

## ANSS Subject Heading and Bibliographic Access Committee Cataloging Question December 2007

### Question: What kinds of subject headings are used for works on Creole/Pidgin dialects?

The Library of Congress considers **Creole** languages to be “pidgin languages that have become established as the native language of a speech community” (LC Classification Schedule Scope Note) and enters works on Creole languages under the subject heading **Creole dialects**. The subject headings **Pidgin languages** and **Languages, Mixed** are broader terms encompassing Creole languages.

**Pidgin languages** is the correct subject heading for works discussing lingua francas which are native to none of the members of a speech community using them and which have a simplified grammar and mixed vocabulary.

**Languages, Mixed** is the proper subject heading for works “discussing languages resulting from the intermingling of phonological, grammatical and/or lexical elements from different languages in areas of intensive language contact,” according to the LC Classification Schedule scope note. This term is used for the terms Gobbledygook, Hybrid languages, Jargons, and Mixed languages.

Finally, works considering “auxiliary, sometimes mixed, languages used among groups having no other language in common are entered under the heading **Lingua francas**. This term is used for the terms Contact vernaculars, Linguae francae, Trade languages, and Vehicular languages.

**Lingua francas** is the broadest of these terms. **Lingua francas**, **Pidgin languages** and **Creole dialects** may be subdivided geographically. Furthermore, **Creole dialects** is sometimes qualified by the root language.

For example:

Creole dialects – Indonesia  
Creole dialects – Malaysia  
Creole dialects – Singapore  
Creole dialects, Arabic  
Creole dialects, Danish  
Creole dialects, Dutch  
Creole dialects, English  
Creole dialects, English -- Australia  
Creole dialects, English -- Florida  
Creole dialects, English -- Georgia  
Creole dialects, English – South Carolina  
Creole dialects, English – Suriname  
Creole dialects, French  
Creole dialects, French – Brazil  
Creole dialects, French - - Haiti  
Creole dialects, French – New Caledonia  
Creole dialects, Malay -- Indonesia  
Creole dialects, Portuguese  
Creole dialects, Spanish

Some Creole languages that have their own subject headings include:  
Ambonese Malay dialect

Betawi dialect  
Djuka language  
Karipuna creole dialect  
Krio language  
Kriol language  
Michif language  
Saramaccan language  
Sea Islands Creole language (replaces “Gullah dialect” as subject heading)  
Sranan language  
Tayo language

Subject headings for Pidgin languages include:  
Pidgin languages  
Pidgin languages – Acadia – History  
Pidgin languages – Arctic regions – Congresses  
Pidgin languages – History  
Pidgin languages – India  
Pidgin languages -- Study and teaching (Higher)  
Pidgin languages – Suriname