

In this dissertation, I provided a detailed account of the morphosyntax of Papiamentu.

In Chapter 1, I presented general information about Papiamentu and its speakers. These include the number of speakers and their physical location. I summarized two important pieces of previous research, namely, (1) Kouwenberg and Murray (1994), who provide a brief account of the overall characteristics of Papiamentu grammar, and (2) Departamento di Enseñansa Aruba (2010), Luidens et al. (2015), and Velásquez et al. (2016). These three form a single grammar of Papiamentu written by Aruban authors. This is a work more extensive than Kouwenberg and Murray (1994), but it takes a normative approach to grammar. I also introduced the data my analyses are based on, as well as a simple explanation of the transcription conventions used throughout this work.

In Chapter 2, I defined each word class in broad terms, based on their morphosyntactic characteristics. In each section, I described some interesting phenomena and introduced some exceptional members to such word class if necessary. Some words may become nouns, adjectives, and or adverbs. There is considerable fluidity between these three word classes, which seem to be mostly determined by their syntactic position. Verbs are differentiated from other word classes by their syntactic place and their phonological structure. I subdivided pronouns into personal, demonstrative, interrogative, relative, and indefinite pronouns. I described how a combination of interrogative pronouns with the subordination marker *ku* and the copula *ta* express a meaning equivalent to indefinite pronouns. I described the characteristics of the demonstrative articles *esun* “the one” and *es(u)nan* “the ones”. I characterized prepositions by their meaning and, in the case of complex prepositions, by the elements that form them. I presented the particles (usually referred to as “TAM markers”) that appear inside verb phrases, conjunctions, and interjections.

In Chapter 3, I focused on the morphology of Papiamentu. I mention phonological change as a form of inflection that is seen for some verbs. I introduced the affixes that form the participle and the gerund. These affixes are largely influenced by the etymology of the verb, namely, whether it has an Iberian or non-Iberian origin. I also provided an explanation for how the least productive affixes like *a-* appear in seemingly unrelated words. Regarding clitics, I provided examples of how grammatical words tend to be cliticized in Spoken Papiamentu.

In Chapter 4, I defined the characteristics of phrases and clauses, as well as their members. Among these, noun phrases and verb phrases include multiple elements. Noun phrases can be divided into a noun core (NC) and its modifiers. Some compounds and pseudo-compounds as defined in Chapter 3 can act as a single NC. Noun phrases are also characterized by having different modifiers or no modifiers at all depending on their definiteness. The election of modifiers is also influenced based on whether the entity represented by the NC is interpreted as plural or singular. Verb phrases include a verb core and multiple modifiers. Some oblique elements can be obligatory depending on the verb(s) in the verb core. These elements act as peripheral arguments (PAs). PAs can be either prepositions phrases or complement clauses. Clauses usually have a subject and a verb, which can be characterized as unmarked. Aside from them, there are impersonal clauses, which have no overt subject. Imperative clauses tend to have no overt subject and, depending on the verb and surrounding elements, use verbs in the imperative form. Complement and relative clauses are both types of subordinate clauses. Complement clauses are divided by the subordination marker / complementizer used to introduce them. Relative clauses do not always require subordination markers / complementizers or relative pronouns.

In Chapter 5, I described two grammatical categories. Namely, tense-aspect-modality (TAM) and voice. TAM is expressed in Papiamentu by a complex system of particles and auxiliary verbs. The combination of these elements and their use in subordinate clauses makes it one of the most complex aspects of Papiamentu grammar. Previous studies provided a complete account of the passive and reflexive voice in Papiamentu, but not of the causative voice. I provided an account of the different auxiliaries used in the causative voice, as well as its difference in meaning depending on whether the subordination marker *ku* is used.

In Chapter 6, I described the grammatical phenomena of negation, interrogation, and focalization in Papiamentu. There, I provided a detailed account of the characteristics of interrogative pronouns and adverbs, as well as a summary of the types of tag questions there are in Papiamentu. I also refer to multi verb constructions, which include light verb constructions, where the first verb of the construction modifies the following verbs, sometimes with an ambiguous meaning. On the other hand, serial verb constructions (SVCs) include symmetrical SVCs, where multiple verb phrases appear one after the other without any conjunctions, and resultative and directional SVCs, where both verbs are in a single verb phrase that expresses an action and its result, and some type of movement to a specific direction, respectively.

In Chapter 7, I provided the overall characteristics of Papiamentu while comparing it to typological

characteristics seen in other creoles, and other languages that have influenced it. These languages include its substrates (i.e. the languages spoken by most people who became Papiamentu speakers), its superstrates (i.e. the languages that provided the majority of the vocabulary of Papiamentu), and Dutch, a prestige language in the ABC Islands, where most Papiamentu speakers live. Papiamentu shares a significant number of characteristics with other creoles. However, SVCs in Papiamentu do not allow patterns that are seen in other creoles. When compared with Fongbe, a possible substrate of Papiamentu, the SVCs seen in both languages are quite different. Papiamentu speakers living in the ABC Islands have seen a great influence of Spanish (one of Papiamentu's superstrates) and Dutch. The former is mostly seen in fixed expressions, while the latter is frequently used to code-switch. There are some calques of Dutch separable verbs.

In Chapter 8 I provide a brief conclusion to the topics dealt with in this dissertation.