

Pidgins are simplified languages that occur from two or more languages. Pidgins are developed by people who do not have a common language to communicate in the same geographical area. Pidgins can turn into creoles when they have been used for a long time. As a result of being used for a long time the structure starts to evolve and become more complex. Children who are born to an area where a pidgin is used, acquire it as their first language, in this case the pidgin becomes a creole. An example for such a case is **Tok Pisin** which was a creole in Papua New Guinea and afterwards became a National Language when children started to acquire it as their first languages.

According to Ronald Wardhaugh and John Murphy, a pidgin is nobody's first language/mother tongue, it doesn't have any native speakers, it is just used as a contact language for communication purposes. It is claimed that the reason for pidginization might also be because of the power of the language when the speakers dominate the other language speakers economically and socially. Sometimes the people use the expression 'reduced variety of a normal language'. In other words, it is the standard language but with a reduced or simplified grammar structure, vocabulary, or phonological variation. Sawant (2011: 1) also supports the idea that pidgins were formed because of political, social, and economic situations. Pidgins are called hybrid languages because of the combination of different languages which form them.

An interesting claim made by Napoli (2003: 129) was that common features are shared by creoles all over the world. For example, the auxiliary verbs are put before the main verbs and they have a subject-verb-object structure. Commonly creoles also have a lack of verbal conjugations. It is believed that these common features are the result of an internal mechanism that all humans have as species.

Wardhaugh points out that at least two languages have to battle for dominance in pidginization and a good example for this is the battle between English and French in England after 1066. On the other hand, when three languages are involved in this process, one language should be dominant and more powerful over the others and the people who use them should not only understand and accept the dominant language but also each other as less dominants. Therefore, it can be claimed that a pidgin arises when people from different languages simplify the dominant language to communicate. A very common pidginized variety of language is the Nigerian Pidgin English which is referred to as bad English because people learn this variety without paying attention to accuracy. It is interesting that many different pidgins have similarities between them, related to their origins and they carry information about history and structure.

David Crystal defines a pidgin language as a simplified version of one language that combines the vocabulary of different languages. The reasons for pidgins to occur are generally for trade matters when different cultures do not share a common language and when they feel forced to find a way to communicate. It is stated that members of the same population rarely use a lingua franca to communicate with each other and that pidgins are simplified versions of different languages and they generally have no native speakers.

It is important to state that Wardhaugh claims that children play an important role in how languages change. A pidgin is always involved in the early stage of a creole. A Pidgin comes from a need to communicate from different languages. Most pidgins are lingua francas that exist to meet local needs of the people from different languages.

Wardhaugh suggests that we need to examine the beginning of the pidginization process to provide the bases for most of the pidgins and creoles. Another important and interesting theory about monogenetic views is that the similarities among pidgins and creoles might be attributable to a common origin in the language of sailors in some kind of nautical jargon. An example at this point will be the flagship called Victory that was crewed by sailors of fourteen different nationalities. The sailors used a common shipboard lingua franca rather than a pidginized variety of a standard language. This variety shares only a few sea-based terms from different pidgins and ignores the more serious structural similarities among existing pidgins and creoles.

REASONS FOR PIDGINS TO ARISE

There are various reasons for pidgins to arise and one reason is that the people do not have a common language to communicate, therefore the need for communication leads them to create a pidgin. A good example for this is the slaves who were brought from Africa in the nineteenth century to North America to work on the plantations. They were from different parts of their country. They had no shared languages among themselves. Their bosses chose them from different regions to prevent them from communicating and escaping. So, they had to develop a language in order to communicate. They ended up with creating a pidgin language.

Another reason for a pidgin to arise is colonization. Most pidgins were created from French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Dutch because of their power on colonies. It is obvious that there always has to be a superior and dominant language which most of the vocabulary of a pidgin is borrowed from. These dominant languages are called superstrate languages. In the Papua New Guinea Creole, the superstrate language was English. On the other hand, all the other minority languages that contribute to a Pidgin are called substrate languages. The superstrate languages are the ones which pidgins or creoles are primarily based on and they are usually the language of the colonizing people.

Linguists studying pidgins and creoles often use the terms superstrate and substrate to refer to the different roles languages play in the development of a contact language. The superstrate language (usually only one) is the socially, economically, and politically dominant language in the multilingual context in which the pidgin or creole develops. It is also usually the language which provides the vocabulary for the pidgin or creole, and in that case may also be called the lexifier language. Although socially dominant, we must also recognize that the variety of the superstrate language spoken in a particular context was not always what was considered the standard. The European colonists who often provided the superstrate varieties for pidgins and creole languages were very rarely speakers of prestige varieties of their language. Mufwene describes them as 'defector soldiers and sailors, destitute farmers, indentured laborers, and sometimes convicts . . . from the lower strata . . . [who] . . . spoke nonstandard varieties.'

CONTACT LANGUAGES: STRUCTURAL CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL FACTORS

The substrate languages (by definition two or more) are the native languages of the speakers who contribute to the development of these pidgin or creole languages by providing some vocabulary but also phonological systems and grammatical structures. The speakers of these languages are usually socially subordinate to superstrate language speakers. While this social configuration is not necessary for the linguistic development of a pidgin or creole language, exceptions to this pattern are rare.

Providing definitions of pidgin and creole languages is no simple matter. Up until fairly late in the twentieth century, what was called the **life cycle model** was widely accepted. This model proposes that pidgin languages develop in situations in which speakers have no common language other than the superstrate, but a lack of access to this language. Because of limited input in the superstrate language, they do not simply acquire the superstrate but create a pidgin form of it to use among themselves. While there are many social environments in which a pidgin can arise, the two most common are in situations in which there is either mass migrant labor or increased trade. In either situation, there are people with a variety of linguistic backgrounds who need to communicate with one another, but one language is very much socially dominant.

Pidgins are thus simplified languages. In some cases, they are used in contexts in which there is continued contact with the lexifier language and a continuum between the pidgin and the lexifier develops, usually ending with the pidgin dissolving and the lexifier language being spoken. In other contexts, the pidgin expands and becomes stabilized. At this stage, if there is contact with native speakers of the superstrate language, it may again develop a continuum of varieties between the expanded pidgin and the lexifier, with the lexifier language ultimately winning out.