves most commonly refer to the language as 'pidgin'. In print it has been referred to as, among other things, 'pidgin', 'Pidgin English', 'creole' and sometimes 'Aboriginal English'. Not everything referred to by these terms, however, is Kriol. Often a location name has been added as well, e.g. 'Roper Kriol', 'Bamyill Creole', 'Fitzroy Crossing Pidgin'.

Technically Kriol is not a pidgin; rather, it is a creole. Basically a pidgin is a relatively new language that is spoken by no one as their mother tongue and is restricted in structure, vocabulary and usage. A creole is also a relatively new language, but in contrast to pidgin it is the mother tongue of a group of people and is fully developed in its structure and vocabulary such that it can adequately meet all the communicative needs of its speakers within their social domain.

Because Kriol is related to English, it has often been considered by Europeans to be bad English that should be eradicated. Even in the 1970s school children were physically punished if caught speaking Kriol in school. Such negative attitudes have been instrumental in driving Kriol 'underground'. As a general rule Kriol is not spoken to, and in some cases even in the presence of, Europeans. Some Kriol speakers even deny that they speak Kriol because of the negative attitudes of Europeans.
The total number of Aborigines who speak Kriol is not known. Language surveys carried out by SIL indicate that more than 15,000 Aborigines actively use it as a main language of communication within their communities. Not all of these, however, speak Kriol as their mother tongue. Many speak it as a second language with a traditional Aboriginal language as their mother tongue. In some communities there are families with four generations who speak Kriol as their mother tongue. There are also some communities in which every Aboriginal school-child speaks Kriol as his or her mother tongue.

The historical roots of Kriol go back much further than the four generations. They can be traced back to a pidgin that developed in the Sydney area in the late 18th century.

Kriol is not New Guinea Pidgin, though they are distantly related. Kriol is much more closely related to Cape York Creole/Torres Strait Pidgin. Kriol and CYC/TSP are different enough, however, to be considered separate but related languages.

Kriol is not Aboriginal English, though they are related. Aboriginal English is much closer in its structure to English than is Kriol. Some dialects of Aboriginal English have developed from the same historical pidgin that Kriol developed from. Some Aboriginal English, however, such as that spoken by many Kriol speakers themselves, derives from the speaker's imperfect approximations of English.

Kriol is not a restricted or deficient language that prevents full and meaningful communication. It does not prevent cognitive development nor cause intellectual breakdown. Rather, Kriol is fully capable of serving the educational and literary needs of its mother tongue speakers.

Kriol is being used in a bilingual school programme at Bamylli, NT. The children come to school speaking Kriol, not English. The school takes the cultural and language experiences that the children bring with them and builds upon them. During the infant grades the children are taught to read in their own language. Simultaneously oral English is taught. After they have learnt to read Kriol and speak English, their literacy skills are extended to include English. Both Kriol and English are used throughout the upper grades.

Kriol has not yet been utilised by the government in a widespread concerted effort to communicate with Aborigines. Several government departments have, however, made periodic use of Kriol. The Electoral Office is notable in this respect, having on several occasions produced posters and cassettes in Kriol in conjunction with elections.
KRIOL LITERATURE

Before the Bamyili Kriol bilingual programme was started, there were no published books in Kriol. Bamyili Press has since published over ten dozen Kriol books. These include general reading booklets, an English-to-Kriol transfer primer series and a 'literacy kit' that includes ten workbooks with graded story readers. In addition, over four dozen Kriol books have been published by the Summer Institute of Linguistics, Wycliffe Bible Translators, the Bible Society, the School of Australian Linguistics and others.

The School of Australian Linguistics at Batchelor, NT, offers training to Aborigines and Islanders in language-related subjects — linguistics, literacy, translation, interpreting. To date some four dozen Kriol speakers have studied with S.A.L. Though the emphasis is upon training, some materials have been produced by S.A.L. These include a fifteen-volume series entitled *Kriol Stories for Bilingual Situations* compiled by Gnani T. Perinpanayagam.

SIL, in co-operation with WBT, is undertaking the translation of the Bible into Kriol. To date the book of Ruth and selections from the Gospels have been produced, with chapters 1-25 of Genesis in draft form. In addition to actual translation of Scriptures, Bible stories, Sunday school activity sheets, Jungle Doctor comics and Bible story comics have also been produced. Most of these are published by the Bible Society in Australia.


Distribution channels for Kriol materials are still being developed. Though materials are available direct from the publishers, local outlets in regional centres are being sought. At present some Kriol materials are available locally:

- Darwin, NT - SIL and the Bible Society
- Bamyili, NT - Bamyili Community Church Bookstore and Bamyili School
- Ngukurr, NT - St Matthew's Church Bookstore
- Doomadgee, Qld - Brethren Bookstore
Kununurra, WA  -  Walkabout Shop
Wyndham, WA  -  Pastor Rodney Rivers, People's Church
Fitzroy Crossing, WA  -  United Aborigines Mission

The Walkabout Shop, in addition to their store in Kununurra, has a mobile shop that travels throughout most of the western half of the Kriol-speaking area.

**KRIOL ORTHOGRAPHY**

The development of an orthography for Kriol was begun in 1973. The current orthography was selected by a majority decision of Kriol speakers who participated in a Kriol Writers Course in 1976. The course was a joint project of the School of Australian Linguistics, the Summer Institute of Linguistics and the Banyilli and Ngukurr Schools.

The orthography gives near maximum representation of significant sounds but allows for underdifferentiation in spelling. It is essentially phonemic but allows for variant pronunciations so writers can 'spell as they speak'. The name *Kriol* is 'creole' spelt in the orthography.

**KRIOL RESEARCH**

Until relatively recent times Kriol received little serious attention. In the research field Robert Hall was probably the first to give it attention. In 1943 he published a short paper on the language based on extracts in the writings of Phyllis Kaberry, who did her research in the Halls Creek area in the 1930s.

More recently Margaret Sharpe collected data on Kriol in the late 1960s incidental to her research on Alawa. In 1973 John Sandefur began a long-term study of Kriol, being joined by Joy Sandefur in 1976. Their continuing studies include an in-depth description of the language and the compilation of a dictionary. They have recently produced a language-learning course for people wishing to learn to speak Kriol.

In 1974 Jill Fraser made a brief study of the Kriol spoken by young adults and children at Fitzroy Crossing, WA. The following year Margaret Steffensen made a brief study of Kriol at Banyilli. In 1976 Holt Thompson wrote an advanced diploma dissertation arguing for the use of Kriol in a bilingual programme at Banyilli. In 1979 Edward Murtagh did research for a Ph.D. thesis, comparing the
performance of school-children in the Banyilli Kriol bilingual programme with school-children in the Beswick, NT, English-only school programme. Dorothy Meehan, the teacher-linguist who has been responsible for co-ordinating the development of the school's bilingual curriculum and materials, has recorded the rationale behind the Kriol literacy programme in a dissertation for a graduate diploma. Research planned for 1981 includes Joyce Hudson's research for an M.A. thesis on the semantic structure of Kimberley Kriol and John Harris's research for a Ph.D. thesis on the historical development of Kriol.
APPENDIX I  SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS ON KRIOL

This bibliography includes articles and monographs that deal in their entirety with Kriol. It does not include any works that deal only in part with or make passing reference to Kriol.


Hall, Robert A., Jr. 1943. 'Notes on Australian Pidgin English'. *Language* 19:263-67


Murtagh, Edward Joseph. 1979. 'Creole and English Used as Languages of Instruction with Aboriginal Australians'. Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford University


_______. 1980. 'A New Aboriginal Language?'. MS

_______. 1980. 'Discovery of a Cinderella'. MS

_______. 1980. 'Kriol Is an Aboriginal Language'. MS. (To appear in *Hemisphere*)

_______. 1980. 'Kriol - Language with a History'. MS. (To appear in *NorthernPerspective*)

_______. 1980. 'Kriol and the Question of Decreolization'. MS

_______. 1980. 'When Will Kriol Die Out?'. MS. (To appear in *Occasional Papers of the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia*)

Sandefur, John R. with Michael Gumbull, Dan Daniels and Mal Wurrarama. 1980. 'Looking for Kriol in Queensland'. MS

Sandefer, John R. and Joy L. Sandefer. 1980. 'Pidgin and Creole in the Kimberleys, Western Australia'. AIAS Newsletter no. 14, pp. 31-37


Sharpe, Margaret C. and John Sandefer. 1976. 'The Creole Language of the Katherine and Roper River Areas, Northern Territory'. In M. Clyne, ed., Australia Talks: Essays on the Sociology of Australian Immigrant and Aboriginal Languages. Pacific Linguistics series D no. 23

Sharpe, Margaret C. and John Sandefer. 1977. 'A Brief Description of Roper Creole'. In Ed Brunby and Eric Vaszolyi, eds., Language Problems and Aboriginal Education, pp. 51-60. Perth: Mount Lawley College of Advanced Education

Steffenssen, Margaret. 1976. 'A Tentative Analysis of Bamyili Creole'. University of Illinois. MS

Thompson, Holt. 1976. 'Creole as the Vernacular Language in a Bilingual Program at Bamyili School in the Northern Territory'. Thesis for Advanced Diploma, Torrens College of Advanced Education, Adelaide
APPENDIX 2 COMPLETE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KRIOL VERNACULAR PUBLICATIONS LISTED BY YEAR OF PUBLICATION

Items marked with an asterisk (*) were in stock and available for purchase from SIL in February 1981. For these or items published either by SIL or WBT, write: Bookseller
SIL, PO Berrimah
Darwin NT 5788

Addresses for other publications listed:
Bamyili
PMB 25
Katherine NT 5780

Ngukurr-Roper River via Katherine NT 5780
The Bible Society in Australia
PO Box 39061
Winnellie NT 5789

School of Australian Linguistics (S.A.L.) Mission Publications of Australia
Darwin Community College Box 21
PO Batchelor NT 5791 Lawson NSW 2783

Published in 1976


[ ] *Bogiban en Tetul* [The Echidna and the Turtle]. Bamyili School. 8 pp.


[ ] *Toktok bla Baibul Stori 2: Bla Los Ship* [Talks on Bible Stories 2: About the Lost Sheep]. Bamyili School. 10 pp.


________.  *Mr. Flai* [Mr. Fly].  Bamyili School.  18 pp.


*Published in 1977*


________.  *Gundu-gundu* [Cards].  Ngukurr School.  7 pp.
Published In 1978


Bruce, Dianna. Dubala Yangboi [Two Young Boys]. Bamyili Press. 6 pp.


Published In 1979


________. Thri Biligut [The Three Billy Goats]. S1L. 27 pp.


* *Senpaipa en Kro* [The Sandpiper and the Crow]. Bamyili Press. 8 pp.


* *Korobiri La Homstead* [Corroboree at the Homestead]. Bamyili School Press. 10 pp.


* *Ol Kainabat Trir* [All Kinds of Trees]. Bamyili Press. 16 pp.

Perinpanayagam, Gnani T., comp. and ed. *Stories for Bi-lingual Situations.* S.A.L. (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 One, 7 stories by 4 authors. 11 pp. Level Two, 8 stories by 5 authors. 16 pp. Level Three, 10 stories by 6 authors. 28 pp.


* *You Can Read Kriol 2.* (English to Kriol transfer instructional series - instructional volume). Bamyili Press. 79 pp.

* *You Can Read Kriol 3.* (English to Kriol transfer instructional series - story reader volume). Bamyili Press. 48 pp.


* ________. Kresin Ligun [Crescent Lagoon]. SIL. 33 pp.


Jisas Bin Born [Jesus was Born]. (comic). The Bible Society. 14 pp.


Olabat [They]. (Christian photo/newspaper). nos. 3-6. A.I.M. Bamyili Community Church. 16 pp.

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


* Stori Barrun Baibul Namba 1 [Stories from the Bible Set 1]. The Bible Society. 11 sheets.

* Stori Barrun Baibul Namba 2 [Stories from the Bible Set 2]. The Bible Society. 11 sheets.
* Stori Burrum Baibul Namba 3 [Stories from the Bible Set 3]. The Bible Society. 9 sheets.


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

**Level 1-6**

*Kriol We:k Buk bla Ridimbat* [Kriol Workbook for Reading]. 30 pp. Check Cards (18)


**Level 7-12**

*Kriol We:k Buk bla Ridimbat* [Kriol Workbook for Reading]. 30 pp.

Dadi im We:k Langa Kemp [Father Works at Home]. Check book, 5 pp.


*Dijan Lilboi im Ridimbat Buk* [This Little Boy is Reading a Book]. Check book, 5 pp.

Mibala go Langa Skul [We go to School]. Check book, 5 pp.


Mami im We:k [Mother Works]. Story Reader, 14 pp.

Dadi im We:k [Father Works]. Story Reader, 14 pp.

**Level 13-18**

*Kriol We:k Buk bla Ridimbat* [Kriol Workbook for Reading]. 30 pp.


Mela Go Langa Iba Beli [We are Going to Eva Valley]. Check book, 5 pp.
Mibala Dwn Ola We:k la Skil [We Do All the Work at School]. Check book, 5 pp.


Mami im Gugunbat ola Fish [Mother is Cooking the Fish]. Check book, 5 pp.

Langa Bush [In the Bush]. Story reader, 14 pp.

Langa Wodahol [At the Waterhole]. Story reader, 14 pp.

Level 19-24

Kriol We:k Buk blu Ridimbat [Kriol Workbook for Reading]. 30 pp.


Dijan Lil Donggi Nomo Gatim Mami en Dadi Bobala [This Little Donkey Has No Mother and Father, Poor Thing]. Check book, 5 pp.

Ola Yanggel Dei Go Langa Menggo Tri [The Young Girls Go to the Mango Tree]. Check book, 5 pp.

Ola Animul Dei Idimbat [All the Animals are Eating]. Story reader, 14 pp.


Level 25-30

Kriol We:k Buk blu Ridimbat [Kriol Workbook for Reading]. 30 pp.


* Garadji, Dinah. *Stori Blanga God Biginini Jisas Wen Imin Born [A Story About God's Child Jesus, When He Was Born]*. WBT


* Jentian, Queenie. Longtamin La Somel [A Longtime Ago at the Sawmill]. Bamyilli Press. 16 pp.


* ————. Wam Men en Im Dog [A Man and His Dog]. Bamyilli Press. 34 pp.


Dijan Wei Langa Nyabala Laif [This is the Way to a New Life]. Mission Publications of Australia. 16 pp.


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


* Stori Blanga Jies Buk 1 [Stories About Jesus Book 1]. The Bible Society. 31 pp.


Materials in the Bamyili Literacy Kit, Bamyili Press

Level 31-36

Kriol We:kbuk bla Ridimbat [Kriol Workbook For Reading]. 30 pp.


Sambala Mami Dei We:k Langa Skul bla Ra'ilim Ola Stori [Some of the Mothers Work at the School Writing Stories]. Check book, 5 pp.


Dijan Tubala Lilboi Nomo bin Abun Dadi [These Two Little Boys Don't Have a Father]. Check book, 5 pp.


Rodiyo [Rodeo]. Story reader, 14 pp.

Level 37-42


Yestidei Mibala Bin Ol Go Langa Heisti Teisti [Yesterday We Went to the Hasty Tasty]. Check book, 5 pp.


Level 43-48


Fraidei Moning Sambala Ola Olgamen Bin Go la Katherine blu Shoping [Friday Morning Some of the Older Women Went to Katherine to Shop]. Check book, 5 pp.

Holidei Taix Wan Men Imim Logabum Ola Kid Wan Dei Bin Ol Pleiplei [During the Holidays One Man Looked After the Children While They Were Playing]. Check book, 5 pp.


Books Currently in Press

Gumbull, Michael. *Jisas en Manbala Kros* [Jesus and the Cross]. WBT.

*Bigwan Wol* [The Big Wall]. (Jungle Doctor comic). WBT.

*Biligot Bin Tri Mijelb Laiyan* [A Goat Tried to Make Himself Into a Lion]. (Jungle Doctor comic). WBT.

*Deibid* [David]. The Bible Society.

*Eibraham* [Abraham]. The Bible Society.

*Jeikob en Isau* [Jacob and Esau]. The Bible Society.

*Jisas Bin Raidim Dongkidongki* [Jesus Rode a Donkey]. The Bible Society.

*Jisas Krais San Blanga God* [Jesus Christ the Son of God]. WBT.

*Jona* [Jonah]. The Bible Society.

*Josif* [Joseph]. The Bible Society.

*Krokadail/Sineik en Eig* [Crocodile/Snake and Eggs]. (Jungle Doctor Stories). WBT.

*Lilboi Jisas* [Little Boy Jesus]. The Bible Society.

*Mosis* [Moses]. The Bible Society.

*Noa* [Noah]. The Bible Society.

*Ruth* [Ruth]. The Bible Society.

*Stilinbala Sineik* [The Stealing Snake]. (Jungle Doctor comic). WBT.
WORK PAPERS OF SIL-AAB

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Volume 1: Five Papers in Australian Phonologies, ed. J. Hudson
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(Alyawarra phonology; A tentative description of the phonemes of the Nyalkbun language [including a small word list]; Notes on rhythmic patterning in Iwaidja; What are contrastive syllables? The Wik-Munjan picture; A phonological analysis of Fitzroy Crossing Children's Fidgin.)

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(Two papers on phonology, five on grammar. First extensive description of Iwaidja. Phonologically interesting [5 stop series, but 4 laterals] as well as grammatically [a prefixing language with no noun classes and no case marking].)

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Volume 4: A Distinctive Features Approach to Djinang Phonology and
Verb Morphology, B. Waters
ix + 159 pp. December 1979 $4.80

Volume 5: Six Papers in Australian Phonologies, ed. B. Waters
forthcoming
(Anindilyakwa, Burarra, Kala Lagaw Ya, Murinbata phonemes; syllable length and stress in Nunggubuyu; some features of high level phonology in Walmadjari.)

Volume 6: Papers in Warlpiri
forthcoming

Volume 7: Mantjiltjara Grammar, James Marsh
forthcoming

Series B

Volume 1: The Walmadjari: An Introduction to the Language and
Culture (2nd, slightly revised, printing), J. Hudson,
E. Richards, P. Siddon, P. Skipper et al.
vii + 109 pp. May 1978 $4.75

Volume 2: Papers in Literacy and Bilingual Education,
(Northern Territory bilingual education [with a preview
of a selection of programmes in six other countries;
Teaching aids for Tiwi; Transition from Australian Aborigi-
inal languages to English: as it applies to children in
bilingual schools; A literacy programme for maximum compat-
ibility with teaching methods used in Australian schools.)

Volume 3: An Australian Creole in the Northern Territory: A Description
of Ngukurr-Bomyili Dialects (Part I), J. R. Sandefur, vii +
185 pp. February 1979 $5.20

(Historical background and introduction to pidgins and
creoles; phonology, orthography and grammar. Most extensive
description of 'Roper Creole' published.)

Volume 4: Beginnings of a Ngukurr-Bomyili Creole Dictionary,
February 1979 $4.50

(Creole to English: approx. 2725 entries.)

Volume 5: An Introduction to Conversational Kriol, J. R. and J. L.
Sandefur, xix + 74 pp. February 1981 $24.00

(Manual with 30 lessons, each containing conversation,
vocabulary, drills, grammar notes; stories by different
Kriol speakers; tips on language learning; six 60 minute
cassettes using Kriol speakers and keyed to manual.)

Volume 6: Literacy in an Aboriginal Context, ed. S. Hargrave
April 1981 $4.80

(Cultural considerations in vernacular literacy programmes
for traditionally oriented adult Aborigines; Characteristics
of Aboriginal cognitive abilities; Implications for literacy
and research programmes; A suggested strategy for an Alyawarra
literacy programme from a community development viewpoint;
Vernacular literacy for Warlpiri adults; Developing a
literature for Kriol.)

Volume 7: Language and Culture
forthcoming

Prices quoted include surface postage within Australia and
are subject to change without prior notice. Discounts are
available on quantity orders; enquire for details.

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