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Migration, media, and the globalisation of Nigerian Pidgin in the 21st century

My paper addresses a peculiar 21st-century “Black Atlantic” (Gilroy 1993) constellation, namely the triangular relationship of contact and influence between African American Vernacular English (AAVE), Jamaican Creole (JC), and Nigerian Pidgin (NP). Following Blommaert (2010), Mufwene (2010), and Mair (2013), I will consider all three of them as globalised vernaculars. The difference between the three lies in the extent to which globalisation has been effected by migration and by the media. While the globalisation of AAVE has been largely driven by the media, both media and migration factors are in play in the other two cases (though in different ways).

As for NP, AAVE and JC have so far been donor languages rather than recipients in this triangular constellation, both in face-to-face contact between speakers in the diaspora and in the global mediascape (Appadurai 1996). Using recent examples from the arts, (social) media, and entertainment (e.g., Inua Ellams’ 2019 award-winning *Barbershop Chronicles* experiment in transnational theatre, “Nollywood” cinema, or Nigerian hip hop), I will show that this may be beginning to change. Data from sociolinguistic interviews with Nigerians resident in Germany will shed additional light on these ongoing processes.

References

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