More than any other area of the grammar, tense-mood-aspect (TMA) has provided evidence to fuel the ongoing debates about creole genesis and about the relevance of pidgin and creole phenomena to language theory more generally. This volume advances the debate in two ways. First, it makes available in print for the first time and in its original form William Labov’s On the Adequacy of Natural Languages: I. “The Development of Tense”. Second, the volume features detailed analyses of the TMA systems of seven diverse pidgins and creoles, which vary in terms of their lexifying (superstrate) languages, their location, and their social histories. With the authors employing a broad range of theoretical perspectives for their analyses, the study demonstrates both the extent to which pidgins and creoles share a single, prototypical TMA system and the degree to which individual pidgins and creoles diverge from that prototype. This is a volume that brings forward our knowledge and understanding of pidgin and creole TMA. The seven languages analyzed are: Capeverdean Crioulo, Kituba, Papiamentu, Berbice Dutch, Haitian Creole, Kru Pidgin English, and Eighteenth Century Nigerian Pidgin English.

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