

Re: Are "semi-creoles" widespread?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2007-08/msg01699.html>

- *From:* Harlan Messinger <hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 29 Aug 2007 13:29:40 -0400
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Darkstar wrote:

On Aug 29, 5:13 pm, LEE Sau Dan <dan...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

"Darkstar"
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Darkstar
<darkstar...@xxxxxxxx>
writes:

Darkstar> Now we seem to witness the loss of "to" in infinitives
Darkstar> as in "help do something" and the formation of "wanna",
Darkstar> "gonna", "gotta" as new standard verbs and their gradual
Darkstar> infiltration into the written speech,

If "wanna" etc. are full verbs, what are their past tense form and
past participle? Can you form the present continuous tense from it?

> "Want" is not used in Progressive/Continuous in modern grammar.

Sure it is. "Always leave them wanting more." "His performance was wanting." "I often find myself wanting to return to my hometown but I can't afford the housing prices there." "Wanting to go is not the same as having to go."

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