Language Specific Peculiarities Document for

HAITIAN CREOLE as Spoken in HAITI

1. Dialects

Several dialect surveys conducted in Haiti – M.P. Hyppolite (1949); Goodman (1964); Orjala (1970); Fattier (1998) – indicate that Haitian Creole (HC) is divided into three dialects: Northern HC, spoken in the area of Cap-Haïtien; Western HC, spoken in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince; and Southern HC, spoken in the area of Cayes.

Country or Region	Districts or Cities
Northern	Cap-Haïtien
Western	Port-au-Prince
Southern	Cayes

The Western HC, spoken in the area of Port-au-Prince, is used as the standard dialect for Haitian Creole.

2. Deviation from native-speaker principle

Although Western HC is recognized as Standard Haitian Creole (SHC), all three HC dialects are considered "native". Native speakers of Haitian Creole are aware of linguistic features of each dialect; they automatically identify the geographical origin of other native speakers while communicating with them. Northern HC is the dialect with the most marked lexical, syntactic, phonological and morphological features. For example, in Standard Haitian Creole the preposition *'with'* is translated by *'ak/avèk/avè'* (e.g.: Come **with** me // *vini avè m*)*;* whereas, a Northern HC speaker uses the variant *'ake'* (e.g.: Come **with** me // *vini ake m*). In Standard Haitian Creole, the structure *'pa+pronoun'* forms the possessive pronoun (e.g.: This book is **yours** // *Liv sa se pa w*); whereas, in Northern HC the structure *'kin/ken + a + pronoun'* forms the possessive pronoun (e.g.: This book is **yours** // *Liv sa se kin a w*). One of the linguistic peculiarities of Southern HC is the use of the progressive verb marker *'pe'* instead of *'ap'*, as used in Standard Haitian Creole. For example, the sentence *'m ap travay'* (I **am** work**ing**) in Standard Haitian Creole becomes *'mwen pe travay'* in Southern HC.

3. Special handling of spelling

The main spelling issue in Haitian Creole is variation in the orthographic system.

Since the formation of Haitian Creole, three orthographies have been proposed: the McConnell-Laubach Orthography (1940s), the Faublas-Pressoir Orthography (1947), and the IPN (National Pedagogical Institute) Orthography. The latter was made official in 1979, and later adopted to produce materials in Haitian Creole for all purposes. The current collection will use IPN spelling conventions for all orthographic transcriptions.

Although Haitian Creole is the native language of the entire population of Haiti, accurate spelling is still challenging for some Haitians. Before 1987, Haitian Creole was not used as an official language in Haiti, and was not taught in schools. Most Haitians who attended school before that time are not completely familiar with the new spelling system proposed by the IPN Orthography. When writing in Haitian Creole, they tend to go back to the Faublas-Pressoir or McConnell-Laubach Orthography, and sometimes they use a combination of French and Haitian Creole spelling.

The following are some specific spelling issues in Haitian Creole:

- The hyphen is no longer used in Haitian Creole, but some speakers continue to use it when writing the language. For example, to show that the oral vowel /a/ preceding 'n' is not nasalized, the Faublas-Pressoir Orthography inserted the hyphen (-) after the oral /a/ (e.g. breakdown: *pa-n* /pan/); but the IPN Orthography rejected the hyphen and instead uses a grave accent on the vowel *'a'* (e.g. breakdown: *pàn /pan/);*

- The nasal vowel /ẽ/ is spelled *'in'* in Faublas-Pressoir Orthography (e.g. well: *by**in*** /bjẽ/); but in IPN Orthography, /ẽ/ is spelled 'en' (e.g. well: *by**en*** /bjẽ/);

- The semivowel /w/ is spelled *'ou'* in Faublas-Pressoir Orthography (e.g. I: *mo**u**in* /mwẽ/); but the IPN Orthography replaced the representation *'ou'* by *'w'* as proposed by the McConnell-Laubach Orthography (e.g. I: *m**w**en* /mwẽ/);

- The oral vowel /e/ is spelled 'é' in Faublas-Pressoir Orthography (e.g sing: *chant**é*** /ʃãte/); whereas the IPN Orthography uses the representation 'e' for /e/ e.g sing: *chant**e*** /ʃãte/)

- The digraph *'eu'* may be found in some writing to reflect the hyper-corrected speech of some bilingual speakers of French and Haitian Creole. This digraph is not a part of the standard spelling system, and will not be used for the current project.

These are the key spelling issues which need to be addressed in Haitian Creole. Younger educated speakers will be familiar with these conventions already.

Since Haitian Creole is a French-based creole, the majority of its lexicon is derived from French. Many French words therefore have cognates in Haitian Creole. Wherever possible, French loan words will be spelled using their Creole cognates

Joumou   (From Indian 'jurumu')
Ago   (From Fongbe 'ago')
Sandwich   (from English 'sandwich')
Imel   (from English 'e-mail')
Karetèl   (from Spanish 'carretera')
Kalaw/kalawo (from Spanish 'caray')
Kòktèl   (from English 'cocktail')
Napkin   (from English 'napkin')
Bokit   (from English 'bucket')

3.1. Joining single-letter articles

There is some variation in the spelling of Haitian Creole articles "t", "m", "n", "y", "l", and "w". These articles are sometimes written connected to the preceding word, and sometimes separately, with or without an apostrophe. For this project we will be joining the articles with underscores. This allows orthographic separation while still offering accurate pronunciations in the lexicon entries.

4. Description of character set used for orthographic transcription

Haitian Creole is written in the Latin alphabet, with two diacritized letters. These letters are à (Unicode 00e0, SAMPA /a/), è (Unicode 00e8, SAMPA /E/) and ò (Unicode 00f2, SAMPA /O/).

5. Description of Romanization Scheme

A Romanization scheme is not needed for this language.

6. Description of Method for Word Boundary Detection

Word boundaries in the orthography are determined by localization of white spaces (blank, tab, etc). For this project we will be joining clitics "t", "m", "n", "y", "l", and "w" with underscores.

7. All phonemes in the stipulated notation

The phonemic transcription of the words in this database uses X-SAMPA symbols, which can be found at http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/sampa/x-sampa.htm. The total number of phonemes is 32. There are 20 consonants, and 12 vowels (11 monophthongs and 1 diphthong).

HAITIAN CREOLE PHONE CHART

TYPICAL LANGUAGE CORRESPONDENCE	IPA	X-SAMPA	Example
CONSONANTS			
p	p	p	**p**akèt
b	b	b	**b**agay
t	t	t	**t**on**t**on
d	d	d	**d**ènye
k	k	k	**k**le
g	g	g	**g**òch
m	m	m	**m**oun
n	n	n	**n**òt

TYPICAL LANGUAGE CORRESPONDENCE	IPA	X-SAMPA	Example
ng	ŋ	N	hi**ng**hang
f	f	f	**f**ig
v	v	v	**v**wazen
s	s	s	**s**is
z	z	z	**z**ero
ch	ʃ	S	**ch**eve
j	ʒ	Z	**j**edi
r	ɣ	G	**r**ezon
h	h	h	**h**ing**h**ang
l	l	l	**l**a**l**in
w	w	w	**w**i
y	j	j	p**y**e
VOWELS			
a	a	a	**a**b**a**ko, p**à**n
an	ã	a~	**an**pil
e	e	e	kl**e**
è	ɛ	E	f**è**t
en	ẽ	e~	mw**en**
i	i	i	l**i**de
o	o	o	zwaz**o**
ò	ɔ	O	dey**ò**
on	ɔ̃	O~	t**on**t**on**
ou	u	u	kaf**ou**
oun	ũ	u~	y**oun**
DIPHTHONG			
ui	ɥi	Hi	lann**ui**t

OTHER SYMBOLS	
.	syllable break
#	word boundary

7.1. Rare phones

The phoneme /Hi/ is a rare phone, occurring only in some French loan words.

The phoneme /h/ is also a rare phone, occurring primarily in English loan words.

8. Other Language Specific Items

8.1. Table of Digits

0	zewo
1	en
2	de
3	twa
4	kat
5	senk
6	sis
7	sèt
8	uit
9	nèf

8.2. Other Numbers

10	dis	20	ven	30	trant
11	onz	21	venteyen	31	tranteyen
12	douz	22	vennde	32	trannde
13	trèz	23	venntwa	33	tranntwa
14	katòz	24	vennkat	34	trannkat
15	kenz	25	vennsenk	35	trannsenk
16	sèz	26	vennsis	36	trannsis
17	disèt	27	vennsèt	37	trannsèt
18	dizuit	28	ventuit	38	trantuit
19	diznèf	29	ventnèf	39	trantnèf
40	karant	50	senkant	60	swasant
41	karanteyen	51	senkanteyen	61	swasanteyen
42	karannde	52	senkannde	62	swasannde
43	karanntwa	53	senkanntwa	63	swasanntwa
44	karannkat	54	senkannkat	64	swasannkat
45	karannsenk	55	senkannsenk	65	swasannsenk
46	karannsis	56	senkannsis	66	swasannsis
47	karannsèt	57	senkannsèt	67	swasantuit
48	karant uit	58	senkantuit	68	swasantnèf
49	karant nèf	59	senkantnèf	69	swasant nèf

70	swasanndis	80	katreven	90	katrevendis
71	swasannonz	81	katrevenen	91	katrevenonz
72	swasanndouz	82	katrevende	92	katrevendouz
73	swasanntrèz	83	katreventwa	93	katreventrèz
74	swasannkatòz	84	katrevenkat	94	katrevenkatòz
75	swasannkenz	85	katrevensenk	95	katrevenkenz
76	swasannsèz	86	katrevensis	96	katrevensèz
77	swasanndisèt	87	katrevensèt	97	katrevendisèt
78	swasanndizuit	88	katrevenuit	98	katrevendizuit
79	swasanndiznèf	89	katrevennèf	99	katrevendiznèf

10	dis
100	san
10,000	di mil
100,000	san mil
1,000,000	en milyon
10 million	di milyon
1 billion	en milya

9. References

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8. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haitian_Creole

9. http://www.multilingual.com/articleDetail.php?id=589