

CREOLE

A creole language, or simply creole, is a stable natural language that has developed from a pidgin becoming nativized by children as their first language, with the accompanying effect of a fully developed vocabulary and system of grammar.

The precise number of creoles is not known, but about one hundred creole languages have arisen since 1500. These are predominantly based on European languages, consequent upon the Age of Discovery and the Atlantic slave trade. There are also creoles based on other languages, including Arabic, Chinese, and Malay.

The creole with the largest number of speakers is Haitian Creole, with about ten million native speakers. The lexicon of a creole language is largely supplied by the parent languages, particularly that of the most dominant group in the social context of the creole's construction.