

Guillaume Fon Sing (Université Paris 7)

### **Morphological and syntactical innovations in Mauritian Creole: extraction and analysis from regional French data**

In Mauritius, French and Creole languages have always co-existed since the birth of the latter. From this osmotic relationship, a regional French has developed with particularities that can come from (i) "ordinary" spoken French (Gadet 1989, Blanche-Benveniste 1997) attested throughout the French-speaking world, or (ii) the colonial history in the Indian Ocean area (archaisms and diastatisms) or (iii) the transfer of Creole linguistic features (borrowing and contemporary innovations).

Based on the "panlectal approach" of Chaudenson (1993) with his theory of "français zéro" and on a general approach of linguistic change which views grammaticalization, reanalysis and analogy as the main processes (Harris and Campbell 1995), I focus on morphological and syntactical mauricianisms that allow a new exploration of the Creole grammar and an analysis of the creolization processes. My aim is to make an inventory of these innovative features and to study how these systemic changes operate in Creole and in regional French compared to "standard French". The elements I will examine among others are :

(1) derivational morphology in Mauritian Creole. Is it productive? If yes, what is its lexicogenetical potential?

(2) lack of implementation of some clitics in Mauritian regional French:

Ex : MFr - *Tu as demandé à ton jardinier de ramasser des courpas pour toi ?*  
"Did you ask your gardener to pick up snails for you?"  
- (...) *Je suis allée [en] ramasser moi-même.*  
"I went to pick up by myself"

(3) different strategies of highlighting such as the use of *sa* (Fr. 'ça') as topic marker:

Ex: MCr. *Pa mwa sa, li sa.*  
"It's not me, it's him."

#### **References**

- Blanche-Benveniste, Claire. 1997. *Approches de la langue parlée en français*. Gap : Ophrys.
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