



THE UNIVERSITY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Academy at UTT for Arts,  
Letters, Culture and Public Affairs

# THE HOW I DO MY RESEARCH SERIES:

## THE MAKING OF A DICTIONARY



BY: DR. LISE WINER

Date: Thursday February 05, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Venue: The National Library and Information  
Services (NALIS),  
Abercrombie Street,  
Port of Spain

Samuel Johnson, the great English lexicographer, described his profession as that of a "humble drudge". In this lecture Dr. Winer maker of the forthcoming *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago* describes the work that went into this landmark project. She considers the two overall tasks of the lexicographer: finding and choosing what to include in the dictionary, and then fashioning this content into a coherent and faithful whole. This public lecture eventually focuses on the major task of finding and choosing the items to be included in the Dictionary:

- How were words for the *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad & Tobago* chosen, found, understood, and judged?
- What and where were the sources for collecting speech and text?
- What were the procedures, difficulties, surprises, and satisfactions of this research?

**Dr. Lise Winer** in Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. She received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of the West Indies and has worked and published in the areas of applied linguistics, second language education, language education for English Caribbean students, Creole Studies, Sociolinguistics, Lexicography, and Literature. She has served as president of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics. Her book, *Badjohns, Bhaaji and Banknote Blue: Essays on the Social History of Language in Trinidad & Tobago*, was published by the U.W.I. School of Continuing Studies in 2007. Previously, she edited and helped annotate a series of "lost" Trinidadian novels - *Warner Arundell* (1838), *Adolphus* (1853), *The Slave Son* (1854) and *Rupert Gray* (1907) (U.W.I. Press). She edited the liner articles and lyrics for two re-issues of the 1939 Herskovits recordings from Toco, including "Rastlin' Jac ob": *The Music of the Spiritual Baptists of Trinidad*, and contributed to the 10-CD and book set of *West Indian Rhythm: Trinidad Calypsos on world and local events, featuring the censored recordings, 1938-1940*.

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