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**The grammaticalization of reciprocity in Seychelles Creole**

Seychelles Creole is one of the few creole languages with a grammaticalized reciprocity marker that is completely innovative compared with the French lexifier (for example: Plant ek plant osi i ed *kanmarad*, enn a lot – 'The plants also help each other'). The marker *kanmarad* (< Fr. 'camarade') can be considered to be "freshly grammaticalized" material. This specificity is mentioned in the grammars of Seychelles Creole (Bollée 1977, Choppy 2009, Corne 1977) and in several articles (eg. Michaelis & Haspelmath, to appear) but its evolution, synchronic distribution, and semantics have never been analyzed in any detail.

In the first part of this contribution, I will compare data from spoken and written corpora of Seychelles Creole with the data published in the *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures* (Haspelmath et al. 2013). Only seven of the 69 represented languages have a special reciprocal marker based on 'companion' like Seychelles Creole.

I then will analyze in depth some of the Seychelles Creole data with the use of *kanmarad* in Modern Mauritian Creole and in the diachrony of Mauritian and Seychelles Creole. This comparison will allow me to trace back the grammaticalization process of the marker, a process that is not very advanced in Mauritian Creole.

In the last part, after having excluded the influence of the substrate languages, I will show that the evolution of *kanmarad* can be considered to be an instance of accelerated functionalisation in accordance with Haspelmath & Michaelis (2017) who claim that creoles show more accelerated functionalisation than their lexifiers. With respect to the possible reasons for the acceleration of functionalization of *kanmarad*, I will discuss the two hypothesis discussed by Haspelmath & Michaelis (2017), the "loss and replacement hypothesis" and the "extra transparency hypothesis" favored by the authors. I will suggest a third possibility that takes into account the very specific sociolinguistic situation of Seychelles where Creole has been the first national language since 1981.

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