PIDGIN AND CREOLE LANGUAGES

WEEK 1
Velupillai: Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

- The development of pidgins
  - The monogenetic approach: all pidgins descend from an original pidgin
  - The polygenetic approach
  - The nautical jargon

- Monogenesis and relexification
  - The Portuguese-lexified pidgin
  - Relexification with Dutch, English, French, Spanish...

- Nautical jargon theory: favors relexification
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

- Polygenesis and proposed formation processes of pidgins
  - The common core theory (ex: plural marker in all input languages)

- The interlanguage theory (speakers stop at a particular IL stage)

- The Foreigner Talk theory (purposeful simplification for the sake of communication)
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

- Transfer and substrates in pidgin formation
  - $L_1/L_2$ cascade

- Hybridization and the emergence of pidgins
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

PROS AND CONS OF EACH THEORY

Monogenesis/relexification:

- Explains structural similarities
- Ignores pidgins not lexified by European languages (ex: Gulf Pidgin Arabic)
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

Nautical jargon:

- Explains similarities between pidgins of the same lexifier
- Ignores pidgins that have emerged independently from sailors
- Presupposes ship jargons were similar and structured enough to have a lasting effect on the non-sailing population
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

Common Core:

- Explains why pidgins have similar structures
- Does not explain why it does not adopt a feature common to all source languages
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

- Interlanguage
  - Explains why the lexicon of a pidgin is derived from one or a few input languages
  - Does not explain why non-native speakers stop at the same IL stage
  - Assumes that pidgin speakers aimed to acquire native-like command of the target language
  - Implicitly assumes that contemporary varieties represent the language structures of the target language at the time
Theories on the formation processes of pidgins

- **Foreigner talk**
  - Explains why pidgins are ‘simplified’ compared to their lexifiers
  - Ignores that FT is not structured (see Ferguson for a different take)
- **Transfer/substrates**
  - Explains differences between the pidgin and its lexifier
  - Explains why different pidgins have different structures
  - Assumes we can establish all input languages
  - Assumes consistency in L1 transfers