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| Nota di contenuto | Acknowledgments -- Simplicity, simplification, complexity and complexification: where have the interfaces gone? / Enoch O. Aboh and Norval Smith -- Part I. Morphophonology. Initial vowel agglutination in the Gulf of Guinea creoles / Tjerk Hagemeijer -- Simplification of a complex part of grammar or not? What happened to KiKoongo nouns in Saramaccan? / Norval Smith -- Reducing phonological complexity and grammatical opaqueness: Old Tibetan as a lingua franca and the development of the modern Tibetan varieties / Bettina Zeisler -- Part II. Verbal morphology. Verb allomorphy and the syntax of phases / Tonjes Veenstra -- The invisible hand in creole genesis: reanalysis in the formation of Berbice Dutch / Silvia Kouwenberg -- Complexification or regularization of paradigms: the case of prepositional verbs in Solomon Islands Pijin / Christine Jourdan -- Part III. Nominals. The Mauritian Creole determiner system: a historical overview / Diana Guillemin -- Demonstratives in Afrikaans and Cape Dutch Pidgin: a first attempt / Hans den Besten -- Part IV. The selection of features in complex morphology. Contact, complexification and change in Mindanao Chabacano structure / Anthony P. Grant -- Morphosyntactic finiteness |

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Sebastian Nordhoff -- Part VI. Postscript. Restructuring, hybridization,
and complexity in language evolution / Salikoko S. Mufwene.

Sommario/riassunto

This paper addresses the issue of complexity in language creation and the time it takes for 'complex' structures to emerge in the history of a language. The presence of morphological material is often equated to a certain degree of complexity or is taken to signify a certain time-depth in the history of a language (e.g. Dahl 2004; McWhorter 2005). Though this assumption may be seen as trivial in the absence of a theoretically-based definition of complexity (Muysken 1988), or even misleading (Aboh and Ansaldi 2007; Farquharson 2007), we here put it to a test by looking at morphology in a relatively 'young' language, namely Sri Lanka Malay (SLM). SLM is a mixed language which shows considerably more morphological material and other signs of old age than 'prototypical' creoles. We explain this by arguing (a) that structural output in language genesis is closely motivated by the typology of the input languages and (b) that our understanding of rate of change needs to be revised to take into account ecological matters.
