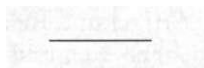


zur Gruppenspezifität dieser Varietät sowie die Herstellung des Bezugs zur Jugendsprache Frankreichs (z. B. die Verlanisierung betreffend, die, wenn auch strukturell unterschiedlich zu der hexagonalfranzösischen, doch Parallelen zu dieser aufweist). Die Abgrenzung des Camfranglais vom Code Switching (S. 251 f.) ist nicht überzeugend, da nur am Merkmal Intra- bzw. Intersentenzialität des Sprachwechsels festgemacht.

Der dritte Teil der Studie behandelt die Didaktik des Französischen in Kamerun im *enseignement primaire, secondaire* und *universitaire* und bietet interessante Einblicke in die Strukturen des kamerunischen Schulsystems. Die Ausführungen bleiben allerdings zu allgemein und gehen, mit Ausnahme des Kapitels zum universitären Französischunterricht, wenig auf spezifische Problemstellungen aufgrund der besonderen linguistischen Situation des Landes ein. Die unkommentierte Auflistung der Unterrichtsinhalte zeigt zwar die offensichtlichen Schwächen des Systems; interessante Fragen, wie z. B. darauf einzugehen wäre, dass das Französische vor dem Schulbesuch häufig bereits ungesteuert erworben wird, werden jedoch nur am Rande gestreift (S. 282). Kapitel 16, in dem die Probleme des Französischunterrichts an der Universität Yaounde I dargestellt werden, zeigt Lösungswege, die die besonderen sprachlichen und sozialen Besonderheiten in Kamerun, die der Autor zuvor problematisiert hat, nicht berücksichtigen.

Insgesamt ist „La langue française au Cameroun“ eine facettenreiche, sehr gut lesbare Studie, die sowohl für Neulinge auf diesem Gebiet als auch für Spezialisten eine Fülle linguistischer Beschreibungen und Analysen aus einem breit gefächerten Spektrum und aus verschiedenen Perspektiven synthetisiert und durch eine breite Palette an Beispielen illustriert.



Lucko, Peter, Peter, Lothar and Wolf, Hans-Georg, (eds.): *Studies in African Varieties of English*, Frankfurt am Main etc.: Peter Lang, 2003. 185 S., 2 Karten. ISBN 3-631-39489-6. 39,00 €. - Bespr. von Hans-Jörg Schmid, Bayreuth.

Entitled *Studies in African Varieties of English*, the book under review is essentially a collection of papers on English varieties in West Africa. Presumably the reason why the more comprehensive title was chosen is that one study on English in the Sudan has been included. Given its focus on West African English the volume must prove its value in comparison with two earlier collections edited by Spencer (1971)¹ and Bamgbose, Banjo and Thomas (1995)². The present book was edited by three German scholars from the Humboldt University, Berlin.

¹ Spencer, John, ed. (1971), *The English language in West Africa*, London: Longman.

² Bamgbose, Ayo, Ayo Banjo and Andrew Thomas, eds. (1995), *New Englishes. A West African Perspective*, Trenton/NJ: Africa World Press.

In addition to six papers authored (or co-authored with African colleagues) by the three editors, the volume includes one further study by another German researcher (Anne Schroder) and three written by renowned Nigerian scholars (Francis Egbokhare, Efurosibina Adegbija and Herbert Igboanusi). With regard to content and thrust, the ten papers fall into three groups. Four studies present sociolinguistic and sociohistorical descriptions of African varieties of English and English-based pidgins: Nigerian Pidgin, Pidgin English in Cameroon, Aku in The Gambia, and English in Sudan. Five papers focus on specific linguistic aspects of West African varieties of English from the viewpoints of lexis, semantics, phraseology and aspect, and one is a contribution to the rather heated debate on whether English is a "killer language" destroying indigenous cultures. Though the editors have not tried to arrange the papers according to an apparent principle, the contributions will be reviewed in the groups just outlined.

Francis O. Egbokhare tells the "story" of "Nigerian Pidgin in spatiotemporal, social and linguistic context". Tracing the origin of Nigerian Pidgin back to the linguistically diverse areas in the Niger-Delta, Egbokhare reviews the discussion on how Pidgin English can be defined and kept apart from superficially similar varieties of English, finally opting for a differentiated view of the problem. A scrutiny of the regional and social spread of Nigerian Pidgin leads Egbokhare to the conclusion that "it is no longer correct to ascribe NP [Nigerian Pidgin] to a social class" (p. 37). This is supported, for example, by the observation that "in some campuses such as University of Ibadan (in the 1970s), University of Benin (even to date) NP was a lingua franca" (ibid.) and by a detailed look at the considerable functional spread of Nigerian Pidgin into "domains hitherto reserved for local languages" (p. 39). Considering growing ethnic tensions in Nigeria, Egbokhare concludes his conspectus with a plea to strengthen the status of Nigerian Pidgin as an ethnically neutral and integrative language. The concurrent danger that the further spread of Nigerian Pidgin may contribute to the death of further 'small' languages is played down by welcoming the possibility that "in many cases where languages are receding functionally NP is filling the gap" (p. 40). This rather nonchalant statement will probably not meet with the approval of many readers of this journal who are concerned with the fate of endangered languages.

In their paper on "Pidgin English in Cameroon in the new millennium" Augustin Simo Bobda and Hans-Georg Wolf also provide evidence for the continuing regional and functional spread and the growing popularity of an English-based West African pidgin. They consider Cameroon Pidgin English unique among West African pidgins, mainly because of the marked influence of French and the lack of language planning policies. Like Egbokhare, Simo Bobda and Wolf are quite optimistic about the further spread of Pidgin English, but also sceptical of its potential to become a national language, since this would require more institutional involvement. What they are also aware of is the danger

that the continuing rise of Pidgin English will foster the deterioration of proficiency levels in Standard English.

The short paper "Aku in The Gambia: Terminological problems, functional distribution and popular attitude" by Lothar Peter and Hans-Georg Wolf provides a survey of the linguistic situation in The Gambia including examples of code-switching between Gambian languages and English. Peter and Wolf focus on the "terminological muddle" surrounding terms like *Patois*, *Broken English* and *Aku*. On the basis of their own observations and evidence from the literature, they compare *Aku* to *Krio*, finding that the few observable differences mainly concern intonation and lexis.

Lothar Peter's paper on "English in the Sudan" is the odd man out in this collection. This is not only because it is concerned with a country outside West Africa, but also because English is much less firmly rooted in Sudan than in many West African countries. Therefore, it is not surprising that Peter focuses on "aspects of education and language policy in the modern history of Sudan" (pp. 131-143), reserving only a few pages for "English and the linguistic situation in the south" and "structural peculiarities in the pronunciation of Southern Sudanese English" (pp. 144-147). While Peter manages to name a number of interesting phonetic markers of this variant, the impression remains that we are not really dealing here with an identifiable *variety* of English in the narrow sense of the term.

In the first empirical paper to be discussed here, Hans-Georg Wolf presents corpus findings supporting the idea that English is culturally adapted to the African environment and social context. Basically his method is to compare the frequencies of lexical items in computerized corpora of Nigerian, Cameroonian and Ghanaian English to corpora of British and American English. Using the "keyword" feature of the corpus software *Word-Smith*, Wolf elicits lexical items found to be comparatively frequent in the West African corpora, among them *chief*, *ceremony*, *indigenous*, *traditional*, *village*, *child*, *spirit*, *demon*, *sin* and *God*. Discussing some of these items and their most frequent collocations Wolf concludes that many of them reflect the "African cultural model of community" and the role of "spirits" and "ancestors" in this model (p. 13). This is interpreted as evidence for the adaptation of English concepts to the African context, i.e. "contextualization". While the application of the corpus method and the 'objectivity' of its results are clearly to be commended, the paper also reflects the shortcomings of the corpus method, since the findings largely remain on the rather superficial level of frequencies of words and collocations. At least within the available space Wolf is not able to address the conceptual impact underlying the terms found to be contextualized, i.e. the question what the African speakers of English actually *mean* when they use words like *spirit*, *ancestor* or *God*.

Efurosibina Adegbija's paper deals with "Idiomatic variation in Nigerian English". Supplying a wealth of examples of idioms specific to Nigerian English, Adegbija discusses sources of idiomatic variation. Many of

these coincide with the sources of lexico-semantic variation as identified by the same author in an earlier paper: transfer of local ideas, analogy (as in *invitee* and *decamp-pee*), the coining of specific acronyms (e.g. *NEPA* for *Nigerian Electric Power Authority*), semantic shift or extension and specific coinages and neologisms like *yellow fever* in reference to Nigerian traffic wardens ("who normally wear a yellowish attire"). Added to these as sources of idiomatic variation are native-source translations, metaphors, personality-related and media-related coinings and idioms originating in slang. Adegbija interprets the productivity of idioms in Nigerian English as a sign of "a homegrown, home-brewed independence from the native variety" (p. 56).

Investigating Nigerianisms in the works of nine Nigerian writers, Herbert Igboanusì comes to a very similar conclusion in his paper on "Semantic dislocation in Nigerian English": "The fact that all nine Nigerian writers who represent different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds use NE [= Nigerian English] in their creative works is a strong indication that NE is a distinct variety of English which reflects the Nigerian environment" (p. 68). In support of this claim Igboanusì studies interesting cases of semantic expansions, collocational extensions, colloquialisms, translation equivalents, lexical Nigerianisms, proverbs and images in works by Chinua Achebe, Amos Tutuola, Wole Soyinka and others.

In their joint paper "A comparison of lexical items in Nigerian English and Cameroon English" Hans-Georg Wolf and Herbert Igboanusì provide a great number of interesting examples of loanwords in the two West African varieties of English. Not surprisingly, they find that Nigerian English is mainly influenced by the regional Nigerian languages Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, whereas Cameroon English is marked by the existence of many loanwords from French. While the two authors emphasize the "lexical differences" between Nigerian and Cameroon English, it must be kept in mind that the two varieties still share the bulk of words of native English origin.

Anne Schröder's paper on "Aspect in Cameroon Pidgin English" is the only one focusing on a grammatical issue. Being based on a questionnaire study carried out for Schröder's PhD dissertation³, the paper commends itself by its rich empirical basis and its considerable theoretical depth. Schröder's investigation of the aspect system of Cameroon Pidgin English is based on Breu's⁴ and Sasse's⁵ systems of semantic verb classes. Analysing the perfective aspect marker *don* and the imperfective marker *di* in systematically varied interactions with verbs of different types, Schröder shows that "with regard to the aspect system, CamP [= Cameroon Pidgin] seems to have

³ Schröder, Anne (2003), *Status, Functions and Prospects of Pidgin English. An Empirical Approach to Language Dynamics in Cameroon*, Tübingen: Gunter Narr.

⁴ Breu, Walter (1994), "Interactions between lexical, temporal and aspectual meanings". *Studies in Language* 18 (1), 23-44.

⁵ Sasse, Hans-Jürgen (1991), "Aspekt und Aktionsart: A Reconciliation". *Belgian Journal of Linguistics* 6, 31-45.

a more logical and sophisticated structure than the language it is supposedly a corruption of" (p. 97).

First and foremost, the last paper of the volume, written by Peter Lucko and entitled "Is English a 'killer language'?" is a plea for a less emotional approach to the politics of English in post-colonial societies. Lucko blames scholars like Robert Phillipson, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Suzanne Romaine and Peter Mühlhäusler for their inappropriate use of highly loaded language in this debate: Skutnabb-Kangas, for example, works with terms like *language murder*, *killer language* and *linguistic genocide* to make her point that English continues to destroy the languages and cultures of people long after their nations have acquired political independence. Lucko counters this with the claim that "the crucial issue here is self-determination. Respecting self-determination, of course, means first and foremost to give support to people who have decided that the maintenance of their language is an indispensable part of their ethnic self-identification. But it also includes respecting the decision of individuals or groups to change their language and self-identification."

The book under review continues the tradition of the two volumes edited by Spencer (1971) and Bamgbose, Banjo and Thomas (1995) in two ways: First, it provides interesting insights into the sociolinguistic situation and the structural characteristics - here mainly the lexical ones - of varieties of English in West Africa and Sudan. And second, just like the two earlier volumes the present book includes linguistic papers with the subtext that the English language is essentially more beneficial than dangerous for the former colonies in Africa. While many papers in the two older volumes focus on the identification and description of specific characteristics of West African varieties in order to make the point that they are 'new' varieties of English each in its own right, a number of contributions to this book go one step further to explore the sources and mechanisms of the adaptation of English to the African context. They illustrate that the New Englishes in West Africa have reached the stages of *nativization* and *endonormative stabilization* in the development of new Englishes recently proposed by Schneider⁶. In a way, then, the papers reflect the attitude expressed in the words of the Philippine poet Germino Abad quoted by Schneider: "English is now ours, we have colonized it".

Zeitschriftenschau

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1 1-12 J. Janäk, From Dusk Till Dawn (Zeigt am Kapitel über die Reise zum Ka aus dem altägyptischen Totenbuch, daß der Tod als eine vorübergehende Periode angesehen wurde und daß die Unterweltreise

des Toten nicht mit dem Begräbnisritual begann, sondern beendet wurde). - 13-30 Š. Macháček, Birth Control in the View of the Egyptian 'Ulamā' at Different Political Stages (Untersucht anhand von Fatwas islamischer Autoritäten deren Haltung zur Bevölkerungspolitik der Regierung und zur Geburtenkontrolle von den dreißiger Jahren des 20. Jahrhunderts bis in die Gegenwart). - 31-40 Z. Svarcová, Twentieth Century Standard-Bearer. The Man Tsushima Shuji as Reflected in Dazai Osamu's Writings (Weist nach, wie der japanische Schriftsteller Dazai Osamu (1909-1948) in seinen Werken unterschiedliche Methoden angewandt hat, um seine eigene Biographie im Leben seiner literarischen Helden widerspiegeln zu lassen). - 41-54 P. Müllerová, Auspicious Motifs on Vietnamese Traditional Graphic (Geht dem Ursprung glückverheißender Motive in der traditionellen vietnamesischen Kunst nach, wie sie vor allem mit den Neujahrsfeiern verbunden sind, und führt die in einheimischen Drucken vorkommenden günstigen Symbole mit ihren Bedeutungen auf). - 55-64 Z. Klöselová, Czech Arms for Korean Independence Fighters (Handelt vom Verkauf von Waffen an koreanische Unabhängigkeitskämpfer durch Angehörige des tschechischen Freiwilligenkorps in Rußland vor ihrer Rückführung nach Europa über Wladiwostok). - 65-78 I. Roper - G. Wood, The Business of Politics in Mozambique. The 1999 Elections and Beyond (Nach einem Überblick über die Entwicklung der Demokratie und des Mehrparteiensystems in Mosambik und der Geschichte der siegreichen Partei Frelimo und der oppositionellen Partei Renamo werden die Ergebnisse der Wahlen von 1999 analysiert und Perspektiven für die Zukunft aufgezeigt). - 79-86 J. Růzová, The Heritage of the City of Alexandria (Mit sieben Photos bebildeter Beitrag über die im April 2002 eröffnete neue Bibliothek von Alexandria mit einer Skizze der Geschichte des Schicksals ihrer berühmten antiken Vorgängerin). - 87-109 Book Reviews and Notes, darunter * U. Verhoeven, Untersuchungen zur späthieratischen Buchschrift (R. Landgräfová). - * M. Phrommer, Alexandria. Im Schatten der Pyramiden (K. Smoláriková). - * A. Egberts - B. P. Muhs - J. Van der Vliet, Perspectives on Panopolis. An Egyptian Town from Alexander the Great to the Arab Conquest (F. Coppens). - * L. Meskell, Private Life in New Kingdom Egypt (H. Navrátilová). - * P. Briant, From Cyrus to Alexander. A History of the Persian Empire (J. Pecirková). - Th. Damsteegt, Girirāj Kisor's Yātrāem. A Hindi Novel Analysed (R. Svobodová). - 110-111 Books Received. - 112-113 Our Contributors.

2 115-128 S. Vavroušková, Hindu-Tradition - A Modern Reflection (Diskutiert Probleme der Wiederbelebung und Umgestaltung traditioneller Werte, religiöser Bräuche und sozialer Kasten während der Modernisierung der indischen städtischen Gesellschaft in den achtziger und neunziger Jahren des 20. Jahrhunderts). - 129-154 R. Svobodová, Tradition Unbroken? Social Dilemmas of Indian Tradition as Reflected in Two Indian Novels of the 1990's (Untersucht, wie die Themen Heirat und Familienleben, Probleme der sozialen Kasten und der Gemeinschaft sowie kulturelle Konflikte in den Romanen A Suitable Boy von Vikram Seth und The God of Small Things von Arundhati Roy behandelt werden). - 155-186 M. Offredi, Hindi Journalism 1877-1906 (Stellt die Bedeutung zweier wichtiger Zeitschriften heraus, die während der zweiten und dritten Phasen des Journalismus auf Hindi erschienen sind, nämlich Hindi Pradip (1877-1889) und Bhāratmitr (1890-1906)). - 187-198 L. Hrebicek, Denotative Analysis and Turkish Texts (Wendet Methoden der Untersuchung semantischer Textstrukturen, wie sie von A. Ziegler und G. Altmann in Denotative Textanalyse. Ein textlinguistisches Arbeitsbuch (2002) entwickelt wurden, auf zwei willkürlich herausgegriffene türkische Texte in Versform und Prosa an). - 199-204 H. Navrátilová - R. Mísek, The Oriental Academy, Birth of a New Era of Austrian Diplomacy in the Orient (Beleuchten die Rolle der 1754 in Wien unter Kaiserin Maria Theresia gegründeten Orientalischen Akademie, die nicht nur hervorragende Gelehrte und Diplomaten wie J. von Hammer-Purgstall und A. von Kremer hervorbrachte, sondern während der Zeit der österreichischen Monarchie auch für die Wahrnehmung politischer Interessen in der Levante von Bedeutung war). - 205-212 Review Article: Z. Herma-

⁶ Schneider, Edgar W. (2003), "The Dynamics of the New Englishes: From Identity Construction to Dialect Birth". *Language* 79 (2), 233-281.