



Panel title: **Pidgins and Creoles in West African context**

Panel coordinator: Olga Frąckiewicz

West Africa is a region of many pidgin and creole languages which function in multilingual environment. In linguistic perspective, they have many common features characteristic of creole-like structures, such as Tense-Aspect-Mood (TAM) markers system or the lack of male/female distinction in third person singular (Bakker 2011). Among them, Nigerian Pidgin English (described by acronym NPE) is the most widespread. Being a *lingua franca* of Nigeria, it functions mainly as a spoken language, but it also has the written form.

Many research works on the structure of NPE and other English-based pidgins and creoles spoken along the west coast of Africa have been conducted from simplification and breaking *superstratum* point of view (Arends et al. 1995, Mafeni 1971, Odimegwu 2012, Akande 2010, Igboanusi 2008). Less attention has been paid to innovative features, which have their source in *substratum* languages.

The aim of the panel is to invite scholars working on pidgins and creoles used in Africa or African-based pidgins and creoles used elsewhere to share the results of their studies on specific features of creole-like structures. Special attention is put on the role of West African languages in creating the structural patterns of English-based pidgins and creoles. Papers dealing with the following questions are most invited:

1. How the shape of English words in the West African pidgins and creoles is motivated by the phonological peculiarities of African languages?
2. How the West African language structures influence the pidgin and creole morphology and syntax?
3. How the conceptualization of notions characteristic of African languages is depicted in pidgins and creoles?

References:

Akande A. T., 2010, "Is Nigerian Pidgin English English?", in: *Dialectologia et Geolinguistica*, 18(1), p. 3-22

Arends J., Muysken P., Smith N., 1995, *Pidgins and Creoles: An Introduction*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company

Bakker P., 2011, „Creoles are typologically distinct from non-creoles”, in: Bhatt P., Veenstra T. (ed.), *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages: Creoles and Typology*, nr.26:1, p. 5-42

Igboanusi H., 2008, “Empowering Nigerian Pidgin: a challenge for status planning”, in: *World Englishes*, vol. 27, no.1, p. 68-82

Lothar P., 2007, *A comparison of varieties of West African Pidgin English*, in: *World Englishes*, 26, p. 3-21

Mafeni B.O.W., 1971, “Nigerian Pidgin”, in: Spencer J. (ed.), *The English Language in West Africa*, London: Longman, p. 95-112

Odimegwu P., 2012, *A Comparative analysis of Jamaican Creole and Nigerian Pidgin English*, Create Space