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Dany Adone

University of Cologne, Germany, & Charles Darwin University, Australia

On Acquiring a Creole Language as a First Language

In the field of first language acquisition we find a substantial body of studies concentrating mostly on the acquisition of European languages such as English, French, German among others. Studies on acquisition of Creole languages are scarce and yet important for the theories of language development.

In this paper I will address the question of how Creole languages are acquired as first languages whereby I focus on some simple and complex constructions (e.g. null subjects, verb chains and pronouns and reflexives) in Morisyen and Seselwa, two French-based Creoles. The findings will be compared to those found in other languages. Two crucial issues within the field of first language acquisition are targeted for discussion: the nature of input and the role of children in acquisition. If these issues are to be clarified, it becomes obvious that research on the acquisition of Creole languages remains a very important task for future studies.