

Title:

London

Shelfmark:

C1190/42/01

Recording date:

20.03.2005

Speakers:

Bindha, Madhvi, b. 1981; female; student

Le Fook, Donald, b. 1980; male; student

Nursimulu, Rishi, b. 1981; male; student

The interviewees are all Mauritians with Indian family backgrounds studying in England.

PLEASE NOTE: this recording is still awaiting full linguistic description (i.e. phonological, grammatical and spontaneous lexical items).

A summary of the specific lexis elicited by the interviewer is given below.

ELICITED LEXIS

◦ see English Dialect Dictionary (1898-1905)
 ± see Dictionary of Mauritian Creole (1987)
 ♦ see Urban Dictionary (online)
 △ no previous source (with this sense) identified

pleased *happy*
 also supplied *kontan*[±] (Mauritian Creole for ‘happy’)
tired *exhausted; tired; worn-out; knackered* (learnt since living in UK, common among Mauritians in UK)
unwell *not feeling well*
hot *hot* (commonly used “with exclamation mark”)
cold (not discussed)
annoyed *annoyed*
 also supplied *pike ekstrordiner*^{±1} (Mauritian Creole for ‘really annoyed’); *ayo*[±] (exclamation commonly used in Mauritian Creole to express annoyance/frustration, also used in South Africa,

¹ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) includes ‘pike’ in sense of ‘slightly mad’ & ekstrordiner’ in sense of ‘extraordinarily’.

thought to be South Indian in origin); *merde*² (French for ‘shit’ used frequently by Mauritians to express annoyance/frustration)

- throw** (none supplied)
 also supplied *zete*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘to throw’ derived from French “*jeter*” used for to ‘throw away’); *avoje*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘to throw’ derived from French “*envoyer*” used for ‘to throw something at someone’)
- play truant** (not discussed)
- sleep** *kip, forty winks* (suggested by interviewer); *sleep; nap; have a snooze*
 also supplied *dormi*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘to sleep’); *dodo*¹ (“*cute word*” used by/with children in Mauritian Creole)
- play a game** (not discussed)
- hit hard** (none supplied)
 also supplied *bate*¹, *tape*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘to hit’, “*tape for/bate for*”³ used for ‘to hit hard’)
- clothes** (none supplied)
 also supplied *bataz*⁴ (Mauritian Creole for ‘style’, “*get*⁵ *so bataz*” used in Mauritian Creole for “*look at the way he’s dressed*”)
- trousers** (none supplied)
 also supplied *kanson*¹, *pantalon*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘trousers’)
- child’s shoe** (not discussed)
- mother** (not discussed)
- gmother** (none supplied)
 also supplied *po po*⁶ (Cantonese for ‘grandmother’ used due to Chinese background); *dadi*⁷, *nani*⁷ (used to distinguish between paternal/maternal grandmother due to Hindi background); *mum*⁸, *bam*⁸ (used to distinguish between maternal/paternal grandmother due to South Indian background)
- m partner** (not discussed)
- friend** *brother* (used by father of own brother-in-law)
 also supplied *kamarad*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘friend’); *laome*¹ (Mauritian Creole for “*oh me*”, “*laome sek*” commonly used of close friend); *dost*⁷ (Hindi word common in Mauritius); *frer*¹ (Mauritian Creole for ‘brother’)
- gfather** (none supplied)
 also supplied *gung gung*⁶ (Cantonese for ‘grandfather’ used due to Chinese background); *dada*⁷, *nana*⁷ (used to distinguish between paternal/maternal grandmother due to Hindi background)
- forgot name** (none supplied)
 also supplied *zafer*¹, *kiksoz*¹ (Mauritian Creole)
- kit of tools** (not discussed)
- trendy** *chav* (suggested by interviewer)

² *Le Grand Robert & Collins Dictionnaire Français-Anglais* (2008) includes ‘merde’ in this sense.

³ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘for’ in sense of ‘strong’.

⁴ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘bataz’ in sense of ‘general appearance of person (derived from physical appearance/clothing etc.)’.

⁵ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘get’ in sense of ‘look at’

⁶ Transliteration of selected lexical items in Jyutping (a romanisation system developed by Linguistic Society of Hong Kong) based on *CantoDict* (<http://www.cantonese.sheik.co.uk/dictionary/>).

⁷ Transliteration of lexical items based on *Digital Dictionaries of South Asia* (<http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/>).

⁸ J.P.L Gwynne’s *A Telugu-English Dictionary* (1991 at <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/gwynn/>) records ‘baamma’ in this sense.

- f partner** (not discussed)
- baby** (none supplied)
also supplied *bebe*[±], *baba*[±] (Mauritian Creole, “*chi bebe*”⁹); *muna*^{±10} (Indian)
- rain heavily** (none supplied)
also supplied *gro lapli*^{±11} (Mauritian Creole for “*big rain*”); *la pluie torrentielle*¹²
- toilet** (not discussed)
- walkway** (not discussed)
- long seat** *sofa*
also supplied *divan*[±] (French for ‘sofa’ increasingly used in Mauritius)
- run water** (not discussed)
- main room** (none supplied)
also supplied *salon*[±] (French for ‘living-room’)
- rain lightly** (not discussed)
- rich** (not discussed)
- left-handed** (none supplied)
also supplied *gose*[±] (Mauritian Creole for ‘left-handed’)
- unattractive** (none supplied)
also supplied *vilen*[±] (Mauritian Creole); *un figer pi*[±] (Mauritian Creole for ‘smelly face’)
- lack money** *broke*
also supplied *dan pay*^{±13}, *dan pens*[±], *non pens*^{±14}, *dan beze*^{±15} (Mauritian Creole)
- drunk** (none supplied)
also supplied *sule*[±], *su*[±] (Mauritian Creole, “*drinking culture*” not commonplace in Mauritius)
- pregnant** (none supplied)
also supplied *enceinte*¹⁶ (Mauritian Creole)
- attractive** (not discussed)
- insane** (none supplied)
also supplied *toke*[±], *fu*[±] (Mauritian Creole for ‘mad’); *latet pa bon*^{±17} (Mauritian Creole for “*your head is not right*”); *pagla*[±] (Hindi for ‘mad’)
- moody** *moody*
also supplied *bude*[±] (Mauritian Creole for ‘to sulk’)

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A British Library project funded by The Leverhulme Trust

⁹ K. Goswami Sewtuhol’s *English-Creole Dictionary* (1997) records ‘tchee-bah-bah’ as Creole pronunciation of ‘baby’.

¹⁰ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘muna’ in sense of ‘baby monkey’.

¹¹ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘gro’ in sense of ‘big’ and ‘lapli’ in sense of ‘rain’.

¹² *Le Grand Robert & Collins Dictionnaire Français-Anglais* (2008) includes ‘la pluie torrentielle’ in sense of ‘torrential rain’.

¹³ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘pay’ in sense of ‘paille’; *Le Grand Robert & Collins Dictionnaire Français-Anglais* (2008) records ‘être en paille’ in sense of ‘to be penniless’.

¹⁴ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘non’ in sense of ‘no’ & ‘dan pens’ in sense of ‘in a financially very difficult situation’.

¹⁵ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘beze’ in sense of ‘unpleasant/humiliating situation’.

¹⁶ *Le Grand Robert & Collins Dictionnaire Français-Anglais* (2008) includes ‘enceinte’ in this sense.

¹⁷ *Dictionary of Mauritian Creole* (1987) records ‘latet’ in sense of ‘head’, ‘pa’ in sense of ‘not’ & ‘bon’ in sense of ‘good/fine’.