

## Creole-Speaking Countries and their Populations\*

(Les pays créolophones et leurs populations)

(French-lexifier creoles)

COUNTRY	SURFACE AREA (km <sup>2</sup> )	POPULATION	CENTRE OF ADMINISTRATION	LANGUAGES SPOKEN
Dominica	751	100,000	Roseau	English, Antillean Creole
Grenada	344	100,000	Saint-George	English, Antillean Creole (residual)
Guadeloupe	1,709	422,496	Basse-Terre	French, Antillean Creole
French Guiana	91,000	157,277	Cayenne	French, French Guiana Creole, various Amerindian languages, Hmong, Chinese, Haitian Creole, various Businenge languages (English-based creoles)
Haiti	27,750	7,000,000	Port-au-Prince	Haitian Creole, French
Louisiana	235,675	4,000,000	Baton Rouge	English, Louisiana Creole (residual), Cajun
Martinique	1,100	381,441	Fort-deFrance	French, Antillean Creole
Mauritius	2,040	1,100,000	Part-Louis	English, French, Mauritian Creole, Bhojpuri, Hindi, Urdu, and some other Indian languages, Chinese
Réunion	2,511	707,758	Saint-Denis	French, Réunion Creole
St. Lucia	616	150,000	Castries	English, Antillean Creole
St. Thomas	83	56,000	Charlotte Amalie	English, Antillean Creole (residual)
Seychelles	410	70,000	Victoria	English, French, Seychelles Creole
Trinidad	5,128	1,300,000	Port-of-Spain	English, Antillean Creole (residual)

Table 7.1 An overview of creole-speaking countries

N.B. The figures indicated here for the four French overseas 'départements', Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, and Réunion, have been taken from the 1999 census.

NOTE: Do not be misled by this table which merely aims to give a few geographical details. The reason for showing the languages spoken in the final column is to complete the information with respect to the possible multilingualism of the 'département' or State in question but it is in no way possible to deduce from this the number of speakers of one or other of the languages spoken. While Haïti, with over seven million inhabitants, can be said to have seven million creole speakers, this is certainly not the case in Louisiana which has only a derisory number of people still speaking creole among its four million inhabitants and where the language has almost died out as a result.

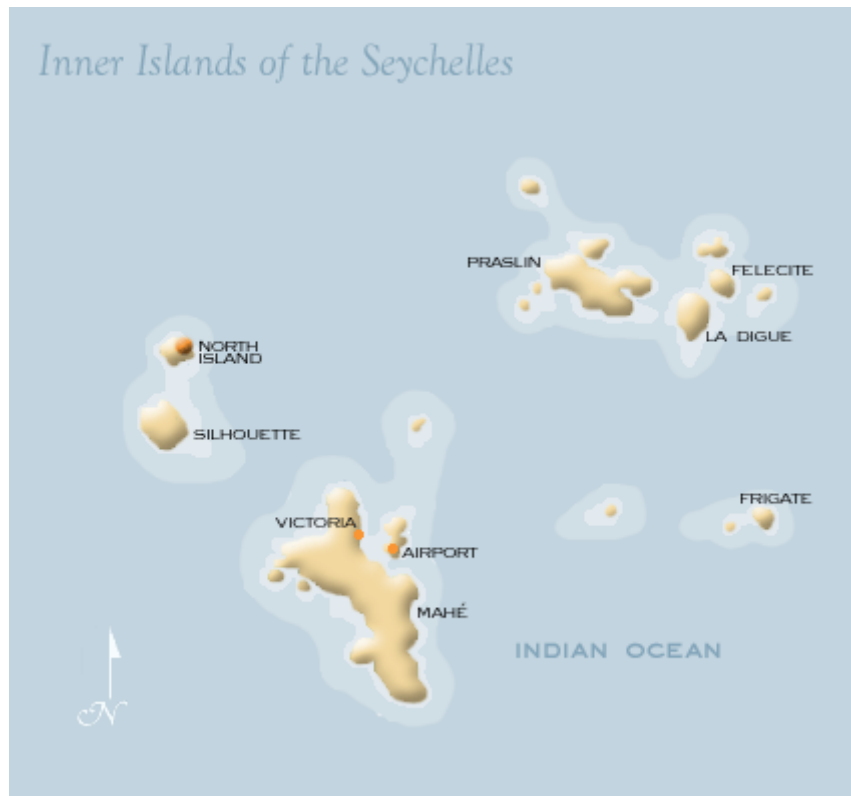
The maps below will prove useful in establishing the locations of both the Caribbean Islands, many of which are creole-speaking (Map 1), and the Indian Ocean Islands (Map 2) while the somewhat stylised Map 3 shows the Seychelles in more detail.



Map 1 Caribbean Islands



Map 2 Indian Ocean Islands



Map 3 Seychelles

More comprehensive information on the position of different creoles in the world in terms of their status and their actual usage will be found by consulting M. C. Hazaël-Massieux's *L'indispensable survie*, p. 310.

\* Note

The sections in Bradley Hand ITC font have been introduced to give a deeper understanding of certain concepts.

