



Language Contact in the Guianas

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Outline

Cariban Language Family Background

- Location + Population

- Ethnographic Similarities

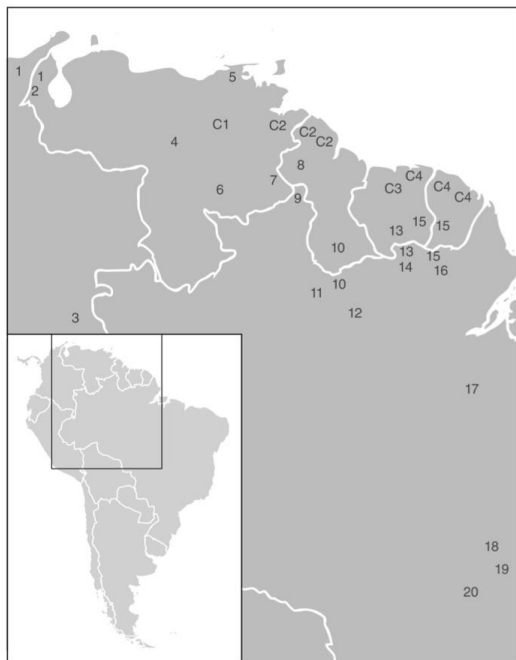
- Linguistic Properties

Language Contact in the Region

Questions/Discussion

Background (Location + Population)

Map indicating the location of living Cariban languages



Explanation of numbers and signs in the map on the opposite page¹⁶

Living Cariban languages

(with number of speakers indicated in parentheses):¹⁷

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Yukpa (3000) | 11 Waimiri-Atroari (350) |
| 2 Japreria (100) | 12 Hixkaryana (600) |
| 3 Carijona (140) | 13 Trio (2000) ¹⁸ |
| 4 Panare (1200) | 14 Kaxuyana (70) |
| 5 Chaima (?) ¹⁹ | 15 Wayana (750) |
| 6 Yekuana (5000) | 16 Apalai (420) |
| 7 Pemon (6000) | 17 Arara (200) |
| 8 Kapon (10000) | 18 Ikpeng (320) |
| 9 Makusi (25000) | 19 Kuikuro-Kalapalo (950) |
| 10 Waiwai (2000) | 20 Bakairi (950) |

2000s: On the order of 60K speakers

Carib dialects

(with number of speakers indicated in parentheses):²⁰

- | | |
|----|---|
| C1 | Venezuelan Carib (1000) |
| C2 | Guyanese Carib (2000) |
| C3 | Western Surinamese Carib (500) |
| C4 | Eastern Surinamese and French Guianese Carib (3000) |

Background (Ethnographic)



"Galibi Do Oiapoque." *Indigenous Peoples in Brazil*, Instituto Socioambiental, Jan. 2000, pib.socioambiental.org/en/Povo:Galibi_do_Oiapoque.



Basso, Ellen B. "Introduction: The Status of Carib Ethnology." *Carib-Speaking Indians: Culture, Society, and Language*, edited by Ellen B. Basso, The University of Arizona, 1977, pp. 9-22.

Background (Ethnographic)

“These are songs that allow the singer to show the nostalgia of the one who is far from his country” ([OLAC Record](#), Kali’na)



Background (Location + Population)



LEGEND	
1	Akawaio
2	Pemong
3	Caribs
4	Parukoto - Cha
5	Trio
6	Wayana
7	Galibi
8	Patamona
9	Xingu Caribs
10	Bakairi
11	Tuxiã
12	Aparai
13	Warikyana
14	Yé'cuana
15	Kariña
16	Mapoyo
17	Panare
18	Yabarana
19	Yukpa
20	Carijona

1970s: On the order of 30K people

Basso, Ellen B. "Introduction: The Status of Carib Ethnology." *Carib-Speaking Indians: Culture, Society, and Language*, edited by Ellen B. Basso, The University of Arizona, 1977, pp. 9-22.

Background (Linguistic Properties)

Syllable Reduction

CV = Obstruent-Vowel

(1a) With non-CV suffixes

<i>n-utu-i</i>	'he gave it (medial past)'
<i>y-utu-ŋ</i>	'to give it'
<i>y-utu-ŋpəh</i>	'(he is) giving it'
<i>y-utu-hpə</i>	'(he was) given'
<i>y-utu-htépi</i>	'(he) wants to give it'

1b) With a -CV suffix

<i>n-uh-čah</i>	'he gave it (immediate past)'
<i>n-uh-pəh-čah</i>	'he gave it (iterative)'
<i>n-uh-čake</i>	'he gave it (historical past)'
<i>y-uh-ča?</i>	'he is given'
<i>y-u?-ñe</i>	'he's gonna give it' (<i>h</i> → <i>ʔ</i> /____[+nasal])

Background (Linguistic Properties)

Ergative Patterns

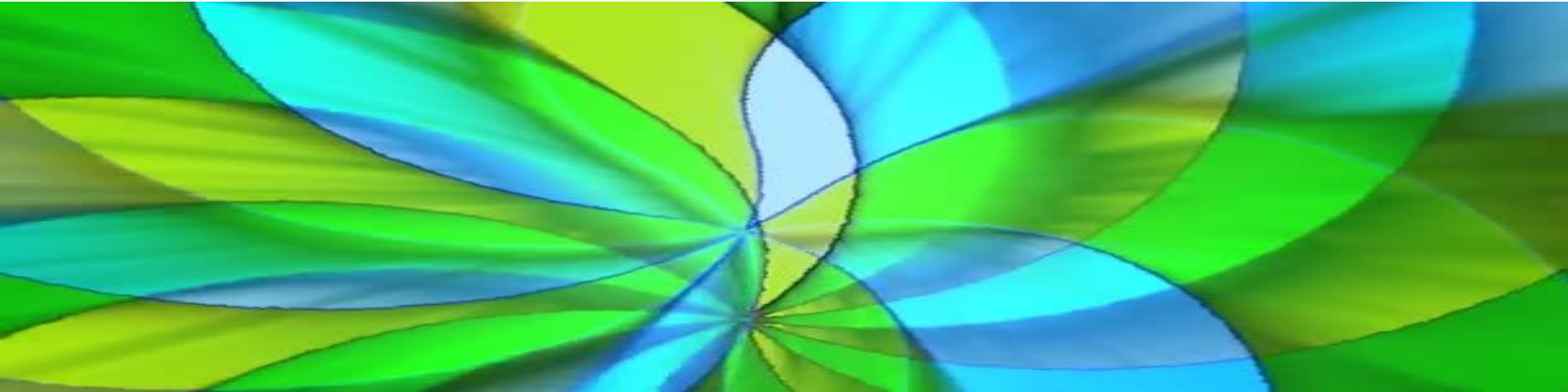
- (1) [ABS] [ERG]
Kiere apo emokry i'ja.
kiere apo emo(ky)-ry i-'wa⁶
cassava stick push-IMPF 3-ERG
'He is pushing the cassava stick'.

- [ABS-]
(3) Ipjunary.
i-puna-ry
3-grow-IMPF
'It is growing'.

- [ABS]
(2) Kiere punary.
kiere puna-ry
cassava grow-IMPF
'The cassava is growing'.

Complex language contact

- Pre-colonial trade language - Coastal Kari'nja
- Cariban invasion of Antilles → Island Carib
- Continental Carib pidgin - French/Kari'nja
- Wayana-Auku trade pidgin



Trio (Tiriyó)-Ndyuka pidgin

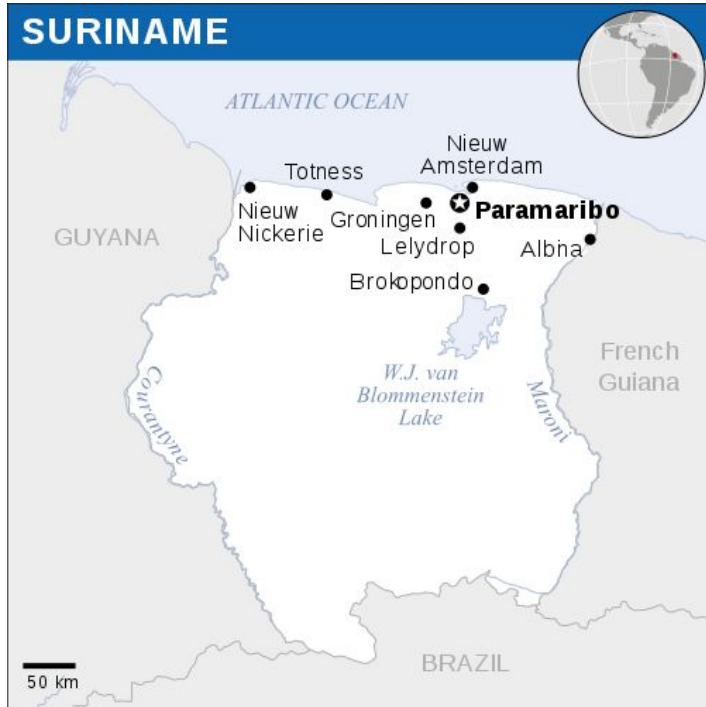
Amerindian + Ndyuka

(Tiriyó, Wayana, Kali'nja)

(African-English creole)



Historical Context of Language Contact in Surinam



- Official National Language: Dutch
- Contact History
 - 1650 -- English Colony in Surinam
 - 1652 -- Beginning of Slave Trade to Surinam
 - 1667 -- Surinam becomes a Dutch colony
 - 1685 -- Rise of Saramaccan ethnic group (W. African, Portuguese, English Creole)
 - 1730 -- Rise of Ndyuka ethnic group (W. African, English Creole)
 - 1853 -- Chinese indentured laborers
 - 1873-1916 -- Indian indentured laborers
 - 1890-1939 -- Javanese indentured laborers

Wikipedia contributors. "Suriname." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 21 Oct. 2019. Web. 24 Oct. 2019.

Yakpo, Kofi and Pieter Muysken. "Language Contact and Change in the Multilingual Ecologies of the Guianas." *Boundaries and Bridges: Language Contact in Multilingual Ecologies*, edited by Kofi Yakpo and Pieter C. Muysken, Walter de Gruyter, 2017, pp. 3-19.

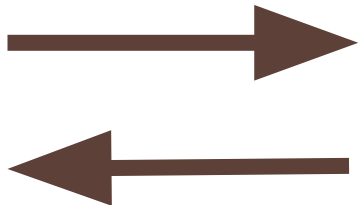
Case study: two-way language influence

Loan translation

Ben je aan het wandelen?

'Are you wandering about?' from *Buyâdwabo*?

Lokono
(Arawakan
family)



**Surinamese
Dutch**

Quotative

Wa namun taki: "Wandakiatheda."

'We tell them: "We will come back here again."

Contact-induced coinage

Tab. 4: Examples of Lokono coinages with the instrument nominalizer.

Lokono	Native instrument	Foreign instrument	Root
dukhukwana	pupil of an eye	mirror	dukhun 'see'
darhidakwana	dugout	car	darhidin 'move quickly'
balutukwana	traditional bench	chair	balutun 'sit down'
birakwana	toy	toy	biran 'play'
rhukukwana	?	scissors	rhukun 'cut'

-*kwana* = instrument nominalizer

Case study: Tiriyó & Wayana (& Dutch, Sranan, etc)

Little lexical borrowing between Amerindian languages - except these two

- Wayana inclusive/exclusive 'our' from Waiwai/Tiriyó (*amna* vs. *wa-*)

Outward influence

- Saramaccan *nopo* (bamboo body armor) from Tiriyó

European influence (Dutch, Spanish, French, English)

- Both direct & indirect

Loan words

- *Sanpereru* (from *sombrero*)
- *alume* (from *alumette*)



Tab. 7: Dutch cardinal directions borrowed into Trio.

Trio	Dutch	English
noorde	noorden	north
oosëtë	oosten	east
weste	westen	west
soirë	zuiden	south

Tab. 3: Borrowed and adapted Dutch numerals.

Original Trio	Meaning	Dutch loans phonologically adapted	Dutch	Sranan ¹⁰
<i>tëinken</i>	one	<i>één</i>	een	wan
<i>ëkënë</i>	two	<i>tuwei</i> ¹¹	twee	tu
<i>ëerao</i>	three	<i>tëri</i>	drie	dri
<i>epima</i>	four	<i>pirë</i>	vier	fo/vier
<i>j-einja</i>	five (my hand's	<i>peihpë</i>	vijf	feifi/vijf
<i>i-tamu</i>	leader)			
	six	<i>ses</i>	zes	siksi/zes
	seven	<i>seihpë</i>	zeven	seibi/zeven
	hundred	<i>honderd</i>	honderd	hondru
	thousand	<i>duizend</i>	duizend	duizend/dusun

Tab. 4: Days of the week in the adapted Trio orthography.

Trio	Sranan	Dutch	Meaning
monri	munde	maandag	Monday
tureoroko	tudewroko	dinsdag	Tuesday
tërireoroko	dridewroko	woensdag	Wednesday
poreoroko	fodewroko	donderdag	Thursday
pereiri/vrijdag	freida	vrijdag	Friday
satëri/zaterdag	satra	zaterdag	Saturday
sonri	sonde	zondag	Sunday

Coined compounds

- *Kan nmuku* - 'God-child'
- *Nere pakoro* - 'bat house' (umbrella)
- *Kanawa-imë* - 'small airplane' (from *kanawa*)
- *Ėpi-pëkë-n* - 'nurse' (from 'medicine' + 'busy-with')



Questions?

NIEUWE CAERTE
van het wonderbaar ende goudrijcke lande GUIANA, gelyc
gen onder de Linie Equinoctiaal, rustighen Dringhen ende
Peru naemtelick befecht door Sir Walter Raleigh Ridder
van Engelande, in het jaar 1594. 95. ende 1596.
De Costen van desle coorte, sijn hier rijkelich geschildert of hant
langhen ende waren schieckinghen door een seker stormen die
die selva befecht ende befecht heeft ende waren vernomen.
De binnen Provincien, sijn dien groote merck gescreven, als
heyl de heylighe, die hier ende by Lede van Raleigh van seker
van licht gescreven sijn.

GUIANA

BRASILIAE PARS

van het wonderbaar en gureghe lande GUIANA, gelijc
en onder de Linie Equinoctiaal, rustighen Breyden ende
Pers naderelick begreide door Sir Walter Raleigh Ridder
van Engelande, in het jaar 1594. 95 ende 1596.
De Oeffen van ditz carver, sijn sijt eendich gescreven op twee
Breyden ende waer spraken dat een ficher stormen die
die flou befalt ende befalt heeft alle jaren vermaent.
De Vinnen Provincien sijn drie groote meren getrocken, als-
kenck de heere van die heer ende by hant van Raleigh vooft
een licht oecende sijn.

[illegible]

GU I Eparagatos ANA

De Lac wort vande Nieuw Caribals, genaemt Parana: ook vande andel. Nieuw de
Jesi, Poponowini. Hier is een groot water, 200. Leugen breed: hier en men vele eilanden
ook grote menschen van Canas, alle Indianen schiep. kon

A E Q U I N O C T I A L I S

4. RAZONES. Why man is Rational. *Enunciacion*. Porque nadie puede
 ser mas racional que el hombre. *Argumento*. En que se muestra que
 no es de la naturaleza, de la forma, o de la materia, de la que el hombre
 es susceptible, lo que le constituye racional. *Conclusión*. Solo el alma puede
 ser racional. *Objeciones*. Se objecciona que el hombre es racional por
 su forma, o por su materia, o por su naturaleza. *Respuesta*. Se responde
 a cada una de ellas. *Conclusión*. Solo el alma puede ser racional.

42. *As. putorius* is very like *As. badger*, except
 in colour, and more slender, and more like
 the badger, *As. putorius*, *As. putorius*, *As. putorius*,
As. putorius and *As. putorius* are very like.

BRASILIAE PARS

Discussion Questions

- Many of the Cariban languages have adopted linguistic aspects from contact with colonial powers and labor migrants. How does this hurt (or help) restoration efforts? Or equivalently, does restoration need to involve maintaining a purity of the language?
- What other instances of creoles can you think of that resulted from an intersection of colonial, labor, and enslaved peoples? How have those shaped society in those regions?