For the writer working within the Creole continuum the consequences are considerable. Since it is a continuum the writer will usually have access to a broad spectrum of the linguistic culture, and must negotiate a series of decisions concerning its adequate representation in writing. This involves an adjustment of word use and spelling to give an accessible rendering of dialect forms. For example, take the Barbadian writer George Lamming in _The Emigrants:_

Some people say them have no hope for people who doan' know exactly w'at them want or who them is, but that is a lot of rass-clot talk. The interpretation me give hist'ry is people the world over always searchin' an' feelin'... An' when them dead an' gone, hist'ry write things 'bout them that them themself would not have know or understand.

(Lamming 1954: 68)

Writers in this continuum employ highly developed strategies of code-switching and vernacular transcription, which achieve the dual result of abrogating the Standard English and appropriating an English as a culturally significant discourse. A multilingual continuum such as the one in which Caribbean writers work requires a different way of theorizing about language; one which will take into account all the arbitrary and marginal variations. This 'different' way is really a process of greater consistency. If all human speech is rule-governed, then

theory must take all speech behaviour into account rather than consigning some examples to the 'too hard' basket.

The result is 'a metatheory which takes linguistic variation as the substance rather than the periphery of language study' (Bickerton 1973: 643). Such a metatheory is extremely important because it demonstrates the way in which a post-colonial orientation can confront received theoretical norms. Where traditional theory postulates the ideal speaker in order to deal with a language which is grammatically consistent, a 'standard' language which can be approached with the use of consistent and coherent structures, polydialectical theory reveals that the performance of speakers, with all the variations that must be taken into account, is the true subject of linguistics.