Substrate Language Influence in Kriol: The Application of Transfer Constraints to Language Contact in Northern Australia

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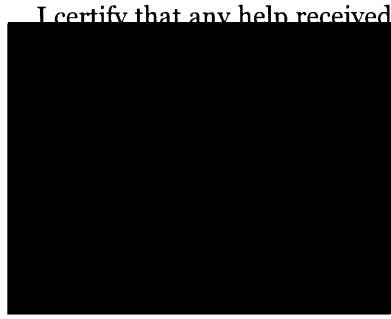
I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all [redacted] wledged in this thesis



Abstract

Kriol, an English lexified creole language of northern Australia, is the primary language of the Roper River region in the Northern Territory. This thesis examines Roper Kriol for evidence of influence from the Indigenous substrate languages of that region. A method used only twice before in the field of pidgin and creole studies, the Transfer Constraints approach, is used to do this. In this way this thesis also aims to further test this theoretical construct.

Chapter 2 provides the sociohistorical background to the emergence of Kriol in the Roper River region, which includes: demographic figures; description of contact in the pastoral industry; and a summary of language contact. This information leads to an identification of the timeframes for when the processes of transfer and levelling may have occurred.

In each chapter to follow, the Roper River substrate languages are compared to find shared core features. Predictions are made based on the reinforcement principle of frequency as to the features that could be expected to have been retained during levelling of the stabilising pidgin and ultimately would be found in Kriol. A description of any corresponding Kriol feature follows. The availability constraints of perceptual salience and congruence are then examined in relation to English, in order to determine whether transfer to the preceding pidgin was constrained or not. The discussion also takes into consideration pidgins in the environment that preceded the creole, alongside other linguistic processes. Chapter 3 starts by examining the morphology of the verb complex and similarly chapter 4 examines the morphology of the nominal complex. Chapter 5 examines semantic category transfer in relation to the pronominal, TMA and case marking systems. Finally, chapter 6 provides an analysis of the nature of nominal modification for evidence of transfer of demonstrative, adjective, possession marking and number marking strategies.

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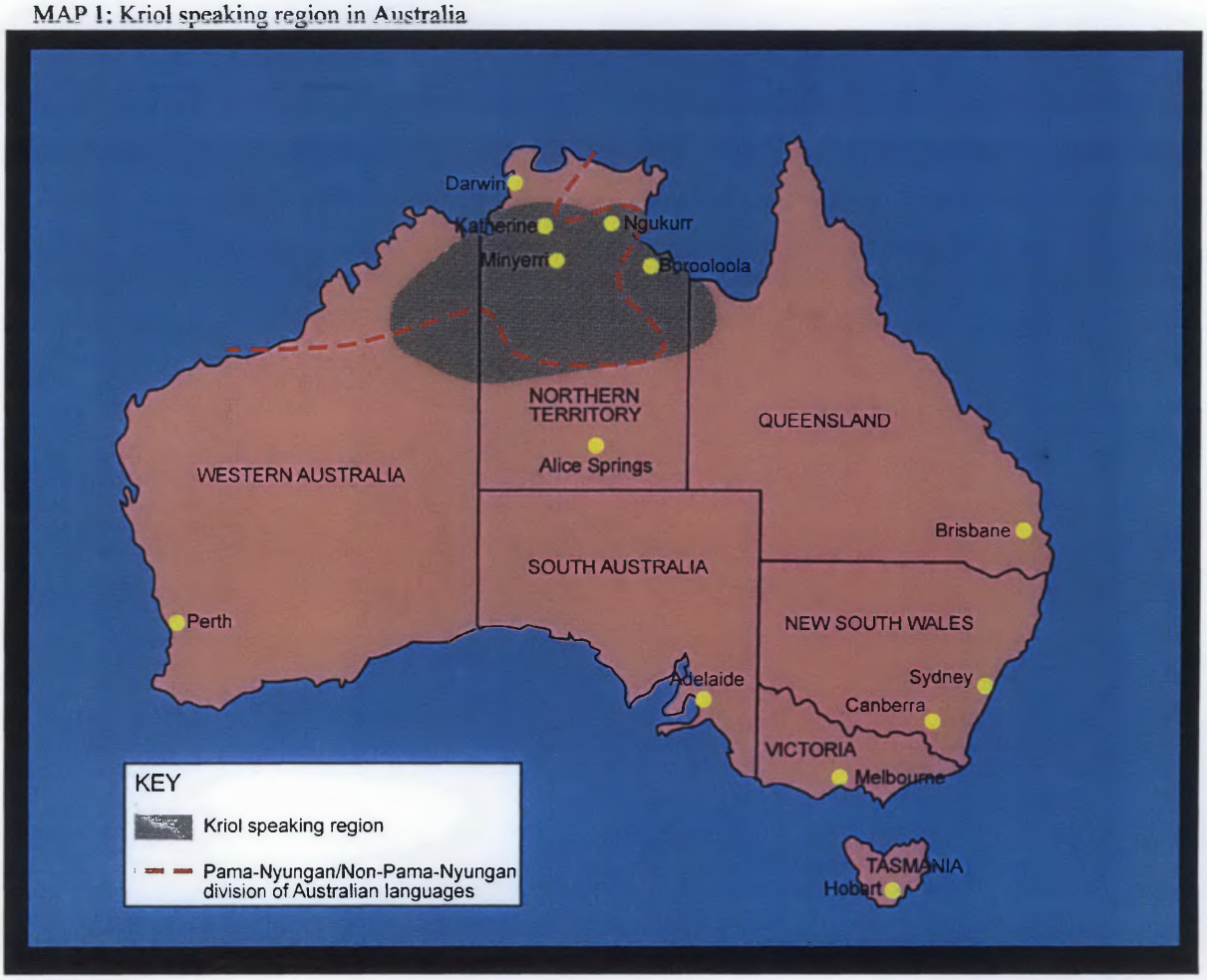
Abbreviations

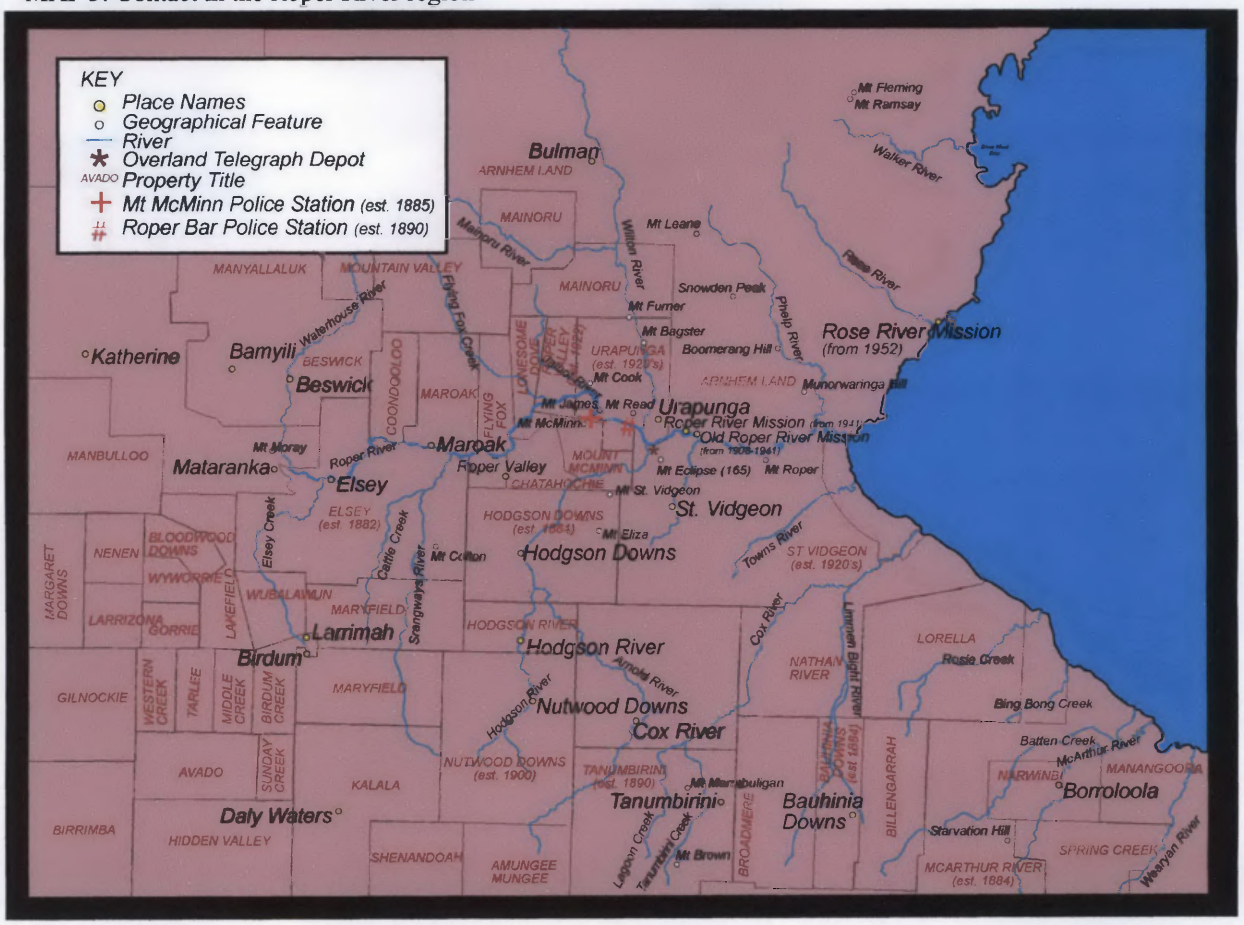
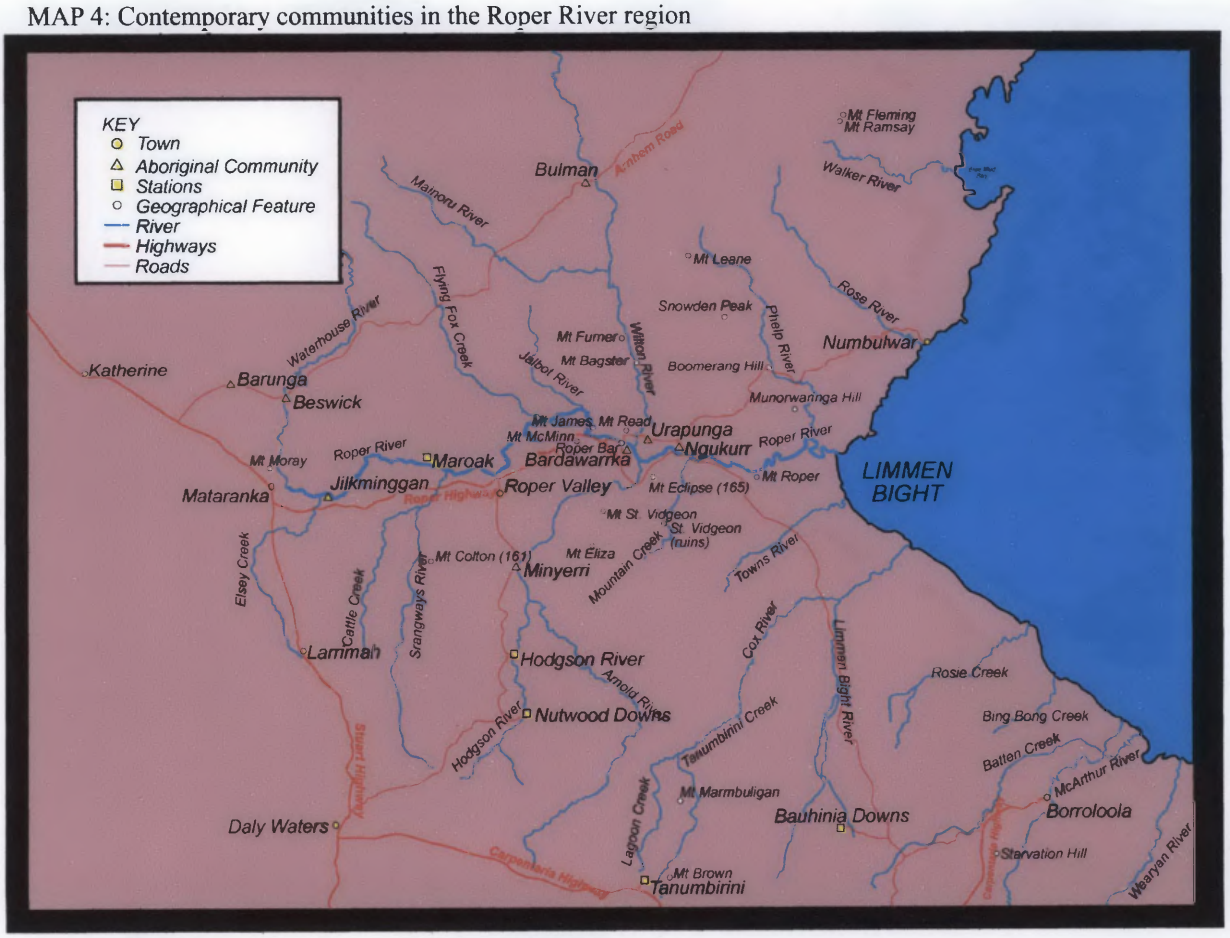
A	accompaniment
ABL	ablative
ADJL	adjectival
ADVL	adverbial
ALL	allative
AUX	auxiliary
BEN	benefactive
CENTR	centripetal
CMP	compassionate prefix
CONJ	conjunction
CONT	continuative
CV	coverb
DAT	dative
DEF	definite
DEM	demonstrative
DEM.ADV	demonstrative adverb
DEM.PR	demonstrative pronoun
DET	determiner
DIR	directional
DSD	desiderative
du	dual
E	expected
EM	emphasis
ERG	ergative
EVIT	evitative
ex	exclusive
EXC	exclamation
f	feminine
FCT	factitive
FF	father's father
FUT	future
G/L	goal/location
GEN	genetive
GRP	group
HAB	habitual
I/A	instrumental/accompaniment
IMP	imperative
in	inclusive
INAB	inabilitive
INC	incipient
INCH	inchoative
INDPR	indefinite pronoun
INST	instrument(al)
LIG	ligurtive
LIM	limitational
LOC	locative (location)
m	masculine
MM	mother's mother
MDP	multiple derivation prefix
N (or n)	non
NC	noun class
NE	not expected
NEC	necessary
NEG	negative
NOM	nominaliser
OBL	obligatory
OP	object promoting prefix
OVS	object verb subject
P/P	possession/purpose
PC	past continuous
PL (or pl)	plural
PNEG	past negative
POSS	possession
POT	potential
PP	past punctual
ProP	pronominal prefix
PRS	present
PROG	progressive
PROX	proximal
PST	past
PURP	puposive
QUAL	qualifier
QUANT	quantifier
RCP	reciprocal
rdp	reduplication
RFX	reflexive
RSP	respect marker
sg	singular
SRC	source
SVO	subject verb object
TM	transitive marker
TMA	tense mood aspect
TPC	topic marker
UP	unknown prefix

MAP 1: Kriol speaking region in Australia



MAP 2: Aboriginal language boundaries in the Roper River region

MAP 3: Contact in the Roper River region



MAP 4: Contemporary communities in the Roper River region