

Re: Are "semi-creoles" widespread?

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- *From:* Darkstar <darkstar100@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 30 Aug 2007 09:45:45 -0700
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On Aug 30, 6:11 pm, na...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx (Christian Weisgerber) wrote:

Nathan Sanders <nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Perhaps once you consult such a grammar textbook (not that anyone expects you to actually do so), you'll discover that progressive and continuous are aspects, not tenses.

It used to be called "continuous form <of such and such tense>" when I learned English in school. I don't think I ever heard "aspect" as a grammatical term before encountering Russian.

That's why I initially used the term "Tense". I couldn't remember the correct name for it, but "Aspect" would probably be correct. Or just Progressive.
Constructions like "keep doing smt" are normally called an ing-form with no special name, ASFAIK.

Here's your progressive/continuous "want", in perfectly normal English:

We've all been wanting you to do actual research in linguistics, but you continue to disappoint us.

Thanks. "They'll be wanting..." also comes to mind, now that I think about it.

"am wanting" gets over half a million Google hits
"is wanting" gets almost a million
"are wanting" gets more than a million and a half
"was/were wanting" together are just over a million
"been wanting" is at two million

Re: Are "semi-creoles" widespread?

"be wanting" is almost at a million

So we have a grand total of around *seven million* hits for the progressive of "wanting",

Er, we all understand that the numbers Google shows are "estimates" and are frequent