Subordination in Creole languages

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Workshop description:
While many studies have explored and compared the morphosyntactic and semantic aspects of subordination in various linguistic areas and language families (Frajzyngier 1996; Kortmann 1996; van der Auwera 1998; Caron 2008), research on subordinated clauses in Creole languages remains limited. The conceptualization of subordinate clauses as semantically hierarchical structures (Van Valin & LaPolla 1997; Nordström 2010; Cristofaro 2003) entails the definition of other grammatical notions, such as 'finiteness', 'dependency', 'embeddedness, 'hypo-/parataxis' and, more generally, raises the question of how we define 'syntactic complexity' cross-linguistically. Furthermore, the comparative validity of the previously mentioned notions varies according to the adoption of different theoretical frameworks (e.g., functional grammar vs. generative grammar) as well as to language-dependent factors (Comrie 2008, Haspelmath 2010).

This workshop aims at gathering researchers working on Creole languages with different lexifiers (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic) and featuring diverse substrate/adstrate languages (e.g., Niger-Congo, Oceanic, Nilo-Saharan) in order to contribute to the debate on the definition of semantic and morphosyntactic parameters for comparing subordinate clauses cross-linguistically. Indeed, because of the particular historical dynamics of their emergence and the role played by language contact in their linguistic development, Creole languages raise a number of questions related to the grammaticalization of adverbial, complement, and relative clauses as well as to the formal parameters to be used for defining subordinate clauses (e.g., presence/absence of subordinating devices, TAM marking, presence/absence of pronominal arguments). In this context, the increasing availability of corpus-driven descriptions (see Vieira Semedo 2021, Duzerol forth.) and linguistic databases (Manfredi and Quint forth.) of subordination constructions in Creole languages open new descriptive and comparative perspectives on this highly variable syntactic domain.

Submissions to the workshop may include in-depth case studies of the syntax of subordinate clauses in individual Creole languages as well as presentations with a more comparative focus. We welcome both synchronically and diachronically-oriented studies of subordinate clauses in Creole languages. More generally, the workshop seeks to answer a range of questions related to the following domains of research:

- Morphosyntactic comparison of subordinated clauses: How can we better compare the morphosyntactic encoding of adverbial, complement, and relative subordinating relations across Creole languages? Are 'finiteness' and 'embeddedness' valuable morphosyntactic notions for the comparison of subordination in Creole languages (cf. Mufwene and Dijkhoff 1989; Cristofaro 2003; Nikolaeva 2007)?

- Grammaticalization of subordinating devices (subordinators, complementizers, and relators): Do subordinating devices present shared grammaticalization paths across Creole languages? To what extent is the grammaticalization of subordinating devices in Creole languages affected by the

semantics and typological profile of their substrate/adstrate/superstrate languages (cf. Michaelis and Haspelmath 2020)? To what extent does the 'overlay function' of subordinators (cf. Kortmann 1997) affect their grammaticalization in Creole languages?

- Mood, modality, and subordination: What is the diachronic link between the grammatical expression of mood and modality and the morphosyntactic encoding of subordinating relations (cf. Frajzyngier 1996; Nordström 2010) in one or more Creole languages? How do Creole languages grammaticalize and convey equivalents of a subjunctive mood in subordinated clauses?

- Morphosyntactic variation of subordinated clauses: What are the main sociolinguistic variables producing morphosyntactic variation of subordinated clauses in one or more Creole Languages (cf. Deuber 2005 for Nigerian Pidgin)? What are the main grammatical factors producing language-dependent variation of subordinated clauses in one or more Creole Languages?

- Typological considerations: Do Creole languages typologically differ from non-creole languages in the domain of subordination (cf. Van der Auwera 1998; Bakker et al. 2011; McWhorter 2018)? To what extent does first/second language acquisition affect the grammaticalization of subordinated clauses in Creole languages (cf. Diessel 2004; Veenstra 2015)?

- Linguistic databases and corpora: How can we ensure cross-linguistic comparability of subordinated clauses while giving information about language-dependent syntactic variation by means of linguistic databases (cf. Michaelis et al. 2013; Manfredi and Quint forth.)? How can corpus-driven analyses of subordination contribute to the broader typological comparison of subordinate clauses?

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