

This thesis, as the title mentions, is devoted to lexical particularities of West Indies French. West Indies French is defined as the language varieties used in the Lesser Antilles, more precisely in the French overseas departments and territories Martinique and Guadeloupe and on the Islands of St. Bartholomew and St. Martin. The French language evolved in this previously Creolophone area and developed its own internal norms. Therefore, it differs from metropolitan French in its rhetorical, syntactic, phonetic and lexical aspect.

The theoretical part describes the current linguistic situation of the Antilles and explains basic terms that linguists use for its analysis. As mentioned before, the language spoken by the majority of the inhabitants until recently was Creole; therefore Creole languages in general are considered here first (their origin, common traits, subdivisions). The following chapter analyses the literature and the train of thought of West Indies French which influenced their use of language. A brief overview of lexical enrichment possibilities follows.

In the practical part, expressions are analysed based on a literary corpus consisting of Guadeloupian and Martiniquais writers: *MOT*, *Tituba sorGlère* (Maryse Condé), *L'Exil se/on Julia* (Gisele Pineau), *Texaco* (Patrick Chamoiseau), *Eau de Café* (Raphael Confiant) and *La Rue Cases-Negres* (Joseph Zobel).

Lexical particularities observed in these texts are of various types. It concerns words created by using morphological approaches in which the influence of Creole is evident. Furthermore, we approach loan-words from languages of the original Indian inhabitants, from languages of other colonising nations (Spanish and English), from African languages and from the Creole language. Semantic particularities represent existing forms which, however, in West Indies French have gained new meanings, often connected to the local context (plantation works, racial differences of inhabitants).