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history of Belize; 2. Ethnolinguistic composition and census data; 2.1 Amerindians; 2.2 Creoles (Europeans, Africans, Miskitos); 2.3 Garifuna (Black Caribs); 2.4 Mestizos; 2.5 Other groups; 3. The language situation; 3.1 Language policy and education; 3.2 English and the Creole continuum; 3.2.1 Putative origins of Creole; 3.2.2 Lectal range; 4. Focus on the Stann Creek district
4.1 Placencia and Seine Bight
4.2 Samples of Belizean texts; 4.2.1 Text 1: Basilect; 4.2.2 Text 2: Mesolect in Creole/Carib interaction; 4.2.3 Text 3: Acrolect; 4.3 Garifuna; 4.3.1 Phonological features of Garifuna; 4.3.2 Morphological features of Garifuna; 4.3.3 Carib women's language; 5. Conclusion; Endnotes; Chapter 3. Creole Acrolects as Innovations; Abstract; 1. Radical creoles, postcreoles, and decreolization; 1.1 The radical creole hypothesis; 1.2 The postcreole hypothesis; 1.3 Problems with radical creoles and postcreoles; 1.4 A dynamic view of lectal development
1.5 Decreolization as acquisition
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3.2 Linguistic strategies in acrolects
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2.3.2 Presentative particles

Sommario/riassunto

Although there is a substantial amount of linguistic research on standard language acquisition, little attention has been given to the mechanisms underlying second dialect acquisition. Using a combination of function-based grammar and sociolinguistic methodology to analyze topic marking strategies, the unguided acquisition of a standard by speakers of nonstandard varieties is examined in two distinct linguistic and geographical situations: in a Caribbean creole situation (Belize), with special attention to the acquisition of acrolects by native speakers of basilects, and in a noncreole situati
