

## **Analyzing variation in perception grammar of non-standard languages: A case of Hawai'i Creole**

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Grammatical variation and change occurs not only in production but also in perception (Janson 1983: 24). However, the variation in perception grammar is more difficult to analyze than that in production grammar. This is especially so in the case of creole languages which are often non-standardized and have extensive variation.

In Hawai'i Creole (HC), an English-based creole spoken in the islands of Hawai'i, *stay* is typically used as an aspectual marker to refer to the progressive aspect. There are some variations in the forms and meanings in the use of *stay* as discussed in Sakoda & Siegel (2003). The marker *stay* rarely occurs in current HC speech compared with other tense/aspect markers such as *wen* or *gon/gonna*. Therefore, it is difficult to examine variable characteristics of *stay* with multivariate analysis using Varbrul program. However, *stay* is a well-known, in some ways iconic marker representing HC speech in Hawai'i's local culture. HC speakers' ability to interpret *stay* still seems to be available.

Inoue (2015) analyzed the result of a grammaticality judgment survey questionnaire conducted with twenty HC speakers stratified by age and gender who were born and raised in the island of Kaua'i in 2005. Results show that the design of grammaticality judgment employing a 6-point scale is effective enough to elicit speaker's grammatical perception/interpretation on the target grammatical complexity in HC. Based on the analysis, Inoue (2015) argues that grammaticality judgment can be an effective tool to investigate grammatical variation of creole languages when designed appropriately.

In this paper, in addition to grammaticality judgment survey questionnaire, interviews about the speakers' attitudes towards use of HC with the same HC speakers participating in the survey are analyzed. Discussions on how interviews on linguistic attitudes supplement the results from grammaticality judgment surveys in analyzing variation in perception grammar of HC speakers follow.