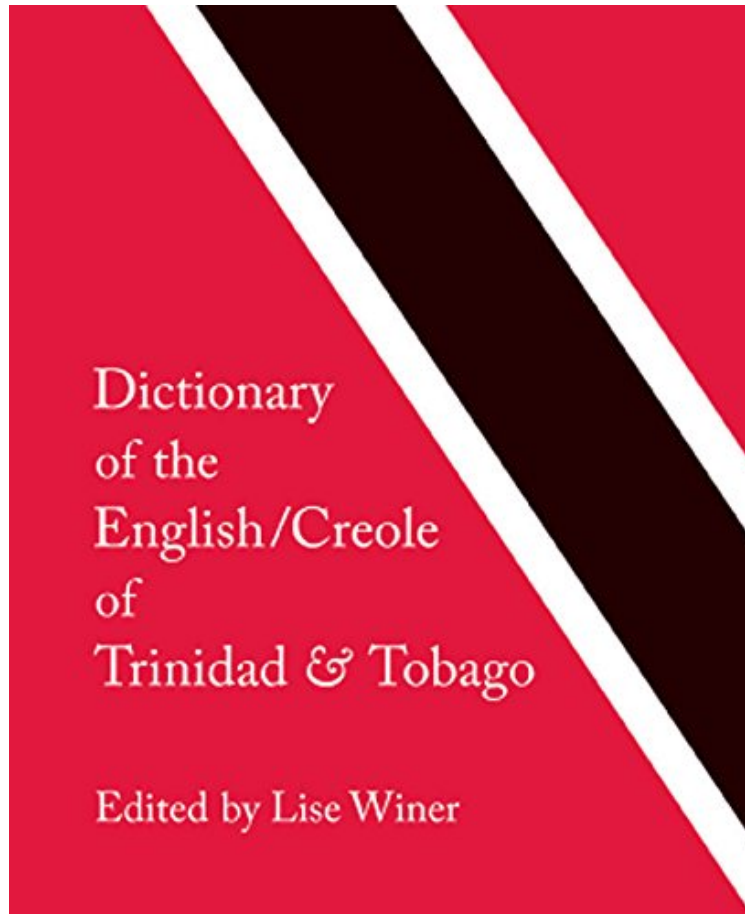


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Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad Tobago: On Historical Principles

Lise Winer

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my own writing. This was my first thought as I opened Lise Winer's book *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad Tobago: On Historical Principles*. In it you will find the meaning(s) of words in Caribbean English, Creole, Hindi, Bhojpuri, French, Spanish, Yoruba and Amerindian, among others. You will also find guidelines on pronunciation. Here are some examples: *travaseau* (n) A person of mixed race, particularly European-Negro, from the Spanish word 'atravesado' meaning mulatto or mixed race; *dhoom-dhaam* (adj) Grand or happy, from the Hindi word 'dhum-dham' meaning pomp and noise; *lagahoo* (n) In folk tradition, a human who takes the form of an animal, generally at night, from French 'loup garou' meaning werewolf. Many of the entries are the names of the flora and fauna of Trinidad and Tobago, and in addition to providing the names in the various languages, Lise Winer also provides the scientific names of the plants and animals, greatly aiding cross-referencing. For many of the entries, there are excerpts from written texts and songs, especially calypsoes, illustrating the common usage of the word or phrase. This dictionary is invaluable in helping to clarify the spelling of words. Where there are multiple spellings of the same word, these are presented under one entry. This book will prove indispensable to anyone who is studying the linguistics, literature, culture, history, anthropology and biology of Trinidad and Tobago. One of the most delightful aspects of this dictionary, is that it includes words that are becoming increasingly rare in everyday speech in Trinidad and Tobago. Finding them, learning how to spell them and having a clearer understanding of their meaning, means that there is a chance of reviving them in the literature and exposing them to the younger generations who will hopefully never forget how to talk like a true, true Trinbagonian.

A comprehensive, historical and scholarly dictionary of the English Creole languages of Trinidad and Tobago, this text is an essential reference for all those who are interested in the language.

" This dictionary is an admirably comprehensive study of the vocabulary of Trinidad and Tobago, recognizing the country's Creole as a linguistic variety in its own right, and celebrating its remarkable linguistic heritage. It authoritatively displays the multifarious language of everyday domestic and social life and documents the rich terminology of the country's plants and animals. A major feature is its coverage of the wide range of sources from which the country's words are derived. It is well worthy of a place among the established dictionaries of World English." -Edmund Weiner, Deputy Chief Editor, Oxford English Dictionary "The appearance of the *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad Tobago* is a landmark event in the public life of this Caribbean nation. It invites mature exploration of a fascinating culture and it will bring delight to all those who have tasted Caribbean experience. I expect it to become as well a major linguistic reference for future dictionaries of other Caribbean societies." -Lawrence D. Carrington, emeritus professor of Creole Linguistics, The University of the West Indies
About the Author Lise Winer is associate professor in the Faculty of Education, McGill University, the author of *Badjohns*, *Bhaaji Banknote Blue: Essays on the Social History of Language in Trinidad Tobago*, and editor of a series of early Trinidadian novels.