Abstract

This dissertation provides an analysis of the phonology and morphology of the variant of Brazilian Portuguese spoken in the Quilombo of Curiaú (hereafter QC), located north of the city of Macapá, the capital of the State of Amapá, Brazil. Prior to the execution of this research, little was known about the unique phonological and morphological features employed in isolated Afro-Brazilian communities like the QC.

This analysis is part of a larger project that describes the rural dialects of North and Northeast Brazil, a cooperative research programme of the Federal Universities of Paraíba and Pernambuco and the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.

The present work is organized as follows: we begin with an introduction in which we discuss the emergence of the QC, its colonial origins, its formation process and the current socioeconomic situation. The second chapter is dedicated to the methodologies used during the research and analysis. There, we provide motivation for how the field site was chosen, the number and type of linguistic consultants, the methods for speech elicitation, recording, and transcription, as well as the interview model. Thereafter, we give a phonological analysis that treats the system of vowels and consonants, including the representation of nasality, the syllable patterns, the canonical accent pattern, productive phonological processes and vowel length. The prefinal chapter is dedicated to morphology, with particular focus on verbal inflection in light of the interesting interplay between phonological and morphological processes which are not attested in other known varieties of Portuguese. Finally, we summarize our findings and sketch out a brief recapitulation of the phonological and morphological features which seem typical for the QC variety.

As this dissertation provides the first phonological and morphological description of an undocumented and relatively isolated Afro-Brazilian speech variety, it is hoped that linguists find the contribution relevant to comparative analyses of Portuguese and Romance dialects and linguistic theory.