

A STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN VERNACULAR ENGLISH IN MOVIE 8 MILE

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Abstrak

Ada sebuah logat bahasa inggris di amerika serikat yang sangat sering digunakan oleh penutur aslinya dan juga oleh yang bukan penutur asli logat tersebut. Logat ini juga sangat populer di gunakan di berbagai media massa seperti film, podcast, music, dan social media seperti intagram dan tiktok. Logat tersebut adalah African American Vernacular English (AAVE). AAVE adalah logat bahasa inggris yang digunakan oleh orang kulit hitam di Africa. Pada awalnya AAVE hanya digunakan oleh para budak dan buruh kulit hitam di amerika, namun seiring perkembangan zaman AAVE juga tak jarang digunakan oleh orang kulit putih di amerika karna kepopulerannya di music hiphop. Namun tak jarang para penutur asli bahasa inggris dan para pembelajar bahasa inggris yang tidak familiar dengan kata AAVE menyangka bahwa AAVE adalah bahasa inggris salah.

Peneliti memutuskan untuk menganalisa tipe-tipe dan factor-faktor yang ditemukan pada subjek B-Rabbit di film 8 Mile (2002). Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa tipe-tipe AAVE yang digunakan oleh B-Rabbit dan factor-faktor yang mempengaruhinya. Dalam melakukan penelitian, peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, teori dari Green (2002) dan Hymes (1962). Peneliti mencatat data-data yang ditemukan yang berkaitan dengan AAVE. Dalam teknik analisis data, peneliti menggunakan teori dari Spradley (1980) "Participant Observation", yaitu: analisis domain, analisis taksonomi, analisis komponensial, dan analisis tema budaya untuk menganalisis penelitian ini.

Hasil yang didapat dari penelitian ini memperlihatkan bahwa B-Rabbit menggunakan type AAVE yang terbatas dan menggunakannya secara berbeda tergantung pada lawan bicara, tempat, dan media yang dia gunakan. Terdapat 92 data AAVE beserta factor yang ditemukan oleh peneliti pada film *8 Mile*.

Kata Kunci : *Tipe-tipe Fitur AAVE, Faktor-faktor Penyebab Penggunaan AAVE, Film 8 Mile.*

Abstract

There is an English dialect in the United States that is very commonly used by both native speakers and non-native speakers of the dialect. This dialect is also very popularly used in various mass media such as movies, podcasts, music, and social media like Instagram and TikTok. This dialect is African American Vernacular English (AAVE). AAVE is an English dialect used by black people in Africa. Initially, AAVE was only used by black slaves and laborers in America, but over time AAVE has also been used by white people in America because of its popularity in hip hop music. However, many native English speakers and English learners who are not familiar with AAVE often mistake it for incorrect English.

The researcher decided to analyze the types and factors found in the subject of B-Rabbit in the movie *8 Mile* (2002). The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of AAVE used by B-Rabbit and the factors that influence it. In conducting the research, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method, theories from Green (2002) and Hymes (1962). The researcher recorded data in notes related to AAVE. In the data analysis technique, the researcher used Spradley's (1980) theory of "Participant Observation", namely: domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis, and cultural theme analysis to analyze this research.

The results obtained from this study show that B-Rabbit uses limited types of AAVE and uses them differently depending on his interlocutors, location, and media he uses. The researcher found 92 AAVE data along with the factors in the movie *8 Mile*.

Keywords: *Types of AAVE Features, Factors Causing AAVE Usage, 8 Mile Movie.*

I. INTRODUCTION

It is important to note that AAVE is not a broken or incorrect version of Standard English, but rather a distinct dialect with its own set of grammatical rules and structures (Pullum, 1999). AAVE has its roots in the West African languages brought over by slaves during the colonial period, as well as the English spoken by white slave owners (Jokinen, 2008). This unique blend of African and English linguistic influences resulted in the development of AAVE as a separate dialect. While it may differ from Standard American English (SAE) in some ways, AAVE is a legitimate and complex dialect with its own linguistic rules and patterns.

It is a big deal for English learners to understand the differences between AAVE and SAE, as well as the appropriate contexts in which to use each one. AAVE has its own unique grammatical structures, vocabulary, and pronunciation, and is often used in specific cultural contexts. By studying and understanding AAVE, learners can gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of language and culture in the United States, as well as become more effective communicators in a variety of settings. Additionally, it helps to combat negative stereotypes and prejudices associated with AAVE and its speakers.

Green's theory (2002) was utilized by the researcher in this study to analyze the syntactic structures of AAVE, while Hymes' theory (1974) was employed to investigate the factors of AAVE in the movie "8 Mile." The choice of using this movie as the object of study was due to its potential as a learning source for English learners, as movies can have a significant influence on language acquisition (Green, 2002:212). However, the researcher expressed concern about potential misunderstandings by viewers regarding AAVE, as there is a risk of it being perceived as "broken English" and considered appropriate for all contexts, including formal ones. Such misunderstandings could have a detrimental effect on language acquisition. Hence, the researcher conducted this study to prevent such misunderstandings and promote a better understanding of AAVE.

The movie 8 Mile was chosen by the researcher for an analysis of AAVE, which examines the types of AAVE spoken by the main character and explores the social factors influencing its usage. Mustika mentions that the main character does not use copula in his utterances when he speaks to his mother and his girlfriend but it turns out that there are actually copula type uttered by the main character when he speaks to his mother and his girlfriend. Moreover, she also does not mention which type of AAVE that is the most dominant in her journal. The researcher aimed to prove that there are data that are missed by her and the researcher wants to find out which type of AAVE that is the most dominant type uttered by the main character. The researcher also added other influential factors that affect B-Rabbit in using AAVE features. Aside from that, the movie *8 Mile* provides some examples of syntactic features of AAVE which it is uttered by the main character in the movie. By all mean, the researcher believed that this movie suits a lot to the research problems because of the correlation and sufficient data of AAVE in movie *8 Mile*.

Three previous studies were found by the researcher, which served as references for the current research. The first study, conducted by Mustika (2014), aimed to analyze the types of grammatical features used by the main character in the movie 8 Mile, as well as the factors that influenced the main character to use them differently. Mustika utilized Green's (2002) theory and Ricford and Rickford's theory to analyze the data and employed a qualitative descriptive method. The second study, conducted by Prastitasari (2013), aimed to analyze the types of syntactic variations used by the main character in Hustle & Flow and classify the functions of using certain syntactic variations in AAVE. Prastitasari employed Chaika's (1982) and Holmes' (2013) theories and used a qualitative descriptive method. The third study, conducted by Mubarok (2015), analyzed the syntactic characteristics of AAVE in the movie Bad Boys II. Mubarok used Green's (2002) and Thomas' (2001) theories and analyzed the result of understanding AAVE's syntactic characteristics using a qualitative descriptive method.

Up until this point, previous studies have focused on analyzing the syntactic features of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). However, there are some differences between these studies in terms of their objects of study, which were taken from different movies such as Bad Boys II and Hustle & Flow, as well as differences in their second research questions. In the

current study, the researcher concentrated on analyzing the sentences spoken by the character B-Rabbit in the movie *8 Mile*. Additionally, this research was analyzed using the Green Theory for the first research question and Dell Hymes' theory for the second research question.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, Spradley's (1980) theory was employed by the researcher as the technique for data analysis. Spradley introduced a method for analyzing qualitative data in his book "Participant Observation". This method consists of 4 steps such as domain analysis, taxonomic analysis, componential analysis, and cultural theme analysis. The researcher took notes of every datum he needed while watching the movie. Moreover, The researcher utilized Green's theory (2002) to address the first research question, which focused on analyzing the syntactic structures of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). Additionally, Hymes' theory (1974) was employed to answer the second research question, which aimed to examine the factors influencing AAVE usage in the movie *8 Mile*. The movie *8 Mile* was selected to be the data source of this research due to its significance as a learning source for English learners focusing in the utterances spoken by B-Rabbit which contain AAVE features.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results and discussion of the research on the various features of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) found in the movie, as well as the factors that influenced the main character, B-Rabbit, to use them. The researcher analyzed the different types of AAVE features and the specific examples of how they appeared in B-Rabbit's speech. Additionally, the study identified the factors that influenced B-Rabbit's use of AAVE, such as social context, personal identity, and cultural influence.

A total of ninety-two findings were obtained from the examination of six types of AAVE grammatical features, resulting from the influence of three factors. The dominant AAVE grammatical feature used by B-Rabbit in the movie was the copula, with twenty-four data. Additionally, B-Rabbit frequently employed the use of "ain't" (eleven data), "gonna" (four data), and exhibited the Neutralization of Singular and Plural Persons (two data). Double Negatives were also present with four data, while the least prevalent AAVE grammatical feature was the aspectual marker "be," occurring only once. Among the factors influencing B-Rabbit's adoption of AAVE features, the setting factor exerted the greatest influence (forty-six data), followed by the participant factor (thirty-seven data), while the instrument factor had the fewest data (nine).

A. Copula

Datum 8: 38:16 (T1.FSH.FPF)

B-Rabbit: \emptyset *That chick really blew both you guys?*

The symbol \emptyset is a sign that there is something missing from the sentence. This is an interrogative sentence in simple past which lacks of copula or auxiliary absence. This is a yes-no question. Yes-no question in standard English consists of auxiliary + subject + compliment/ verb

+ ?. While this sentence lacks of auxiliary *did* before the subject *That chick*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *Did that chick really blow both you guys?* The copula or auxiliary absence is the most common used AAVE characteristic.

In the house of Wink, B-Rabbit is asking his black friend future whether the girl he was seducing really gave him favor. In this scene, B-Rabbit uses copula in his utterance. B-Rabbit tends to use more various types of AAVE in his utterances when he is in places dominated by black people such as on street, club, plantation, and house. He has a tendency to speak more AAVE to black people than to white people. The tendency to speak AAVE will rise or drop depends on the places he conversing. It can be seen from the movie that B-Rabbit does not use AAVE to future when they are conversing in a trailer. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that copula as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the House friend. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Datum 9: 41:23 (T1.FSS.FPG)

B-Rabbit: Ø *You live with your family?*

This is an interrogative sentence in simple continuous which lacks of copula or auxiliary absence. Yes-no question in standard English consists of auxiliary + subject + compliment/ verb + ?. While this sentence lacks of auxiliary *do* before the subject *You*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *Do you live with your family?*

On the street, B-Rabbit is asking his girlfriend whether she lives with her family or not. In this scene, he uses copula in his utterance. The use of copula is very common to use in everyday conversation since it is easy to pronounce. B-Rabbit happens to have many conversations with his girlfriend in the movie. He uses many AAVE types in his utterances such as copula, the use of *ain't* and *gonna* when he speaks to her in places dominated by black people such as on street, club, plantation, and house but not even a single AAVE feature he uses when he and his girlfriend are in the trailer. It shows that B-Rabbit adapts himself not only to people but also the environments. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that copula as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is on the street with his girl. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

B. The Use of *Ain't*

Datum 25: 01.09.49 (T2.FSH.FPF)

B-Rabbit: *You ain't my fucking father.*

The word *ain't* is basically a combination of auxiliary *be*, *do*, or *have* and negator *not* in present and even in the past followed simple past verb. This sentence is a nominal sentence in

simple present. In standard English, this sentence is supposed to consist of subject + auxiliary/ verb + not + (object) + ?. In Standard English this sentence will be: *You are not my fucking father*. The auxiliary is decided from the subject used.

In the house, B-Rabbit is telling his black friend that he is not B-Rabbit's father to tell him what to do. In this scene, he uses the word *ain't* in his utterance. The use of the word *ain't* is as common as the use of copula in everyday conversation in black people community. B-Rabbit tends to use the word *ain't* to emphasize a negative meaning of the sentence. The house where B-Rabbit having conversation is in black people community. It affects B-Rabbit to use more AAVE than in the trailer except to his mom. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that *ain't* as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the house with his friend. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Datum 28: 01.12.55 (T2.FST.FPM)

B-Rabbit: *You ain't going nowhere*

This sentence is a verbal sentence in simple present. In Standard English, this sentence is supposed to consist of subject + auxiliary/ verb + not + (object). In Standard English this sentence will be: *You are not going anywhere*. The auxiliary is decided from the subject and the verb used.

In the trailer, B-Rabbit is telling his Mom that she cannot go anywhere that time. In this scene, he uses the word *ain't* in his utterance. B-Rabbit tends to use more various types of AAVE in his utterances such as copula, the use of *ain't* and *gonna*, neutralization of singular and plural persons, double negative, and aspectual markers '*be*' when he speaks in places dominated by black people but not in trailer except to his Mom. This exception is rare that might correlate to closer emotional relationship between B-Rabbit and his Mom. It can be seen that *ain't* as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the trailer with his mom. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

C. The Use of *Gonna*

Datum 38: 01.21.13 (T3.FST.FPM)

B-Rabbit: *I'm gonna do it on my own.*

The use of *gonna* is to mark future tense instead of *be going to*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *I am going to do it on my own*. In a trailer, B-Rabbit is telling his mom that he will not depend on anyone else anymore. In this scene, he uses *gonna* as a reduction of *going to* in his utterance. B-Rabbit tends to use very limited AAVE types in his utterances when he speaks to people in the trailer but not to his mom. His Mom becomes the only person B-Rabbit speaks with many AAVE types in the trailer. It can be seen that *gonna* as one of AAVE features

is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the trailer with his mom. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Datum 39: 01.25.10 (T1.FSC.FPF)

B-Rabbit: *I'm gonna battle them*

The use of *gonna* is to mark future tense instead of *be going to*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *I am going to battle them*. In the club, B-Rabbit is telling his friends that he will do the battle whatsoever. In this scene, he uses *gonna* as a reduction of *going to* in his utterance. The word *gonna* is one of AAVE types that B-Rabbit uses to his friends. B-Rabbit speaks with friends in the club where B-Rabbit tends to seem relaxed to use AAVE features. It is so different when he speaks to his friends in the trailer. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that *gonna* as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the club with his friends. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

D. Neutralization of Singular and Plural Persons

Datum 40: 35.14 (T4.FSC.FPG)

B-Rabbit: *You find the guy you was looking for?*

In this sentence, the subject *You* is followed by *was* whereas in standard English the word *You* must be followed by *were* as the auxiliary because the subject *You* is a 2nd person singular pronoun. In Standard English this sentence will be: *Do you find the guy you were looking for?*

In the club, B-Rabbit asked the girl whether she has found an attractive guy there. In this scene, he uses neutralization of singular and plural persons in his utterance which the only type that happens to be used only to his girlfriend. The use of this AAVE type is actually very common among Black English speakers but hardly ever used by B-Rabbit. The researcher found that B-Rabbit uses this AAVE type only to the white girl in his utterance. The club is the place where B-Rabbit uses AAVE the most. It can be seen that five out of six types of AAVE features are uttered by B-Rabbit in the club with total of thirteen data found. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that neutralization of singular and plural persons as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the club with his girl. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Datum 41: 58:58 (T4.FSC.FPG)

2. B-Rabbit : *You was in the parking lot the other night?*

In this sentence, the subject *You* is followed by *was* whereas in standard English the word *You* must be followed by *were* as the auxiliary because the subject *You* is a 2nd person singular pronoun. In Standard English this sentence will be: *were you in the parking lot the other night?*

In the plantation, B-Rabbit asked his girlfriend whether she was in the parking lot the other night. In this scene, he uses neutralization of singular and plural persons in his utterance for the last time to the same person in different moment and place. The plantation is the place where B-Rabbit works together with many black people which left him to be the only person. B-Rabbit adapts his communication style to his environment by using several AAVE to the people he meets there except to his boss. The use of this AAVE type is actually very common among Black English speakers but hardly ever used by B-Rabbit. The researcher found that B-Rabbit uses this AAVE type only to his girlfriend in this movie. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that neutralization of singular and plural persons as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the plantation with his girl. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

E. Double Negative

Datum 42: 15.37 (T5.FST.FPF)

B-Rabbit: *Don't tell nobody I'm living back here, man.*

In this sentence, there are two negative markers *don't* and *no (body)*. Since Standard English is not familiar with multiple negation, the word *no* should be changed into *any*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *Don't tell anybody I'm living back here, man.*

On the street, B-Rabbit walks on the way to get to the bus stop from the trailer with his friend Wink. B-Rabbit tells his friend not to tell anybody that he is living in the trailer with his mom. In this scene he uses double negative in his utterance. The use of this AAVE type is actually very common among Black English speakers but hardly ever used by B-Rabbit. The street becomes the third place that B-Rabbit uses AAVE a lot. B-Rabbit lives in Detroit where Black Americans dominate the population in that state. It makes the street belongs to the people which makes B-Rabbit to use AAVE a lot in order to mingle with the surroundings. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit's use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that double negative as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is on the street with his friend. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Datum 43: 54.34 (T5.FSP.FIR)

B-Rabbit: *He ain't got no money to eat*

In this sentence, there are two negative markers *ain't* and *no*. Since Standard English is not familiar with multiple negation, the word *no* should be changed into *any*. In Standard English this sentence will be: *Don't tell anybody I'm living back here, man.*

In the plantation, B-Rabbit does free style rap battle against the crowds. In this scene he uses double negative in his utterance. The use of this AAVE type is actually very common among Black English speakers but hardly ever used by B-Rabbit. It is pretty normal for B-Rabbit to use AAVE in the plantation and in any other places but it seems that B-Rabbit limit the use AAVE in his rap base on the data with the total of nine data which makes it the least factor that makes B-Rabbit speak AAVE in the movie. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit’s use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that double negative as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is in the plantation rapping against the crowd (black people). **It can be seen that participant and instrument factors play their roles here.**

F. Aspectual Markers ‘be’

Datum 46: 27.03 (T6.FSS.FPF)

B-Rabbit: *Don’t be saying shit about my mom or my fucking car, man.*

The use of be with verb –ing form shows certain habitual or repeated action. In this sentence, the use of be + saying indicates an action that repeatedly happens. In Standard English this sentence will be: Don’t always say shit about my mom or my fucking car, man.

On the street, B-Rabbit tells his friends to stop talking about his mom and his car. In this scene he uses aspectual markers ‘be’ in his utterance. The use of this AAVE type is pretty common among Black English speakers but hardly ever used by B-Rabbit. This type becomes the least type found from B-Rabbit utterances in this movie. Moreover, the frequency of B-Rabbit’s use of AAVE is higher in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that aspectual markers ‘be’ as one of AAVE features is used by B-Rabbit because he is on the street with his friends. **It can be seen that participant and setting factors play their roles here.**

Table 4.3 Componential Analysis of AAVE Types and Factors

Type	Factor									Total
	FS					FP			FI	
	T	S	C	P	H	F	M	G	R	
T1. 24	5	7	6	4	2	11	4	6	3	48
T2. 11	4	-	3	2	2	3	2	2	4	22
T3. 4	2	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	8
T4. 2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	4
T5. 4	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	8

T6. 1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	12	9	13	8	4	18	9	10	9	
Total			46				37		9	92

Note: T = Type

F = Factor

T1 = Copula

T2 = The use of *ain't*

T3 = The use of *gonna*

T4 = Neutralization of singular and plural persons

T5 = Double Negative

T6 = aspectual markers '*be*'

FS = Setting

FP = Participant

FE = End

FA = Act

FK = Key

FI = Instrument

FN = Norm

FG = Genre

F= Friend

M= Mom

G= Girlfriend

T= Trailer

S= Street

C= Club

P= Plantation

H= House

R= Rap music

The total data of six types of AAVE grammatical features that are caused by three factors results ninety two findings in the table 4.3. It can be seen that the dominant type of AAVE grammatical features that is caused by three factors and used by B-Rabbit the most is copula (T1) with total twenty four data (52.17%). Furthermore, the second type of AAVE grammatical features that is used by B-Rabbit the most is the use of *ain't* (T2) with total eleven data (23.91%), *gonna* (T3) with four data (8.70%), Neutralization of Singular and Plural Persons (T4) with two data (4.35%), Double Negative (T5) with four data (8.70%), then, the least type of AAVE grammatical features that is used by B-Rabbit is aspectual markers *be* (T6) with total one datum in the movie (2.17%). Moreover there are 3 factors found in the movie which affect B-Rabbit in employing AAVE features. Setting factor become most dominant factor that influence B-Rabbit in using AAVE features with forty six data (50%). Furthermore the participant factor become the second most dominant factor with thirty seven data (40.22%) and followed by instrument factor as the least with 9 data (9.78%).

2. Cultural Theme Analysis

The componential analysis of the data revealed that B-Rabbit exhibits the most varied use of grammatical features in African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in his speech. However, the study found that only four features, namely multiple negation, "*ain't*" as an auxiliary verb or copula, "*gonna*" and copula deletion, were commonly used by some characters in the movie. Multiple negations was primarily used by Black Americans, while "*ain't*" as an auxiliary verb or copula was used by all characters except for male White Americans and B-Rabbit's employer. Copula deletion was used by all characters except for B-Rabbit's mother. Other grammatical features were used only once and with one particular character throughout the movie, including the neutralization of singular and plural persons and the use of the aspectual marker "*be*". While B-Rabbit's use of multiple negation was consistent with that of White Americans in Detroit who belong to lower social classes, Black Americans in Detroit used it more frequently. B-Rabbit only used multiple negations with Black Americans in two situations in the movie, indicating that he does not use it as commonly as other Black Americans do.

There are no strict rules or guidelines for regulating the use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) features in grammar books. These features develop among AAVE users through exposure and experimentation. This aligns to Rickford and Rickford's (2000) statement saying that individuals in specific communities learn the conventional and systematic ways of pronouncing, modifying, and combining words that are characteristic of their

community's language. In B-Rabbit's case, he acquired AAVE features in his speech through his interactions with his Black American friends and exposure to Hip hop culture. Although B-Rabbit's speech contains many AAVE features that distinguish it from Standard American English (SAE), he does not use AAVE to the same extent as other Black Americans. The frequency of the use of AAVE features is based on the ethnicity and places.

The fact that B-Rabbit tends to use more vernacular forms in his utterances in the places dominated by black people than in the trailer indicating that B-Rabbit adjust the use AAVE according to the places where he speaks as well as to whom he speaks. As a white male from Detroit society, B-Rabbit performs more AAVE features when interacting with individuals from similar social backgrounds in the places dominated by black people, while using very limited to zero AAVE features when interacting with the same people in the trailer. Overall, B-Rabbit's language use highlights the complex interplay between various social factors and setting factors in shaping language variation and change.

Regarding ethnicity, B-Rabbit's use of AAVE features is more common when speaking to Black American characters, and he even uses a specific AAVE feature, multiple negations, only with them. This could be seen as a way to show his solidarity with the Black American community and to identify himself as a part of that group. It is also consistent with the idea that African Americans have developed a distinct variety of English, which includes AAVE features, to distinguish their language from that of the general American population.

Moreover, the distinction made between the participants is based on the use of the grammatical feature "*ain't*" as an auxiliary verb or copula. The speaker, B-Rabbit, does not use this feature with White American males, but he uses it with Alex, who represents the female side of the social group. B-Rabbit uses a grammatical feature with Alex that he does not use with other male characters. Alex as a white American is supposed to use more standard forms due to their higher status-consciousness, but this is not reflected in the movie since Alex also speaks with African American Vernacular English features, resulting in B-Rabbit's use of more AAVE forms with her than with other male White Americans.

Aside from that, B-Rabbit primarily employs AAVE features outside of the trailer, which can be considered as "black territories." When he interacts with Alex, he employs various AAVE features except when they are in the trailer area. Specifically, B-Rabbit uses AAVE grammatical features such as copula, "*ain't*," and the neutralization of singular and plural persons when conversing with Alex on the streets or in other non-trailer locations. However, he struggles to use even a single AAVE grammatical feature when speaking to Alex inside the trailer. It is intriguing to note that B-Rabbit feels more at ease and adaptable in using AAVE when he is in the black community area. On the other hand, he consciously switches to Standard American English as much as possible when communicating in the trailer his white friends and girlfriend. He attempts to limit his use of AAVE in the presence of white individuals.

B-Rabbit predominantly employs African American Vernacular English (AAVE) features when conversing with black people, utilizing various AAVE features. However, he tends to omit AAVE features when engaging with black people in a trailer setting. In specific locations such as the club, shelter, and street, B-Rabbit employs copula, *gonna*, *ain't*, and aspectual markers 'be' during conversations with his friend Future. Interestingly, when interacting with Future in the trailer, B-Rabbit refrains from utilizing any AAVE features. It can be inferred that the surrounding environment significantly influences B-Rabbit's use of AAVE. Notably, he appears to avoid employing AAVE when conversing with friends in the trailer, with the exception of his mom.

By and by, a study by Mustika's (2014), AAVE use by white American in 8 Mile movie, shows that the main character does not perform all of the AAVE features in the movie. She found that the main character tends to speak more AAVE features to black Americans than to white Americans except to his boss Minny. These findings align to the researcher's findings because of the similarities of the object of study and the theory. The researcher aims to complement the research by adding one crucial factor that influence the way B-Rabbit employ AAVE features other than social influence. Copula is found to be the most use type of AAVE by the main character. Furthermore, the researcher found that places (setting) play a big role in the movie. By using the theory by Dell Hymne, it can be seen that B-Rabbit predominantly uses AAVE features outside the trailer area (black community area). From the previous research, B-Rabbit uses most AAVE features to black people, but in this recent research, B-Rabbit uses almost zero and even zero for two dominant characters no matter what color they are when it comes to speaking in the trailer area. It can be included that B-Rabbit as a white American living in Detroit, not only adapt his language style because of the surrounding people but also because of the places (setting).

Furthermore, the second previous study conducted by Prastitasari (2013), syntactic variations of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) employed by the main character in hustle & flow, shows that DJay, the main character predominantly employs Copula or verb inflection in his utterances. This finding is similar to the researcher's finding which find copula as the most used AAVE feature. By using Chaika (1982), and Holmes (2013) theories in her research, she found that there are functions of AAVE features from the main character utterances. They are expressive, directive, phatic, referential, and poetic. It shows that there are emotions that influence the speaker to use a certain AAVE type in his utterances. Interestingly enough, the researcher also found that B-Rabbit has a certain change in his AAVE use when he is in a certain situation and condition. His emotions also play a big role in deciding to use AAVE types. It can be concluded that AAVE is a complex dialect which has many factors and functions in using it in the society.

Moreover, the third previous study by Mubarok (2015), Syntactic Characteristics of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) *In Bad Boys II* Movie, shows that the main character employs six types of AAVE syntactic characteristics in that movie such as Auxiliaries,

Existential it and dey, negation, genitive marking, questions, and verbal –s by using Green (2002) and Thomas (2001) theories. He found that double negative appears to be the most used type of AAVE in this movie. Interestingly enough, the most used type of AAVE in this previous research is double negative which is different to the first, second, and the researcher finding which is copula. It can be concluded that copula and double negative become the most dominant AAVE type to use among black people.

From the result of this recent research and the previous studies, it is known that AAVE is mostly used in places dominated by black people. It can be seen that copula is the most used AAVE feature among black people in Detroit and Tennessee in the movies *8 Mile* and *Hustle & Flow*. However, this finding does not align to Holmes' (2001) statement that White Americans in recordings of Detroit speech never omit the copula verb "be". Furthermore, frequency of AAVE use is higher in places dominated by black people than in places dominated by white people due to the language adjustment and awareness of the environment. Other than that, the result of this recent research and the previous studies show that participant factor also plays a big role in influencing someone to use AAVE features. Someone who lives with black people in black territories has a tendency to use AAVE more often. The use of AAVE can be caused by ethnicities and social status.

CONCLUSION

The use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) appears to be influenced by social differences. Various factors, including the participants involved, the context or setting, and the means of communication, have contributed to these differences. AAVE features are predominantly employed by Black Americans, but they tend to limit their usage of these features when conversing in places dominated by White people. It is evident that social variation is the primary factor influencing the differential use of AAVE. The setting also plays a role in determining the usage of AAVE patterns, as these features are less prevalent in areas predominantly inhabited by White people. Furthermore, certain AAVE features are exclusively associated with Black Americans due to their ethnic background. In society, Standard American English (SAE) is perceived as occupying a higher social position, while AAVE is often associated with lower social class and economic status. AAVE features are typically avoided when interacting with individuals of higher social standing.

The researcher reached the conclusion that AAVE is not exclusively limited to black individuals. While it is predominantly used by black people and in regions where black communities are prevalent, it can also be observed that the frequency of AAVE usage increases when individuals interact with black people. Similarly, proximity to areas predominantly inhabited by black communities is correlated with a higher possibility of using AAVE features in speech.

SUGGESTION

The researcher suggests that future researchers who intend to conduct studies in the same field should acquire a comprehensive understanding of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) as a whole. It is crucial for these researchers to dig down deeply into the topic and familiarize themselves with relevant theories to minimize the risk of misunderstanding or misinterpretation. A thorough knowledge of AAVE can be obtained through studying its usage in various mediums such as movies, novels, short stories, and by observing its presence in the places where AAVE is spoken regularly. By immersing themselves in the richness of AAVE, future researchers can ensure a more accurate exploration of this dialect.

The researcher further suggests future researchers who plan to analyze similar topics related to AAVE to focus their analysis on the copula type and the setting factor. These specific types and factors yielded the most significant results in this research and are therefore recommended for further investigation in future studies. By digging deeper into the analysis of the copula type and the influence of the setting factor, future researchers can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of AAVE and its linguistic patterns. These areas offer promising opportunities for further exploration and can generate valuable insights for future researchers.

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