

Biodata

Marie-Therese Choppy

Marie-Thérèse HOSSEN CHOPPY has been active in the promotion and development of Seychelles Creole since the adoption of SC as the Seychelles mother tongue and first language in the 1980s, and its introduction in formal education. She began her career in languages at the Teacher's Training College in 1957, where she was first trained as a teacher, later to become the Principal of this institution after having taught for several years. Her training continued at the Murray House College of Education, Edinburg, Scotland in 1966, where she specialized in English Language Teaching. This was followed by an Advanced Certificate in Education at the University of Manchester in 1969, which qualified her as a teacher trainer. She also completed a short course in lexicography and lexicology at the Ecole International de Bordeaux, France, in 1983, and obtained a Diploma in Management from the Seychelles Institute of Management in 1986.

Mrs. Choppy was the first Director of the Creole Institute of Seychelles, and was in fact one of the lead people involved in the Creole reforms of the 1980s, resulting in the creation of a Creole Section within the National Institute of Pedagogy in 1981, as a precedence to the Creole Institute, which became a separate institution in 1987. She moved to the domain of culture in the 1990s, becoming the Director General for Culture, resulting in her involvement in many artistic developments such as theatre, visual arts, dance and music, and the annual Creole Festival.

Mrs. Choppy's personal achievements include a wide variety of plays which she has written and directed, Creole translations of various literary classics, and key linguistic works which have been at the forefront of SC's standardization process such as the Seychelles Creole Grammar in Creole.

Mrs. Choppy's last job was Adviser to the Minister of Education, from which she retired in 2004. However, she is still active in Creole development, as a member of the Creole Language Committee, and is a team leader in the ongoing Creole Monolingual Dictionary project.

