Handout presentation Varieties of English – Gullah
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<u>General remarks</u>
- Gullah = Geechee = Sea Island Creole
- South Carolina and Georgia
- Source:
    o generally accepted idea: mixture of African and English varieties
    o period of Atlantic slave-trade
- African elements in Gullah:
    o Congo-Angola
    o Gambia
    o Windward Coast (Sierra Leone, Liberia)
    o Gold Coast (Ghana)

<u>Phonology</u>
- Vowels:
    o STRUT-vowel [ʌ] realised as [ɔ]
    o FACE-diphthong [eɪ] realised as [e:]
    o GOAT-diphthong [əʊ] realised as [o:]
- Consonants:
    o Fricative stopping
        ▪ Realisation of [d] and [t] (and sometimes even [s]) instead of dental fricatives [θ] and [ð] > *Thank you = Tank you = Sank you*
    o Word-initial [h]-deletion
        ▪ Also interchangeable use of [hi] and [i]: can have phonological reason (same process at work that turns *happy* into *'api*) or it can have morphological reason (use of gender-neutral pronoun [i])
- Gullah lexical set:
    o Speaker information: Dorothy, in her 60s, Mount Pleasant South Carolina

KIT	ị	GOOSE	u
DRESS	ɛ̣	PRICE	ɐɪ
TRAP	æ̣	CHOICE	ɔɪ
LOT	ɑ	MOUTH	ɔʊ
STRUT	ʌ	NEAR	ɪ - ɪə
FOOT	ʊ	SQUARE	ɛə
BATH	æ̣	START	a
CLOTH	o	NORTH	ɔʴ
NURSE	ɑ	FORCE	o
FLEECE	i	CURE	jo
FACE	e	HAPPY	i
PALM	æ̣	LETTER	ɜ
THOUGHT	ɔ	HORSES	ɪ
GOAT	o	COMMA	ə
GOAL	o - oɛ		

Morphology and syntax

- Specific habitual marker *duhz* [dəz]
    o *How you duhz make pie?*
    o *You ain duhz make no pie?*
- Perfect *done* [dʌn]
    o to express "emphasis on the completion of the activity or its relevance to the reference time" (Kortmann et al. vol.2 p562)
    o *Uh done eat dat one*
    o Also in combination with verb stem or stative verb phrase:
        ▪ *He brother done dead*
        ▪ *Uh kin tell you wha I done been tru*
    o Post-verbally to indicate "completion with no intent on the part of the subject to re-engage him/herself in the activity" (Kortmann et al. vol.2 p.563)
        ▪ *Uh talk done*
- Acrolect, mesolect, basilect
    o Acrolect: approximates most closely the standard variety
    o Mesolect: intermediate between acrolect and basilect
    o Basilect: most distincts from acrolect
- Plural marking:
    o Mesolectal Gullah: suffix –s
        ▪ *Deers, firemens*
    o Basilectal Gullah: *dem*
        ▪ *Dem boy*
    o Associative plural: *dem* or *nem* after proper name or definite noun phrase
        ▪ *Sara (an') dem/nem*

Sound fragment
(http://linguafranka.net/gullahbible/audio/easter.mp3)

Gullah Nyew Testament –
John 20: 1-10 (The resurrection)

[1]Aaly een de maanin, de fus day ob de week, wen de place been still daak, Mary Magdalene gone ta de tomb. E see dat de stone wa dey been pit oba de door ob de tomb fa kiba um been moob fom dey. [2]Mary ton back an ron ta Simon Peter an de oda ciple, de one wa Jedus lob. E tell um say, "Dey done tek way de Lawd body outta de tomb an we ain know wa dey done wid um!"
[3]So Peter an de oda ciple staat off ta de tomb. [4]Bof dem beena ron, bot de oda ciple ron mo fast den Peter, so e git ta de tomb fus. [5]E bend oba an e look eenside de tomb. An e see jes dem piece ob linen closs dey, wa de two man dem been nyuse fa wrop op Jedus body. Bot dat ciple ain gone eenside de tomb. [6]Den Simon Peter, wa come hine um, git ta de tomb too. E gone eenside de tomb an e see dem piece ob linen closs da lay dey. [7]An e see de closs wa dey been nyuse fa wrop roun Jedus head. Dat been pon noda side, fole op by esef. [8]Den de oda ciple, wa fus git ta de tomb, gone eenside too. Wen e see all dat, e bleebe. [9]Stillyet dey ain ondastan wa done been write een God Book, dat say dat Jedus haffa git op fom mongst de dead an lib gin. [10]Den de ciple dem gone back ta dey house.