

Jeudi 1^{er} février 2018
Programme Pidgins et Créoles en contact
Fédération Typologie et Universaux Linguistiques

9h30 accueil

10h00 Adrián Rodríguez Riccelli - **Towards a compressive model of subject expression in the Santiago variety of Cape-Verdean Creole**

12h00 déjeuner sur place

Campus CNRS Paris-Villejuif, Salle 511, Bâtiment D, accès <http://www.vjf.cnrs.fr/sedyl/venir.php?langue=fr>
Se munir d'une pièce d'identité pour obtenir un badge d'accès à l'entrée.

Towards a compressive model of subject expression in the Santiago variety of Cape-Verdean Creole

Adrián Rodríguez Riccelli (University of Texas, Austin)

The *Badiu* (= Santiago Cape-Verdean Creole) subject domain has been the topic of much theoretical controversy (Baptista 1995, 2002; Pratas 2002; Costa & Pratas 2008, 2013; Lang 2012). However, little is known about variability in Badiu subject expression, and the language-internal and external factors that condition said variation. This study is a first step towards a model that 'maps' the Badiu subject domain as a variable system. There are four possible realizations of an argumental subject in Badiu: a clitic pronoun (*N ta kumi* 'I eat'), a strong pronoun (*Ami é di Mérika* 'I am from America'), a null subject (*E, kai dentu di lagoua... Y ali dja Ø labanta* 'He fell into the pond... And here now [he] rises'), and a strong + clitic pronoun amalgamation (*Ami N ten sinku fijdu* 'Me I have five children'). This kind of a quadripartite system poses a methodological challenge for the variationist-sociolinguistic paradigm, which only recently began to use multinomial logistic regression for the analysis of dependent variables with three or more levels (Rosemeyer & Enrique-Arias 2016), in this case each possible iteration of a Badiu argumental subject.

This study also aims to fill a gap in the literature surrounding the influence of social factors on variable subject expression in Badiu. Cape-Verdean society remains deeply diglossic (Rego 2015), but the dramatic differences between the Badiu subject domain and that of Cape-Verdean or European Portuguese complicate the task of making predictions about the potential impact of social factors. For example, what effect would be expected in cases of *decreolization*? Should structural influence from Portuguese be expected to manifest in speakers from the capital city Praia where exposure is presumably greater than in rural areas? Or in younger as opposed to older speakers? Similar challenges exist with respect to language contact, both in synchrony and diachrony. Consider the former: the primary substrates for Badiu were Mandinka and Wolof (Rougé 1999a; Parkvall 2000; Lang 2006; Quint 2008; Jacobs 2010), both languages that have subject domains that vaguely resemble the dichotomous strong/clitic pronoun system of Badiu (Lipski 2005). However, lexically Badiu strong subject pronouns appear to be derived from Portuguese disjunctive object pronouns (Lipski 1991). Can the synchronic distribution of Badiu subject pronouns tell us about the morphosyntactic contributions of its substrates and superstrate? Another salient feature of Cape-Verdean society for the past two centuries has been its large diaspora. The largest diasporic communities are in the USA and Western Europe and have strong ties with the homeland (Rego 2015). This has multifaceted implications for language contact both in the diaspora, and back in Cabo Verde; do ties to the diaspora influence patterns of subject expression in Badiu spoken on Santiago? Does the dominant language of the host nation have anything to do with it? This presentation strives to probe these questions and take the first step towards a cohesive 'map' of variable subject expression in Badiu.

References

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