The Question of the Martiniquan Creole: From the Particularity of a Vernacular to the Dignity of the Speaker

The question of Creole has sparked a number of debates on the status of the language. Given the conditions of its emergence and the social milieu of its main speakers, Creole has long been considered a sub-language and even a stigmatized language which handicaps the use and expression of French. Beyond the emotion roused by the speaking, writing and functioning in the Creole language in Martinique, we are trying to examine the cultural and scientific progress in the study of the Creole language as an object. What meaning should be given to the project of writing and speaking in one’s mother or regional tongue? How does such an initiative speak of dignity and Being? What interpretation do we have today of the notion of specificity of regional languages and culture? This blinding notion, does it not exclude from the universal the specific language, as it is called, and its speaker? In short, what does the Creolistic have to say to Human and Social Sciences?