

The influence of English and Japanese on Hawaiian: a brief review

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This presentation briefly reviews the language situation of Hawai‘i, focusing on the late 19th century to the early 20th century, when Hawaiian was used as L1 or at least spoken on a daily basis. The preliminary discussion about the influence of the immigrant languages (especially English and Japanese) on Hawaiian, the host language, is also provided.

Hawaiian is an Eastern-Polynesian language which was commonly spoken in Hawai‘i Islands until early 20th century. Although very few speakers use Hawaiian as their L1 today, the reported number of new Hawaiian speakers is gradually increasing due to the effort of the language revitalization. Historically, shortly after the Hawaiian ‘first contact’ with the western culture, the immigrants from Asia, Europe and other areas arrived Hawai‘i islands mainly from 1850s to 1910s. They and Hawaiian met and worked together, usually at the plantations. So in this period it is said that there are roughly four kinds of languages: Hawaiian, Pidgin Hawaiian, Pidgin Hawaiian English and mother tongues of the immigrants (Roberts 1995).

This presentation addresses the Hawaiian and Hawaiian Pidgin focusing on the influence they received on their lexicon, the text format and grammar. Lexical influence is relatively visible, and the format was obviously affected by English. As for the grammar, the influence of English on Hawaiian ‘directional’ and “(so-called) nominalizer” is shortly stated based on my previous research (Iwasaki 2018). At the same time the problems of research method (e.g. how we can evaluate the grammatical influence of immigrant languages on the host languages) are referred to.

References

- Iwasaki, Kanae. 2018. “Modern” Hawaiian Language. *Tokyo University Linguistic Papers* 39: 127-144.
- Roberts, Julian M. 1995. Pidgin Hawaiian: A Sociohistorical Study. *Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages* 10(1): 1-56.