



English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary **(2017)**

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Publisher: iUniverse, Bloomington, IN

Haitian Creole (HC) is spoken by approximately 11,000,000 persons in Haiti and in diaspora communities in the United States and throughout the Caribbean. Thus, it is of great utility to Anglophone professionals engaged in various activities—medical, social, educational, welfare—in these regions. As the most widely spoken and best described creole language, a knowledge of its vocabulary is of interest and utility to scholars in a variety of disciplines.

The *English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary* (EHCBD) aims to assist Anglophone users in constructing written and oral discourse in HC; it also will aid HC speakers to translate from English to their language. As the most elaborate and extensive linguistic tool available, it contains about 30,000 individual entries, many of which have multiple senses and include subentries, multiword phrases or idioms. The distinguishing feature of the EHCBD is the inclusion of translated sentence-length illustrative examples that provide important information on usage.

From the Preface to the *English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary* (2017):

Purpose of the *English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary*

The primary function of the *English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary* (EHCBD) is to help English speakers speak and write Haitian Creole, the target language, by providing Haitian Creole equivalents of English words and phrases. Speakers of Haitian Creole may also use this dictionary to improve their oral and written skills in English as well as to extend their knowledge of the vocabulary of their own language.

While an official orthography exists for Haitian Creole, it is important to understand that the written language is not yet fully standardized. That is, there are no extensive grammars meeting current standards of linguistic description written in the language, nor do monolingual dictionaries exist designed for native speakers of the language such as the *Merriam-Webster* for American English or the *Grand Robert* or *Larousse* for French. Thus, in some cases, we are not absolutely sure of the precise meaning of a Haitian Creole word or expression when we strive to provide exact equivalents of English words or phrases. However, as is the case for bilingual dictionaries that meet current standards of lexicography, such as the *Diksyonè Kreyòl-Français/Français-Kreyòl*, this bilingual dictionary

provides an excellent starting point for the preparation of monolingual dictionaries, with specifically targeted readerships, to be used in Haiti.

It is outside the scope of this dictionary to have it assume a partially encyclopedic function as it provides little information about Haitian history, culture, etc. For example, there are few proper names referring to historical personages and geographical proper names are reduced to main cities. In the case of terms referring to Vodou, minimal information is provided to help the reader situate them within the framework of Haiti's primary religion.

Scope and nature of the *EHCBD*

As is the case with its predecessor and companion volume the *Haitian Creole-English Bilingual Dictionary*, the present dictionary stands as the most thorough bilingual dictionary dealing with Haitian Creole. First, it is broader and more extensive than any existing dictionary designed to provide Haitian Creole equivalents for English words and expressions. Its **nomenclature** (the list of English headwords) contains more than 30,000 **entries**, many of which, especially verbs, have multiple senses, and about 25,000 **subentries**, multiword units or idiomatic expressions whose meanings cannot readily be derived from the individual meaning of the constituent words. Second, it features the most developed **microstructure** (the content of individual articles) for its entries. In addition to the headword, identification of parts of speech, and the gloss(es) (Haitian Creole equivalents), it provides abundant sentence-length English examples with Haitian Creole translations. Moreover, careful semantic analysis distinguishes between **homonyms** (words that share the same pronunciation but differ in meaning) and **polysemes** (words with several closely related senses). For the latter, senses are ordered on the basis of primarily semantic criteria, generally from a concrete or basic meaning to a more abstract or figurative meaning.

The *English-Haitian Creole Bilingual Dictionary* is now available in hardcover, softcover, and e-book versions via the following links:

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