ENGLISH IN ASIA, AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. ENGLISH-BASED PIDGINS AND CREOLES.

1. **English in Asia.**
2. **English in Africa.**
3. **English in the Caribbean.**
4. **English-based pidgins and creoles.**

KEY TERMS:

- Bislama;
- English as a mother tongue;
- English as a second language;
- English as an official or co-official language;
- English-based contact varieties / languages;
- English-based creole;
- extended/expanded pidgins;
- Jamaican Creole English;
- lingua franca;
- pidginized form of English;
- rapping rhythm;
- Tok Pisin

RECOMMENDED READING:

Hickey, Raymond. Variety studies // https://www.uni-due.de/ELE/VarietiesOfEnglish.pdf. – P. 45-46, 48-49.

Katalin B. B. Beginner's English Dialectology: An introduction to the accents and dialects of English.- Budapest : AD LIBRUM, 2008. – P. 51-60. // http://mek.oszk.hu/15100/15126/15126.pdf

LECTURE NOTES

From *The Bochum Gateway to World Englishes* at http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/wegate/Asia/asia.html :



From *The Bochum Gateway to World Englishes* at http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/wegate/Africa/africa.html

In Asia English is spoken in Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore. It has been used there from the late 16th century onwards, when English traders began to deal in spices and the British East India Company was established. English was first introduced to the Indian

subcontinent, where the company established control in the 18th century. When the company's activities later extended to various parts of what is referred to as South-east Asia, settlements grew in Penang, Singapore and Malacca. English has become the language of law, administration and education. The numbers of first language speakers is very low, however, and most speakers of English use it as *a second language*.



From *The Bochum Gateway to World Englishes* at http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/wegate/Americas/americas.html

English was first transported to the *African continent* when English merchants started to establish trading posts along the West African coast and the Cape from the 17th century onwards. When, in 1884 and 1885, Africa was devided by the colonial powers and even more colonies and protectorates were established, the colonizers established their individual nation's language as languages of administration and, often, of education.

In Africa English is spoken in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda. Many countries opted for English as their *official or co-official language*. English is spoken as a *mother tongue* by the descendants of the British settlers in various parts of the continent - predominantly though in South Africa.

The vast majority of English speakers on the African continent, however, use English as a *second language* or *a pidginized form of English* (in West Africa). Liberia is a special case: the nation was founded by America, which settled freed slaves there.

As many people acquire English through school, knowledge of English is associated with literacy.

As early as 1619, the first African slaves were brought to America, often bringing an English-based pidgin with them. *Pidgin and creole languages* are also associated with *the Caribbean*, and these varieties of English continue to thrive in both areas. In the Caribbean, they co-exist with varieties of English spoken by the descendants of the British who settled in the area from the 17th century onwards.Despite an originally predominantly British influence, the closeness to the United States has resulted in a growing influence of American English in the Caribbean. In Central and South America, English is increasingly used as a second international language, alonside Spanish and Portuguese.



From *The Bochum Gateway to World Englishes* at http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/wegate/Americas/Jamaica.html

English came to *Jamaica* in the 17th century, when British colonists settled there and brought African slaves. It is the Island's *official language*. However, the variety mostly spoken on Jamaica is *Jamaican Creole English*. Between Creole and British Standard English, there is no clear borderline, but rather a continuum. People rarely speak either of the "extremes", but have command of a certain range of expression within this continuum.

Among the features of *Jamaican English*, there are the following: Jamaican English has a syllable-timed rhythm, i.e. there is no schwa in unstressed syllables. This leads to the prominent "*rapping rhythm*"; of this variety.

English-based Pidgins. From *the Electronic World Atlas of Varieties of English* at http://ewave-atlas.org/introduction

English-based contact varieties (or rather, contact languages) that typically developed in trade colonies for the purpose of communication between two or more groups of speakers that did not share a common language. Full acquisition of the English language has in most cases not been the target. Initially, pidgins are nobody's mother tongue and are usually restricted to certain domains of use (often as lingua francas). However, they may over time acquire native speakers and also enter further domains of use (*extended/expanded pidgins*). With the exception of Butler English.

English-based Creoles. English-based *contact varieties* (or rather: *contact languages*) that typically developed in settings (often in plantation colonies) where a group of non-English speakers acquired some variety of English. Typically, there was strong pressure upon the non-English speaking group to use the language of the socio-economically superior group (i.e. English), while exposure to its native speakers was normally very limited. In the Caribbean, for example, the proportion of native (and L2) speakers of English was rather low in contrast to non-English speakers (who constantly arrived in the colonies in large numbers). Many creoles have become the native language of the majority of the population.

Bislama /ˈbɪsləmɑː/ is a creole language, one of the official languages of Vanuatu. More than 95% of Bislama words are of English origin; the remainder combines a few dozen words from French, as well as some flora and fauna terminology inherited from various languages of Vanuatu.



The Bislama speaking area: New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in the South Pacific

Source: http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.com/2014/05/ClassicalStampsofNewHebrides.html





"Tusker" is Vanuatu's national beer.
Bia blong yumi...
Beer that belongs to you and me... our beer.

Source: https://1year1family1world.com/2015/01/19/

Tok Pisin /tɒk ˈpɪsɪn/ is a creole language spoken throughout Papua New Guinea where it is an official language.



The Tok Pisin speaking area: Papua New Guinea
Source : http://www.simonsjamjar.com/2015/04/questions-answers-papua-new-guinea.html



Sign in common use in the 1980s giving a warning in Tok Pisin: *Work on road, cars must stop if you see the red sign.*
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tok_Pisin