

Testing the significance of sociohistorical factors in creole genesis

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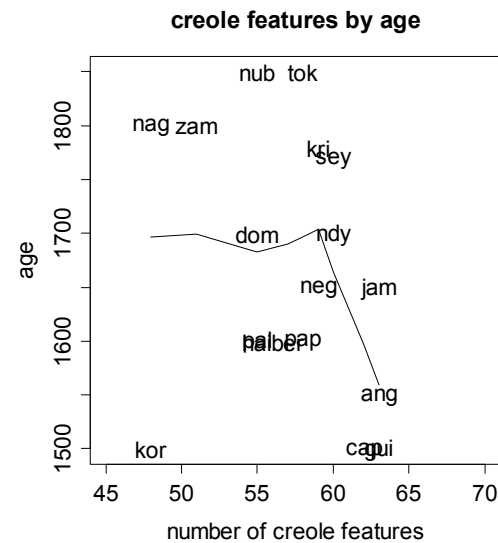
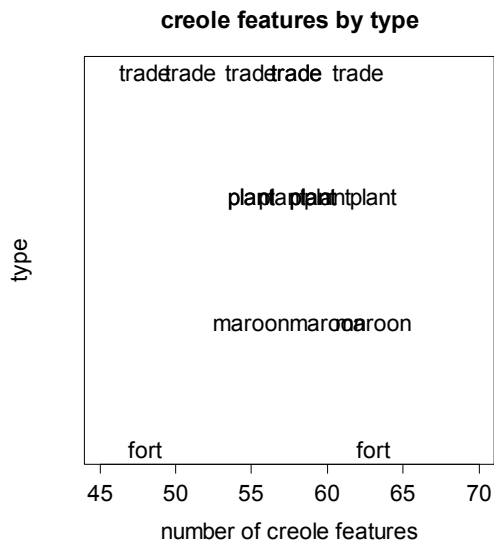
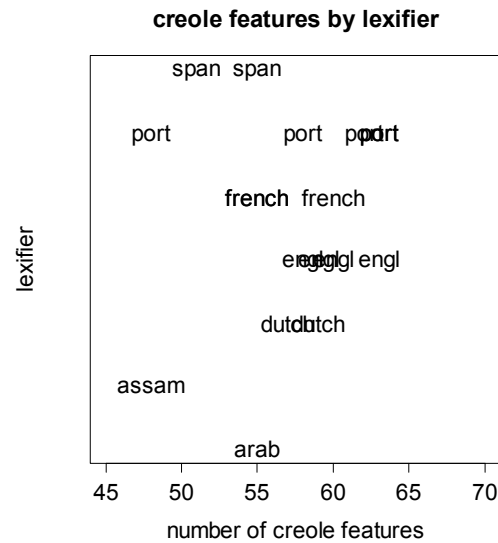
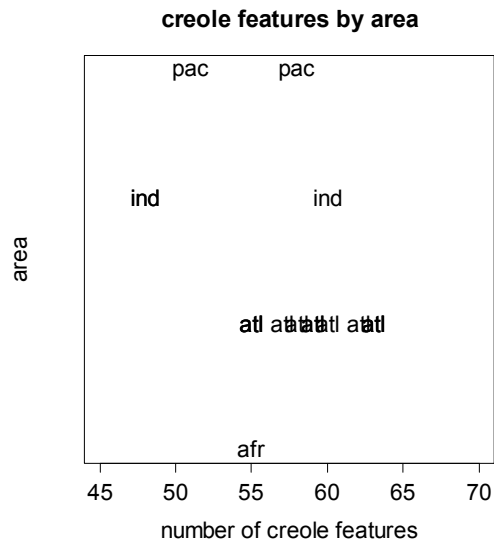
Linguistic correlates of social conditions

- Nettle 1999, Hay & Bauer 2007, Trudgill 2011
- Dale & Lupyan 2012, Dunn et al. 2012, Bentz & Winter 2013, Bentz & Christiansen 2013

Bakker et al. 2011

- Quantitative study of creoles in a typological perspective
- Several samples to show that creolization entails similar structural changes
- Based on *Comparative Creole Syntax* (Holm & Patrcik 2007)
- Several factors tested such as age, lexifier, geography or type

Effect of Age, Lexifier, Area and Type as predictors for degree of creoleness



CCS features and creole features

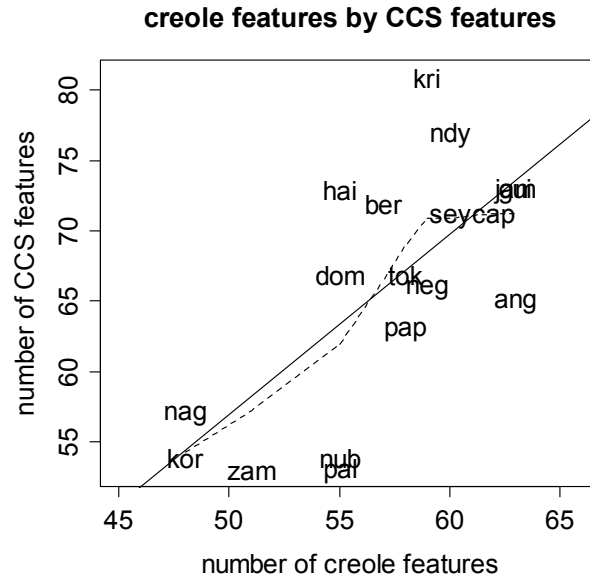
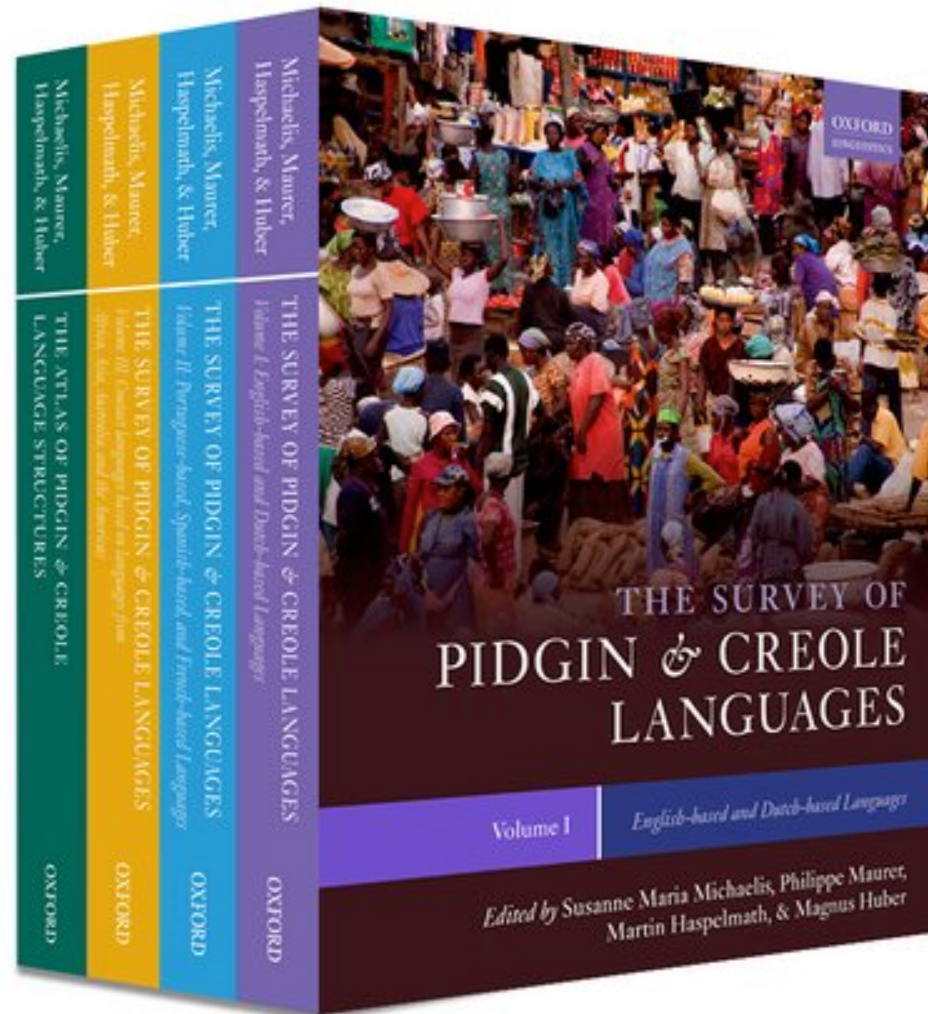


Figure 5. Correlation between creole features in the narrower sense and CCS features.

Table 3. Anova Table (Type III tests) for creole features in the narrower sense.

	Sum Sq	Df	F value	<i>p</i> (>F)
(Intercept)	8.886	1	0.3399	0.5852
AGE	2.572	1	0.0984	0.7664
LEX	98.469	5	0.7533	0.6182
AREA	17.424	2	0.3332	0.7314
TYPE	12.068	3	0.1539	0.9228
Residuals	130.714	5		

The Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures (Michaelis et al. 2013)



Sociolinguistic features in APiCS

Primary features Segments IPA chart Sociolinguistic features

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No.	Feature	Value	%	Details	Source
<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>				
308	Lexifier language	English		more	
309	Proportion of native speakers	Most		more	
310	Ongoing creolization of pidgins	Not applicable (because the language is not a pidgin)		more	
311	Increasing use	Not at all		more	
312	Language abandonment	Limited		more	
313	Size of speaker community	Less than 100,000 speakers		more	
314	Gender-related use	Used to the same extent by both genders		more	
315	Domains of use: radio and TV news	Absent		more	
316	Domains of use: radio and TV call-ins/discussions	Absent		more	
317	Domains of use: music	Limited		more	
318	Domains of use: literature	Limited		more	
319	Domains of use: newspaper editorials	Absent		more	
320	Domains of use: other newspaper items	Absent		more	
321	Domains of use: public contexts	Absent		more	
322	Domains of use: court	Absent		more	
323	Domains of use: parliament	Absent		more	
324	Domains of use: school	Absent		more	
325	Domains of use: electronic media	Limited		more	
326	Contact with other languages	Several different kinds of languages are equally important in terms of contact influence		more	
327	Geographic variation: phonology	Limited		more	
328	Geographic variation: morphosyntax	Limited		more	
329	Geographic variation: lexicon	Limited		more	
330	Urban/rural variation: phonology	Limited		more	
331	Urban/rural variation: morphosyntax	Limited		more	
332	Urban/rural variation: lexicon	Limited		more	

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Sociolinguistic features in APiCS

- 28 sociolinguistic features
- All 76 languages covered
- Testing ground for finding correlations between sociohistorical variables and language structure

Comparing results with Bakker et al. 2011

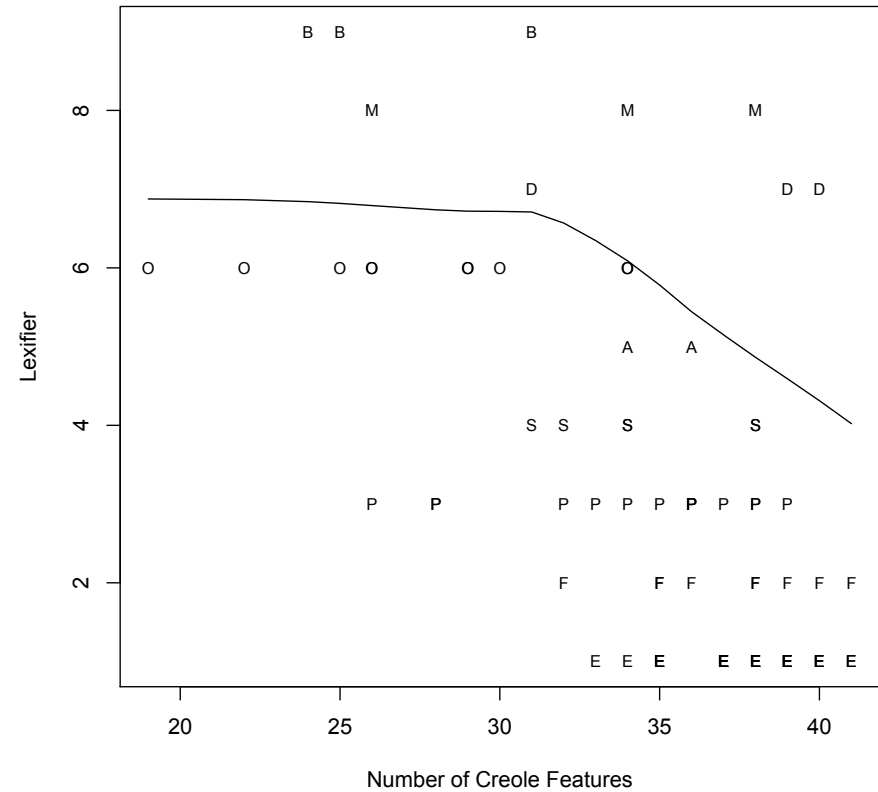
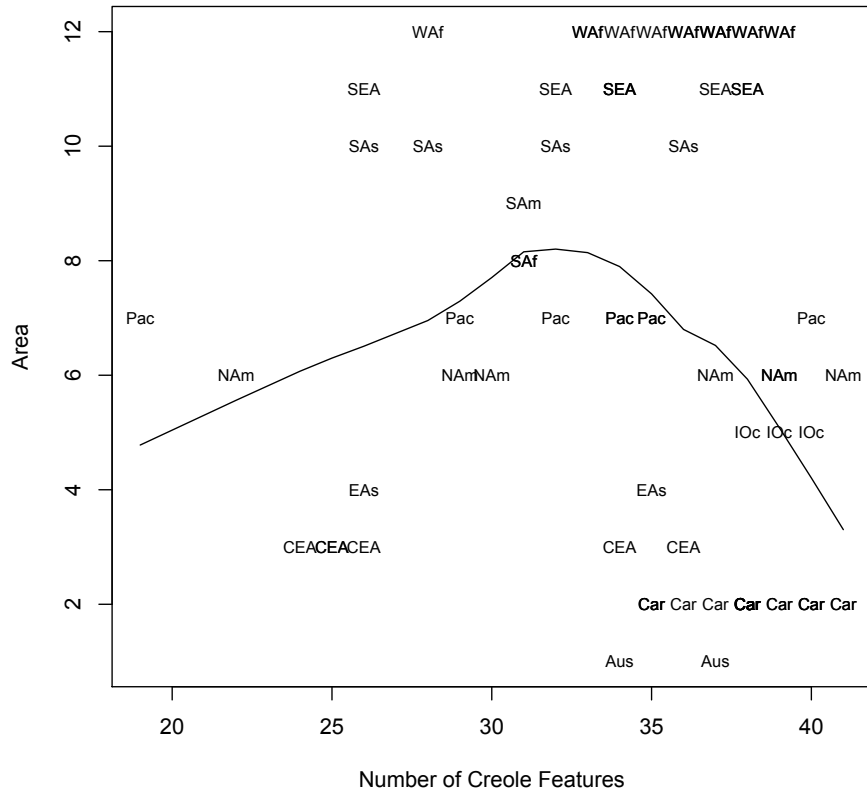
lang	area	type	age	socio	308	creofeats	...
Louisiana Creole	North America	Creole	1720	plantation	French	41	
Nicaraguan Creole	Caribbean	Creole	1740	trade	English	41	Media Lengua South America Intertwiner 1900 trade Spanish 31
San Andres Creole	Caribbean	Creole	1760	plantation	English	41	Chinuk Wawa North America Pidgin or creole 1820 trade Other 30
Belizean Creole	Caribbean	Creole	1790	trade	English	40	Michif North America Intertwiner 1820 trade Other 29
Hawai'i Creole	Pacific	Creole	1820	plantation	English	40	Pidgin Hindustani Pacific Pidgin 1850 plantation Other 29
Mauritian Creole	Indian Ocean	Creole	1730	plantation	French	40	Fa d'Ambô West Africa Creole 1520 plantation Portuguese 28
Negerhollands	Caribbean	Creole	1670	plantation	Dutch	40	Sri Lanka Portuguese South Asia Metatypized 1620 trade Portuguese 28
Sranan	Caribbean	Creole	1650	plantation	English	40	Batavia Creole Southeast Asia Creole 1620 plantation Portuguese 26
Bahamian Creole	North America	Creole	1770	trade	English	39	Chinese Pidgin Russian East Asia Pidgin 1820 trade Other 26
Berbice Dutch	Caribbean	Creole	1630	plantation	Dutch	39	Sango Central and East Expanded pid 1880 trade Other 26
Cape Verdean Creole	West Africa	Creole	1500	trade	Portuguese	39	Sri Lankan Malay South Asia Metatypized 1650 trade Malay 26
Gullah	North America	Creole	1670	plantation	English	39	Kikongo-Kituba Central and East Semi 1890 trade Bantu 25
Pichi	West Africa	Creole	1830	trade	English	39	Mixed Ma'a/Mbugu Central and East Intertwiner ? trade Other 25
Seychelles Creole	Indian Ocean	Creole	1780	plantation	French	39	Lingala Central and East Semi 1780 fort Bantu 24
Vincentian Creole	Caribbean	Creole	1720	plantation	English	39	Eskimo Pidgin North America Pidgin 1600 trade Other 22
							Yimas-Arafundi Pidgin Pacific Pidgin ? trade Other 19

creole	lexifier	area	age	type	CCS features	creole features
Krio	English	Atlantic	1780	plantation	81	59
Ndyuka	English	Atlantic	1700	maroon	77	60
Guinea Bissau	Portuguese	Atlantic	1500	fort	73	63
Haitian	French	Atlantic	1600	plantation	73	55
Jamaican	English	Atlantic	1650	plantation	73	63
Berbice Dutch	Dutch	Atlantic	1600	plantation	72	57
Capeverdean	Portuguese	Atlantic	1500	Trade	71	62
Seychellois	French	Indian Ocean	1770	plantation	71	60
Dominican	French	Atlantic	1700	plantation	67	55
Tok Pisin	English	Pacific	1850	trade	67	58
Negerhollands	Dutch	Atlantic	1650	plantation	66	59
Angolar	Portuguese	Atlantic	1550	maroon	65	63
Papiamentu	Portuguese	Atlantic	1600	trade	63	58
Nagamese	Assamese	Indian Ocean	1800	trade	57	48
Korlai	Portuguese	Indian Ocean	1500	fort	54	48
Nubi	Arabic	Africa	1850	trade	54	55
Palenquero	Spanish	Atlantic	1600	maroon	53	55
Zamboangueno	Spanish	Pacific	1800	trade	53	51

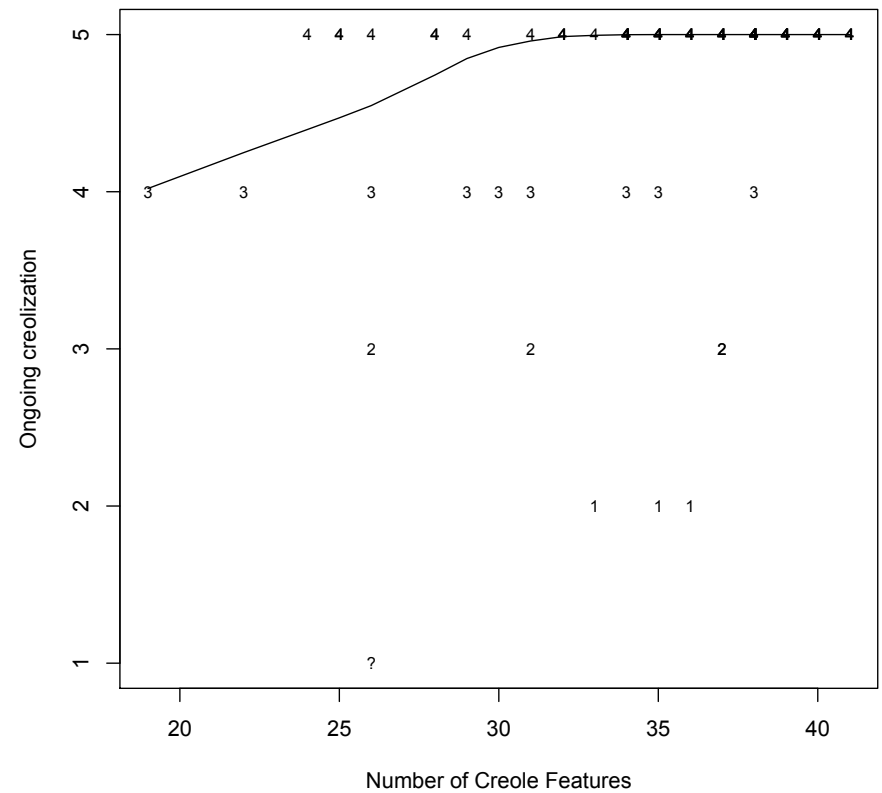
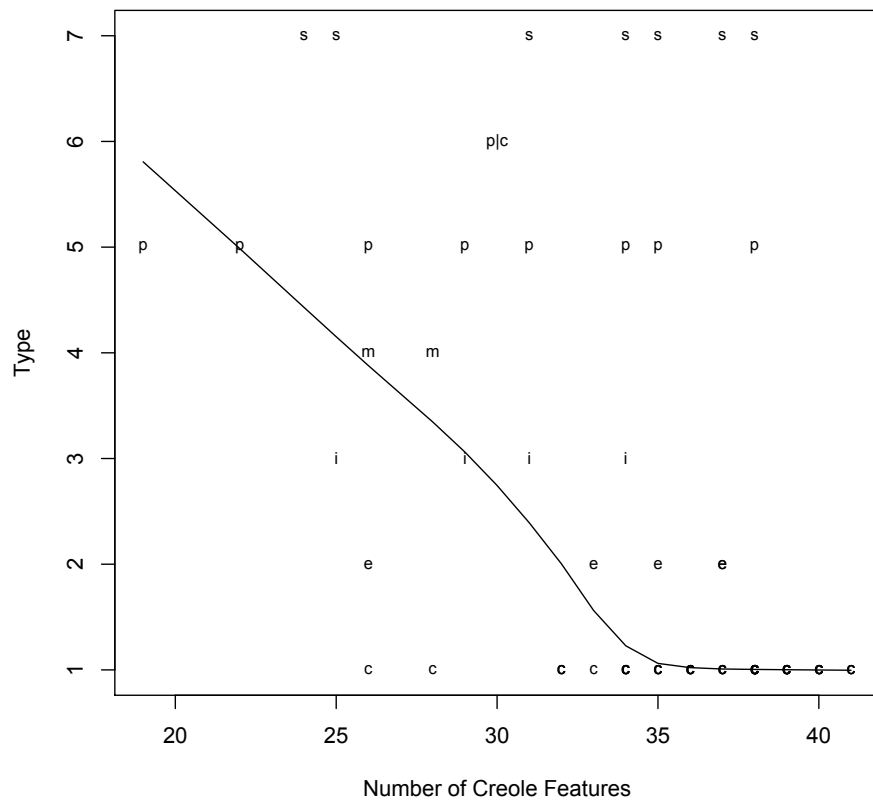
Some statistics: Spearman's test

- Testing the effect of individual variables on the number of creole features
- Several variables found to be significant: area (rho=-0.25, p=0.03), type (rho=-0.55, p=2.341e-07), lexifier (rho=-0.57, p=7.102e-08), ongoing creolization (rho=0.37, p=0.0009), and domains of use: TV discussions (rho=-0.27, p=0.01) and literature (rho=-0.39, p=0.0005)

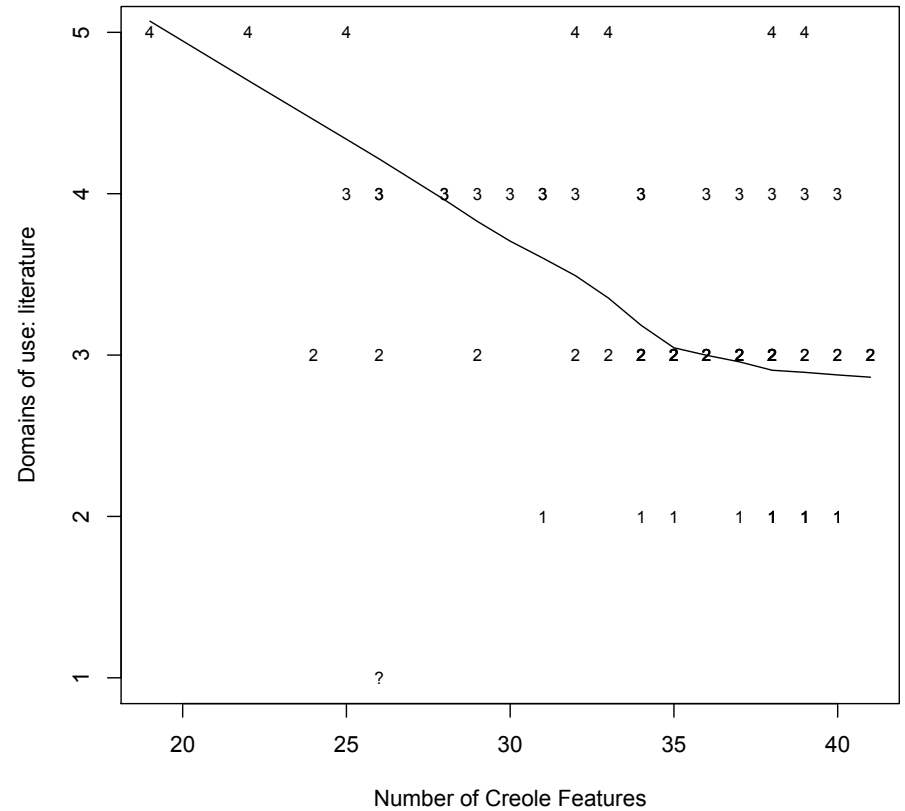
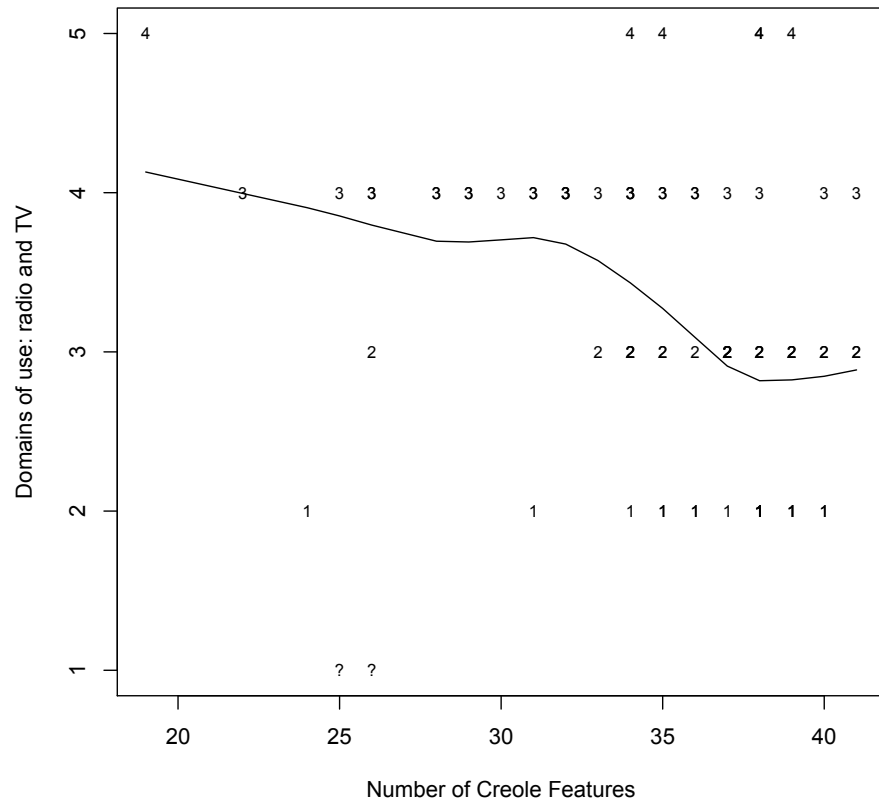
Some plots: Area and lexifier



Type and Ongoing creolization



Domains of use: TV discussions and literature



How to interpret these?

- The three variables 310, 316 and 318 (ongoing creolization and domains of use) have little or no explanatory power
- The effect of the variables type, area and lexifier consistent with scenarios of creole genesis
- Comforts the position that creoles form a structural type

Further work

- Add geographical coordinates as variable so as to provide a more fine-grained analysis of the effect of the variable area presented above
- Include WALS geographical data to gauge possible areal effects
- Streamlining the chronological data in APiCS
- More in-depth statistical analyses

Thanks for your attention!!!