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Formulaic language, speech act metonymy and creolization

The meaning of sp. *pordiosear* 'to beg' can only be explained with regard to the formulaic sequence sp. *¡Por Dios!* 'For God's sake!', which a beggar expresses in the context of begging. To describe this phenomena, the German linguist Peter Koch proposed in 1993 the term *Sprechaktmetonymie* (speech act metonymy).

Starting from the hypothesis that creole languages are a product of creolization and that this process is directly related to non-guided second language acquisition, later research works assume that *speech act metonymy* (*SAM*) is particularly important for creole languages. They analyze any kind of morphological complex sequences (prefabs) using the term *SAM*, which has led to confusion. Among the utilized examples, words, which are etymologically based on a speech act (e.g. gua.cr.: *foumwalkan* 'to go away' < fr.: *fous-moi le camps!* 'fuck off!') as well as prefabs, which are not morphologically derived from a speech act (e.g. hait.cr.: *lari* 'street' < fr.: *la rue* 'the street') can be found. In addition to that, most of the analyzed examples are not metonymic in nature at all.

As a result linguistic research has not found a constitutive element of *SAM* yet. Currently there seems to be a consensus that *SAM* is related to formulas and prefabs as well as to frequency and salience effects.

So far, *SAM* has not been related to the results of formulaic language research. This contribution aims to analyze the relationship between *SAM*, with special regard to the phenomena in the context of creolization, and formulaic language research. It's primary focus will be the question, whether *SAM* can be described as a subtype of formulaic language and if formulaic language research offers a typology of different patterns of formulaic sequences, which can be adapted to *SAM* in the context of creolization.

References:

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