

Olga Frąckiewicz (University of Warsaw)

### African language structures in Nigerian Pidgin English

The current research on pidgins and creoles contains the assumption that they are based on superstrate language and the process of simplification is responsible for their creation and development (Siegel 2008). Nigerian Pidgin English (NPE) is also perceived as “a simplification of the grammar of the lexifier superstrate” (Eme, Mbagwu, 2001:2).

The paper will analyze NPE from a different perspective. It will present some features, at the level of morphology and syntax, that are common to both NPE and other African languages, e.g. variety of idiomatic expressions, the lack of morphologically marked plural, extensive use of deictic words, TMA markers, serial verb construction, reduplication, morphological focus. Here are some examples which demonstrate the idea:

	Pidgin English	Standard English
idiomatic expression	<i>bodi dey in cloth</i>	All is ok (lit. body is in cloth)
lack of morphologically marked plural	<i>wan dog – tu dog, tiri dog, etc.</i>	one dog – two dogs, three dogs
use of deictic words	<i>dis ticha, dat dog,</i>	This teacher, that dog
TMA markers	<i>I go chop</i> <i>I don chop</i>	I will eat I ate
serial verb construction	<i>People use am tek shop moni</i>	People made a lot of money from it
reduplication	<i>Chop/Chop chop</i>	Eat/Someone who eats a lot, always eating

Special attention will be given to the idea of serialization in expressing the meaning and the feature of reduplication.

It will be argued that the structure of NPE follows the patterns of African languages in both morphology and syntax. Recognized as an African language, rather than a variant of English, NPE creates a new space of comparative studies which are oriented at African substrate.

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