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## **Suriname versus the rest of the world: a comparison of functional elements based on the APiCS**

Taking data from the APiCS database as a starting point, I will compare functional elements of the creole languages of Suriname with those occurring in other creole languages. I will take into account creoles with the same lexifier languages as the Suriname creoles, that is, English and also Portuguese and Dutch, both within the Atlantic area and elsewhere, and those with a similar substrate, in particular Haitian.

The functional elements to be discussed include aspect markers, complementizers and adpositions. With respect to the latter, the Suriname creoles exhibit a pattern that appears rather unique: based on the Gbe substrate, items derived from English and Portuguese are used in complex adpositional phrases. Not only are such complex adpositional phrases not attested in other English or Portuguese creoles, they are also absent from Haitian which has French as its lexifier but shares its substrate with the Suriname creoles.

Although the differences between the creoles of Suriname and those that developed elsewhere are not always as absolute as in the case of adpositions, there is diversity both in the selection of lexifier items to perform a particular function and in the nature of similar functional items across creoles. A comparison as outlined above may shed light on the nature and the respective roles of lexifier input, substrate influence and innovation in creole development.

By way of a methodological note, I will also pay attention to the issue of presentday data and the historical dimension.