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Language and Education; CHAPTER 4. Past Temporal Reference: Categories, Meanings, and Uses; 4.1 Aspect: Perfective, Progressive, Habitual, and Completive; 4.1.1 The Unmarked Verb; 4.1.2 Imperfective Categories; 4.1.2.1 The Progressive; 4.1.2.2 Habituals; 4.1.3 The Completive; 4.1.3.1 Main- Verbal done; 4.1.3.2 The Syntax and Semantics of Completive done; 4.2 Tense: The Relative Past; 4.2.1 The Use of did in Bahamian Creole; 4.2.2 Proverbial did; 4.2.2.1 Did as an "Anterior" Marker?; 4.2.2.2 Did as a Relative Past Marker? 4.2.2.3 Did as a Background Marker? 4.2.2.4 Speaker Perceptions and Social Profile of did; 4.3 Perfect Meanings and Their Realizations; 4.4 Copula Structures; 4.5 Past Reference in Urban Bahamian Creole: A Summary; CHAPTER 5. Past Marking by Verb Inflection; 5.1 Circumscribing the Envelope of Variation: "Count" and "Don't Count" Cases; 5.1.1 Lexical Verbs in Finite Form; 5.1.2 Absolute Past Temporal Reference; 5.1.2.1 Perfect Structures; 5.1.2.2 Past Habituals; 5.1.2.3 Progressive Meaning; 5.1.2.4 Indirect or Reported Speech; 5.1.2.5 Absolute Past Structures Excluded 5.1.3 Non-Past Reference 5.1.3.1 Inclusive Time; 5.1.3.2 Irrealis Contexts; 5.1.4 Discourse-Specific Characteristics; 5.1.4.1 Hesitation, False Starts, Ellipsis, Repetition; 5.1.4.2 Fixed Expressions and Imitative Speech; 5.1.4.3 Indeterminate Cases; 5.1.5 Idiosyncratic Verb Structures; 5.1.5.1 Categorical Inflection ?; 5.1.5.2 "Bahamian" Verbs; 5.1.5.3 Verbs of Cognition, Communication, and Perception; 5.1.5.4 Other Problematic Verbs; 5.1.6 Syntactic Peculiarities; 5.1.6.1 Zero Subjects; 5.1.6.2 Questions; 5.1.6.3 Negation; 5.1.6.4 Passive Constructions; 5.1.6.5 Subordinate Clauses; 5.1.6.6 Serial Verb Constructions

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## Sommario/riassunto

This volume, a detailed empirical study of the creole English spoken in the Bahamian capital, Nassau, contributes to our understanding of both urban creoles and tense-aspect marking in creoles. The first part traces the development of a creole in the Bahamas via socio-demographic data and outlines its current status and functions vis-a-vis the standard in politics, the media, and education. The linguistic chapters combine typological and variationist methods to describe exhaustively a comprehensive grammatical subsystem, past temporal reference, offering a discourse-based approach to such

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