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***Upper Guinea creoles and their common ancestor:
Reconstructing the proto-creole***

The Portuguese-related creoles of Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Casamance (Senegal) constitute the phylogenetic unit of Upper Guinea creoles (UGCs), while the inclusion of Papiamentu in this group is still debated. On the basis of the high level of shared lexicon and grammatical features among the UGCs, a common ancestor is assumed, i.e. a proto-creole (see e.g. Jacobs 2010 and Quint 2000). The reconstruction of some aspects of the grammar of the proto-creole can contribute a better understanding of the origin of the UGCs. Since historical records of these languages are scarce, mainly consisting of late 19th century documents (Schuchardt 1888a,b), the reconstruction proposed here will be based mainly on the comparison of shared grammatical features among the UGCs.

References

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