

Kees Versteegh (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

The expression of future tense in Arabic pidgins and creoles

According to the model proposed by Bybee, Perkins and Pagliuca (1994), expression of the future develops along certain pathways of grammaticization, the most important of which start with either the expression of obligation or of desire, and end in the expression of intention > prediction. In this paper, I propose to analyze expressions of future tense in four different varieties of Arabic: South Egyptian Arabic/Sudanese Arabic as an example of a native variety; Pidgin Madame as an example of an early pidgin (Bizri 2010); Juba Arabic as an example of a stable pidgin (Tosco 1995); and (Ki-)Nubi as an example of an Arabic creole (Wellens 2005; Luffin 2005). Text collections of Pidgin Madame and Ki-Nubi have been published; for Sudanese Arabic and Juba Arabic, a corpus is available in text repositories on the internet. References to the future in the corpus will be analyzed semantically in order to verify whether the differences between the varieties correspond to the proposed pathways and which pathways can be distinguished in the development of Arabic.

Bizri, Fida. 2010. *Pidgin Madame: Une grammaire de la servitude*. Paris: Geuthner.

Bybee, Joan, Revere Perkins and William Pagliuca. 1994. *The evolution of grammar: Tense, aspect, and modality in the languages of the world*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

Luffin, Xavier. 2005. *Un créole arabe: Le kinubi de Mombasa, Kenya*. Munich: Lincom Europa.

Tosco, Mauro. 1995. "A pidgin verbal system: The case of Juba Arabic". *Anthropological Linguistics* 37.423-459.

Wellens, Ineke. 2005. *The Nubi language of Uganda: An Arabic creole in Africa*. Leiden: E.J. Brill.