

VI Language and Imperialism

A. Lingua Franca

1. Defined as a language used to facilitate trade among groups speaking different languages

Ex) Multilingual Region of East Africa uses Swahili

2. Lingua Franca in a region is often rooted in colonialism and imperialism.

Ex) French in Cameroon.

B. Pidgin Language

1. When regions are invaded or economically dominated by a foreign language speaking group, the dominated are often forced to pick up the language.

2. That dominated culture typically speaks a simplified version of the dominator's language called pidgin.

Ex: Caribbean + French.

C. Creolization

1. Once a pidginized language becomes part of a culture and is written down it becomes known as a creole.

2. A pidgin language that has become the main language of a group of people.

Ex: Caribbean + French