

The Use of AAVE by Maids in The Movie “The Help”

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Abstrak

Salah satu dialek dari Bahasa Inggris adalah dialek orang Afrika-Amerika. Dialek ini digunakan oleh orang-orang keturunan Afrika-Amerika. Definisi dialek sendiri adalah bahasa yang belum di standarisasi dan juga tidak memiliki status resmi. Bahasa dialek Inggris Afrika-Amerika memiliki beberapa nama atau sebutan antara lain: Negro dialect, Nonstandard Negro English, Negro English, American Negro Speech, Black Communication, Black Dialect, Black Folk Speech, Black Street Speech, Black English, Black English Vernacular, Black Vernacular English, Afro American English, African American English (AAE), and African American Language. Bahasa dialek ini berbeda dengan Standar Bahasa Inggris Amerika dalam fonologi, tata bahasa dan kosakatanya. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan penggunaan AAVE oleh pelayan wanita kulit hitam di Amerika tepatnya di Jackson, Mississippi. Deskripsi yang meliputi: (1) apa saja fitur dari AAVE yang digunakan oleh pelayan wanita di film *The Help*; (2) bagaimana penggunaan fitur dari AAVE oleh pelayan wanita di film *The Help* dan (3) bagaimana dampak penggunaan fitur dari AAVE dalam jalannya cerita dalam film *The Help*.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori fitur AAVE karya Lisa J. Green (2002). Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara mendokumentasi ucapan-ucapan yang dilontarkan oleh pelayan wanita di film “*The Help*”. Dokumentasi data dilakukan melalui beberapa proses yakni melihat film, mendengarkan dialog, menulis data, mengelompokkan data, pemberian catatan khusus, dan pengecekan data ulang lalu data yang sudah terkumpul akan dianalisis melalui tahap pemahaman dialog, analisis dan pengelompokkan data berdasarkan fitur yang akan menjelaskan alasan dari penemuan tersebut.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis, penelitian menemukan beberapa fitur dari AAVE yang dilakukan oleh pelayan wanita dalam film *The Help*. Fitur AAVE dalam fonologi yang ditemukan pada data antara lain pergantian */in/*, pergantian *ask/aks*, penghapusan bunyi */r/* dan */l/*, pengurangan konsonan akhir tunggal, pengurangan akhir konsonan dalam kluster, monofonem, perubahan bunyi */th/* menjadi */d/* atau */v/*, pengurangan suku kata pertama, sedangkan fitur AAVE dalam tata bahasa yang ditemukan dalam tutur kata pelayan wanita antara lain tidak adanya kata kerja penghubung, tidak adanya kata kerja bantu, peraturan subjek-kata kerja tidak berlaku, tidak mengubah bentuk possessive, tidak mengubah kata kerja bentuk kata kerja untuk orang ketiga tunggal, inversi kata kerja dan verb di kalimat yang tidak lengkap *done*. Namun, hanya ditemukan dua kategori dari fitur AAVE dalam kosakata yang dilakukan oleh pelayan wanita antara lain penandalian *be* dan *logat*. Fitur-fitur tersebut tidak digunakan oleh para pelayan wanita untuk berkomunikasi dengan lawan bicara baik kepada orang kulit putih dan juga orang kulit hitam. Usia, etnisitas, status sosial, dan status sosial hampir sama sekali tidak mempengaruhi mereka dalam menggunakan fitur AAVE di setiap tutur kata mereka. Tetapi, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa siapa yang berpendidikan dapat mempengaruhi dalam penggunaan bahasa khususnya SAE dan AAVE yang digunakan oleh pembicara.

Secara singkat, ucapan atau ucapan yang dilontarkan oleh karakter pelayan wanita di dalam film “*The Help*” hampir semuanya mengikuti aturan-aturan AAVE dibandingkan SAE. Bagaimana pun juga, hal ini tidak berarti bahwa pelayan wanita di film ini hanya menggunakan AAVE dalam percakapan sehari-hari mereka. Dalam beberapa kasus yang di temukan dalam study ini menunjukkan bahwa pelayan wanita terkadang menggunakan Bahasa Inggris yang sudah di standarkan ketika berkomunikasi dengan yang lain khususnya dengan orang-orang kulit putih.

Kata Kunci: bahasa Inggris, AAVE, keturunan Afrika-Amerika, Film

Abstract

African American Vernacular English is a vernacular English spoken by African Americans. Vernacular itself refers to a language which has not been standardised and which doesn't have an official status. African American Vernacular English has other names or terms. Those terms are negro dialect, Nonstandard Negro English, Negro English, American Negro Speech, Black Communication, Black Dialect, Black Folk Speech, Black Street Speech, Black English, Black English Vernacular, Black Vernacular English, Afro American English, African American English (AAE), and African American

Language. This vernacular is different from SAE (Standard American English) in its phonology, grammar and lexical. In his study, the researcher aimed to describe the use of AAVE in Blacks' utterances in the movie "The Help". "The Help" is a movie which tells about the life of Blacks in America specifically Jackson, Mississippi. The description consists of (1) what AAVE features used by maids in the movie The Help; and (2) how the maids apply the features of AAVE in the movie The Help.

The study used descriptive qualitative method using the AAVE features theory conducted by Lisa J. Green (2002). The data is collected by documenting the utterances of the 4 maids in the movie "The Help" through several processes include watching the movie, listening the dialogue, transcribing the data, classifying the data, note taking, and cross-checking the data and then the collected data is analyzed through the process of understanding the dialogue, Analyzing, classifying and calculating the data based on its class and explaining the reason of the finding.

The results shows that this study has found some AAVE features used by maids in the movie. AAVE features in Phonology, they are ing/in alternation, ask/aks alternation, /r/ and /l/ deletion, single final consonant reduction, final consonant reduction in cluster, monophthong, initial /th/ changing as /d/ or /t/, reduction of first syllable. While the AAVE features in Grammar which found in the data are absence of copula, absence of auxiliary verb, subject-verb non-agreement, unmarked third person singular verb, existential dem, multiple negation, the use of ain't, unmarked possessive, inversion of subject-verb in question and completive done. However, there are only two categories of AAVE features in lexical used by maids. They are verbal marker be and Slang. Those features are used by maids to communicate towards both Whites and Blacks. Age levels, Ethnicity and social status almost does not have a role in the application of the features in maids' utterances. However, this study finds that education effects on the way language specifically SAE and AAVE used by the speaker.

In brief, the utterances of maids characters in the movie "The Help" are mostly follows the rule of AAVE instead SAE. However, it does not mean that maids only use AAVE in their daily activity. In some cases show that maids sometimes use standardized English when communicates with others specifically toward whites.

Keywords: English, AAVE, African-Americans, Movie

INTRODUCTION

AAVE (African American Vernacular Language) is a variant of American English which is mostly spoken by urban working-class and largely by bi-dialectal middle-class African Americans (Edwards 2014, p383). The vast majority of middle class African Americans are bi-dialectal in AAVE and in standart American English (StAmE) and AAVE in appropriate social context through a mechanism, scholars have characterized this as a style-shifting. The grammar and phonology of AAVE are affected by the rural dialects of the southern United States (McWhorter 2001, p.179). Since its inception, AAVE cannot be separated with the momentum happened in early 17th century. The movie "The Help" represents the same setting with explanation above, therefore, it is chosen as data in this reseach

This movie is based on a novel with the same title written by Katherine Stockett published in 2009. She was born in 1969 and grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, the same place was her novel's setting. She graduated from University of Alabama with degree in English and Creative Writing. She then worked in a magazine publishing and marketing for nine years. This is her first novel. She wrote this novel based on her own experience. She was raised in the place where most of the family around had black maids to help them cooking, cleaning and taking care of the white children. She did a research to find out the time period and social situation of the era by reading old phone books in Eudora Welty Library, Jackson. She found that in the back section of the phone

books captured many things about the mundane life at a certain period of time, which turned to be interesting fifty years later. Also, she had The fancy department stores, The abundance of printing shops, and the fact that there were no female doctors or dentists to help her visualize the time and she did interview black maids and white people to gather information she needs to compose her novel.

The story has three main characters. They are Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, Aibileen Clark, and Minny. Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan with different characteristics. In order to find out the non-standard English produced by the characters, the researcher will use the features in AAVE which have been varied among phonological, lexical, grammatical, and other linguistic aspects. The certain features AAVE was strongly prominent were listed as follows (Charity, 2008):

1. Alternation "-ing changes into "-in"
Example: Singing becomes singin
2. Grammatical variation: Multiple negation
Example: I didn't see anything as I didn't see nothing
3. Copula deletion
Example: Are you coming? As you coming ?

Anna Harper Charity in her journal African American English: An Overview listed 7 features of AAVE. Those are Lexical Variation, Phonological Variation, Vowel Variation, Grammatical Variation, Prosodic Variation and Pragmatic Variation. Instead using the theory from Anna's, the researcher uses Green's theory as the main theory to examine the uttarances produced by the characters in "The Help" movie. The researcher will also

use social factors, dimensions and explanations theory, and language variation theory proposed by Holmes as supporting theories. This research will take Aibileen and her friends utterances as the data which will be classified based on the theory stated above and then collaborate them with the elements of fiction (character, plot, setting, theme and style) (Blum, 2013) in order to find out the effect of the use of AAVE in the movie. Based on the research question above, there are two problems formulated. Those are 1. What are features of AAVE applied by Black Maids in "The Help" movie? And 2. How are features of AAVE applied by Black Maids in "The Help" Movie?

There are two previous studies about African American Vernacular Language (AAVE) which are used by the researcher as references. First, the study about the use of AAVE in the movie conducted by Galuhmustika entitled "AAVE Use by White American in "Miles" movie. Galuh's study analyzed the utterances of white people who were affected by black people culture. The second one is a study conducted by Madeleine Magnusson in 2008 entitled "Not Perfect Grammar, Always Perfect Timing: African American Vernacular English in Black and White Rap Lyrics". This study presented several different features of AAVE used by white and black rappers in Rap lyrics. In addition, this study used "The Help" Movie (2011) as the data to analyze the use of AAVE by applying theories of AAVE. Furthermore, this study focuses on AAVE features used by maids in the movie "The Help" which then analyses the way the AAVE features used by maids.

METHOD

This research used the descriptive qualitative method and the object of the study in this research are utterances produced by four Maids. The black maids live in the Jackson, Mississippi. Their names are Aibileen Clark, Minny Jackson, Yule Mae and Constantine Bates. Those four of them are chosen because the four of them play active role in the movie. Their role in the movie have more than 5 interaction with others which associated with communication or producing more than 5 sentences. Since they have enough interaction with others, their utterances can be used as data to represent the blacks.

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In documenting the data of the study, the research instrument used in collecting the data is the researcher himself. The researcher will be the participant who collects and analyses the data which is in utterances form. Since the source of data is a movie, the Researcher will be an active spectator who pays attention on every

utterances produced by the main characters, then collects them by transcribing those utterances into written form. The researcher then analyzes and classifies them based on AAVE features theory.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This section provides the answers of all questions and it contains two part which are finding and discussion.

FINDING

The AAVE features uttered by black maids in the movie "The Help" are classified and categorized into sub-heading. The classification and categorization of data will undergo based on the research question number 1 in chapter 1. The data which have been classified will be analyzed further to find out the explanation needed based on theory of AAVE by considering many variable such as the speaker and addressee in order to answer the question number 2 in introduction section.

1. AAVE Features in Phonology

There are several features of phonology occurred in maids' utterances. it is classified and listed below:

A. Alternation

There are two kind of alternations in AAVE features in phonology which can be found in the collected data. Those are ask/aks alternation and ing/in alternation. The classified data for both types can be seen below.

Aibileen: Alton used to always be aksing /æksɪŋ/ me
how come i was black. Just ate him up.
And one time i told him it was because i
drank too much coffee.

Skeeter: (smiling)

In the data above Aibileen told her past to Skeeter about whites children she have raised. She alternates asking into aksing by reversing of the order of two sounds /k/ and /s/. The phenomenon of reversing of the order of two sounds also called as Metathesis. According to Pollock et al, metathesis which mostly occurs in AAVE is metathesis of final /s/ + stop clusters.

The other data shows the use of this alternation performed by Aibileen can be seen below:

Skeeter: I'd like to do a book of interviews about
working for white families and we could
show what it's like to work for, say,
Elizabeth?

Aibileen: You know what Miss Leefolt do to me if
she knows I was tellin' /telɪn/ stories on her?

The conversation above indicates that Aibileen alternates telling into tellin' while she is talking to Skeeter

Though the Ask/aks alternation is one of AAVE features but still not all maids or black people use it. Yule Mae, one of several maids in the story, does not alternate ask into aks. It can be seen below:

Yule: Miss Hilly, I would like to ask / æsk/ you and Mr. William something. My twin boys graduated from high school both on the honor roll

Miss Hilly: (Smirking)

Even though Yule is black and also works as maid, she does not this feature to talk to people. When Yule Mae talks to her employers, she uses ask instead of aks. Both alternations are found in the maids utterances.

All of the maids perform this feature when communicating to others whether they are blacks or whites. They constantly alternate -ing into -in and ask into aks whenever the associated words which end with -ing and the word ask whether it is as gerund, or past tense form. However, one of the maids, Yule Mae, does not apply this feature in her utterances.

B. Deletion

The features of AAVE in phonological usually deletes the sound of /r/ and /l/ or can be said as liquid class of sound in manner of articulation. When these sounds of /r/ and /l/ follow vowels within words, they are not obligatory produced as liquids; they can be pronounced as an unstressed vowel (schwa /ə/ or uh sound) if any sound produced at all (Green, 2002, p. 120). The deletion of /l/ and /r/ are found in several black maids' utterances and lesser than alternation features. Their use of this feature is not limited to only several people, they tend to use this features to all people. The deletion of /r/ sound can be seen below:

Aibileen: I was bon /bɔ:n/ 1911, Chickasaw Country, Piedmont Plantation

Skeeter: and did you know, as a girl growing up that one day you'd be a maid?

The conversation above takes place in Aibileen's house while she is being interviewed by Skeeter about her biography. Aibileen deletes /r/ sound in the word born above. Since Skeeter does not answer with the same features, for instance the word girl she may pronounces it as /gɜ:l/ but she does not, it can be inferred that both of them keep using their own style in order to show who they really are

C. Single final consonant reduction

The deletion or reduction of final words is not only occurs among liquids consonants. There are also several sounds in the end of the words which are deleted. Instead of happening in certain place or manner of articulation, this final consonant reduction occurs randomly in AAVE features. Craig et al. (2003) stated that the final consonant reduction features as Post-vocalic consonant reduction which means that the consonant reduction follow vowel preceding it. The following example describes the use of single final consonant reduction:

Minny: said I stole candelabra but I got her back.

Aibileen: what you did /diə/?

Aibileen deletes the final consonant /d/ which is preceded by the vowel /ə/. The conversation above occurs via telephone, when Minny is fired by her

employer. She talks about something awful she already did to her ex-employer. The next data is a conversation among Aibileen and white people, Skeeter. the next example of single final consonant reduction does not occur in Yule's utterances below:

Yule: Would you consider giving us a loan? I'd work every day for free till it /it/ was paid off.

Hilly: That's not working for free. That's paying off a debt.

Yule in her utterances does not delete final consonant sound of it into /i/ like other maids do. There is no AAVE feature regarding this post-vocalic consonant absence uttered by Minny or other maids besides Aibileen. Thus it is safe to say that single final consonant absence applies to whoever the hearers whether black or white. However there is one maid that does not apply this feature in her utterances, Yule mae. Even though she is black and her society is dominated by Blacks. She does not apply this feature in her conversation.

D. Final consonant reduction in cluster

This part will show the data which has final consonant reduction especially in cluster. Final consonant reduction in cluster occurs when one consonant (or more) in a sequence of adjacent consonant is elided or dropped for example the phrase best boy turn into bes' boy and first time turn into first time (Nordquist, 2015). Black maids in this movie often delete final sound /d/ after /n/ sound. The following data will show the use of final consonant reduction in cluster.

Aibileen: The world done gone crazy, Miss Skeeter, and I'm scared. What if people find /fain/ out what we writing, figure out Niceville really Jackson.

Minny: Maybe we need us some insurance

Skeeter: (nod her head)

The conversation above occurs between Aibileen, Minny and Skeeter. They are discussing about their fear of the truth about the book they write. Here, Aibileen delete the final consonant /d/ in the word find /faind/ which then turn into /fain/.

E. Monophthong

Monophthongization is a process of simplification of diphthong. Monophthongization takes place with words like side (sad) and time (tam), whereas words with short /e/ before nasals are pronounced similarity to /i/, so that ben and bin sound identically, as in southern white dialects (Tottie 2002:220). The following data shows the use of Monophthongization below:

(Monolog)

Aibileen: I'm [am] right here baby girl.

This utterance above occur when Aibileen responses Mae's utterances, when she is scared about the storm. The other It can be seen below:

Minny: I got some business to tend to, so y'all just mind your own.

Yule: alright, then. Well. Bye /ba/!

Minny: Bye! /ba/

This conversation happens when Minny fails sneaking to avoid her friends, Aibileen and Yule. After Yule and Aibileen ask several question to Minny. Minny move away from them in hurry. The word which is monophthongized is bye. Yuli simplifies the word bye which should be pronounced as /bai/ instead of /ba/. Then, Minny also replies her with the same dialect as Yule by saying bye /ba/.

F. Initial /th/ changing as /d/ or /t/

The replacing process of /th/ in AAVE involves the manner of articulation aspect since there are two different kinds of the interdental fricatives. The /th/ is voiced in then /ðen/ and is voiceless in the word thin /θin/. Voicing is the only difference among them, in which AAVE changes into the same category of alveolar sounds of /d/ and /t/. Cutler (1999, p.432) has different term for initial /th/ changing to describe one of the AAVE features used by her subject of study, that is /th/ stopping. Since the fricative sounds of /ð/ and /θ/ are modified into stop sounds of .d. and /t/. The rule of stopping consistently follows the features stopping with /ð/ changed as /d/ and /θ/ changed as /t/ for they have the same voicing.

Minny: I done something terrible awful to that /dæt/ woman and now she know what I done.

Aibileen: Minny

Minny: She got what she deserved, Aibileen

Minny replaces the voiced interdental /ð/ with /d/ in the word that which should be pronounced as /ðæt/ instead of /dæt/.

G. Reduction of first syllable

The reduction of first syllable in AAVE is one of the older features of AAVE which means in nowadays rarely found in conversation, even if it is found in conversation the words is not as variant as it used to be. Vaughn-Cooke (1986) mentioned that deletion of both unstressed vowels in initial syllable as in 'nough for enough and entire syllable as in 'spect for expect is old feature in AAVE.

In this movie, Black Maids only reduce the first syllable of certain word. Those are remember into 'member, about into 'bout and because turn into 'cause. There is no other words besides that. It is indicating that Black Maids rarely use this features. The following data below shows the application of reduction data of first syllable feature.

Mae Mobley : No!

Aibileen :baby, baby. I need you to 'member ['membə] everything I told you, ok? You 'member ['membə] what I told you?

This conversation is among Black Maid and her white baby girl. Aibileen says good bye to Mae. She reminds her what she already told to her. In her utterances Aibileen deletes the first syllable of remember which then she pronounces as /'membə/. From the data, it can

be concluded that Black maids in this movie only deleting the first syllable if the stressing of that words is located after the first syllable.

2. AAVE Features in Grammar

The AAVE features in grammar found in Black Maids' utterances is more than their use of AAVE features in phonology. However, the data quantity indicates the use of the AAVE features in grammar is lesser than features in phonology. The collected data involves both participants Blacks and Whites. From 17 AAVE features in Grammar, there are 10 grammatical features that can be found in Black Maid's Utterances in this movie. They are (1) the absence of copula, (2) the absence of Auxiliary. (3) Subject-Verb non-agreement, (4) unmarked third person singular verb, (5) Existential dem, (6) multiple negation, (7) the use Auxiliary "ain't", (8) Unmarked Possessive (9) Inversion of subject and auxiliary in question and also (10) completive "done".

A. Absence of copula

The absence of the copula in AAVE grammatical features is also called as zero copula. The process of deletion involves deleting the needed copula be in a sentence. For instance, She is student becomes She a student in AAVE. The copula is in that sentences is deleted as grammatical feature of AAVE, however Rickford and Ricford (2000, p. 114-115) stated that the Absence of copula limited only for is and are. Others copula such as was and were, and Infinitive be like to, can, may, shall, should, would, and will cannot be eliminated in AAVE.

All black Maids in this movie utters with copula deletion as one of his AAVE grammatical features to both Blacks and Whites. The example of the use of the absence of copula features are described below (the bold characters inside the bracket are not originally presented in Black Maids' utterances):

(Monolog)

Aibileen: once Miss walters arteries went hard, Miss Hilly moved into her house and fired the maid to make room for Minny too. See, Minny [is] about the best cook in Mississippi and Miss Hilly wanted her.

From the monolog performed by Aibileen to the audiences she eliminates the copula is which should be exist after the subject Minny and before noun about best cook

B. Absence of auxiliary verb

This feature is almost similar with the absence of copula which deletes be. The difference is the copula deletion deletes be functioned as verb while this feature deletes be which functioned as Auxiliary. For instance, She is baking a cake becomes She bakin' a cake. Is in that sentenced has a function to connect subject and

verb+ing. As we already know be is required to connect between the subject and verb+ing. The collected data about the use of this feature found more than copula deletion. The following data below expose the use of this feature in Black Maids utterances.

(Monolog)

Aibileen: I do all the cookin', cleanin', washin', ironin' and grocery shoppin'. But mostly I take care baby girl. And lord, I worry she [is] gonna be fat.

This conversation is monolog by Aibileen when she is asked by Skeeter to tell her speciality and her past. Aibileen simply ignore the necessary be in her sentences by deleting is in the last sentences.

From all the data above, it safe to say that the absence of auxiliary feature occurs among Blacks and Whites. Black people do not pay attention on their interlocutor's social states

C. Subject-verb non agreement

Subject-verb non-agreement is one of the several features of AAVE in Grammar which happens when there is no agreement between the subject of the sentences and the verb following it. This features mostly occur when the verb are copula be or other auxiliary verbs. In Standard American English (SAE) mentions that the plural form of be such as are and were are only available if the subject of the sentences are you, they and we, while for the singular be like is and was will be available if the subject of the sentence are he, she, it and other singular object, and also there is special case for the use singular copula be. That is am. This copula is only available for the singular object I. the same rules applies to the use of have, has and had. However, AAVE features mixes up the use of those agreement above by using it opposite ways. For instance, AAVE user will say you was my first love instead of you were my first love. That example indicates that the subject-verb agreement is being violated. It can be seen from the use of copula was even though the subject is you which should use were instead.

In this movie, the Black Maids use this feature to everybody they talk to regardless their social status or races. These following data below will show the use of subject-verb non-agreement features in AAVE.

Aibileen: You is [are] kind, you is [are] smart, you is [are] important.

Mae: You is kind, you is smart, you is important.

This utterance is among Black Maids and her white baby girl. She tries to invest a belief to make white baby girl be confident and valuable. Considering her condition with her real mother that is not close Aibileen pumps white baby's self-confident. There are three sentences in that utterances which repeated two times. Each sentences share the same formula that is Subject + copula + subject compliment. This utterance above clearly contains Subject-verb non-agreement since the copula used is is while the subject is you. As already stated above that the subject you must be paired up with copula are for the present tense or were for the past tense.

D. Unmarked third person singular verb

The use of the third person singular verb+s or +es is applied specifically in present time. The subjects than can be classified as third person singular are He, She, it and any other single object that refers the position of a subject in a sentence. However, AAVE speakers do not follow this rule when they produce and utter sentence which there is third person singular as the subject. In fact, they simply just delete the verb marker -s or -es when utter those sentences. For instance, the sentence He parks his car in front of the door will be uttered as He park his car in front of the door.

This feature is common grammatical feature in AAVE. It is proven to be innumerable feature to Black Maids. The following data will expose the use of the unmarked third person singular verb feature.

Skeeter: do you think you'd be willing to help me with those Miss Myrna letters?

Aibileen: Miss Myrna get[s] it wrong a lot of times. Be good to get it right.

This conversation occur among Skeeter and Aibileen. When Skeeter is asking her for writing Miss Myrna letters to Aibileen. Then Aibileen responses by saying that utterance which there is unmarked third person singular verb in it. Aibileen deletes -s in the word get. It supposed to be gets instead of get because the subject of the sentence is Miss Myrna which is notably refers as single object.

E. Existential dem

The word dem in this feature represents the use of them in AAVE grammatical feature. The use of the word them in AAVE is different with SAE. The word them in AAVE can be used to replace the name of the subject or others related with that person and the object following dem in the sentence. The common use of dem in SAE indicates that it is a pronoun with an object role to signify plurality of third person. The first distinct use that substitute the name of a subject and other associated with that person can be seen in the example of Merry and Her Friends as Merry and them. The other use of dem shows substitution of those with dem in their sentences. Thus, the sentence I found those dogs is as I found them dogs in AAVE.

In this movie, the use of this feature by Black maids is not many as the other feature or it can be said that this feature is the rarest feature appears in the movie. The following data shows the use of this feature.

(Monolog)

Aibileen: Looking after white babies, that's what I do. I know how to get them babies to sleep, stop crying and go to the toilet bowl.

This utterance is Aibileen's monolog. Aibileen uses them to substitute the supposedly those babies in her sentence. The babies in her sentences refers to white baby of her employer who should be taken care by Aibileen. Based on the story, it seems that Aibileen really loves all white babies she ever taken care. She may uses this

grammatical feature of AAVE to reflect her positivity towards the ones she dear. However this features might not always reflect positivity. Like the example below:

Skeeter: Mama was third runner-up in the miss south Carolina pageant

Constantine: I wish you'd quit feeling sorry for yourself. Now, that's ugly. Ugly is something that goes up inside you.

It's mean and hurtful, like the m boys

This conversation occurs among black and white in the garden. The black maid, Constantine, convinces her to belief on herself, to belief that she will do something big in the future. She may be not someone that day, but in the future she will be someone great. Constantine use them to replace the word those boys. The boys here refers to several boy who are insulting Skeeter for not being asked to dance. Different with Aibileen who use them to reflect positivity, Constantine use them to negativity towards people who insult her white girl.

F. Multiple negations

Multiple negation is one of the AAVE's syntactic properties (Green, 2002, p. 77). Multiple negators such as don't, no and nothing which can be used in a single negative sentence are marked on auxiliaries (e.g., don't) and indefinite nouns like anybody (nobody) and anything (nothing). The use of multiple negation in AAVE is not wrong since AAVE is a negative-concord language means that in AAVE the clause has to be marked as negative by its auxiliary verb by using ain't and all words like somebody must be replaced by negative forms like nobody (Pullum, 1999, p. 49-50)

Black Maids use this features to all their interlocutors' regardless race or social status. In fact, there are many data found in this movie that shows the use of multiple negation feature, indicating that black maids often use this feature in their daily conversation. For instance:

Aibileen: I lost my own boy, Treelore, four years ago. After that, I just didn't want to live no more. It took God and Minny to get me through it.

This utterance is a monolog performed by Aibileen in the beginning of the movie. She's telling the audiences about her very miserable moment. In that utterances, Aibileen using two negators in one sentence I just didn't want to live no more which obviously exposes the grammatical feature of multiple negation. Meanwhile, the SAE form for that sentences can be I don't want to live anymore as negative marker don't has signified the sentence as a negative one.

G. The use of "ain't"

The most popular feature in AAVE that distincts it from general SAE is the use of Ain't as auxiliary or verb. The presence of Ain't in the sentence by substituting the auxiliary verb or copula be is the reason the use of Ain't classified as one of the grammatical features in AAVE. The auxiliary verbs which server as helping verbs usually indicate the sentence's tense from the use of do, have, be,

will, can, should and other modal forms. While copula be serves as linking verb which joins the subject to a subject complement. The copula be consist of is, am, are, was, and were. The black people who substitutes the auxiliary or copula with Ain't is to make a negative sentence. Therefore, instead of uttering a sentence like I have not finished my reading yet, they will utter it as I ain't finished my reading yet.

All black maids use this feature in many occasions to both Black and White interlocutors. The data which indicated as Ain't feature is as many as the alternation of ing/in. this following data below exposes the use Ain't in Aibileen's utterance.

(Monolog)

Aibileen: And lord, I worry she gonna be fat. Ain't going to be no beauty queen either.

Aibileen is doing monolog telling story about her daily life as maids. In the conversation above Aibileen clearly perform the use of Ain't feature by replacing the auxiliary be with Ain't. Auxiliary be which is supposed to be is since the subject is She which refers to Mae Mobley are substituted with ain't.

H. Unmarked possessive

The possessive form is used to refereeing to people, groups of people, animal, country and other things. It shows a relationship of belonging between one thing and another. To form the possessive, add apostrophe +s to the associated noun. If the noun is plural, or already ends with -s just adds Apostrophe after s for example john's car, Girl's room, and sailor's boat. However there is special form for I, You, They, We, He, She and It. Those personal pronouns have three forms of change which can be categorized as Possessive adjective, possessive pronouns, and reflexive pronouns. In this movie, the data found indicated as unmarked possessive are lesser than the use auxiliary ain't but are more than existential dem. The data below present that applies unmarked possessive in black maids' utterances:

(Monolog)

Aibileen: I loved that baby and he loved me. That's when I learned I could make children feel proud of theyself

This conversation above is Aibileen monolog. In that utterance Aibileen use theyself to refer the reflexive pronouns form of the babies instead of themselves. It is clearly classified as unmarked possessive form since Aibileen ignore the rule of SAE and us her own dialect instead. The data above show that the personal pronouns they which refers to White People is not substituted into the correct form based on AAVE. They might use this to emphasize that they are different whit the white people.

I. Inversion of subject and auxiliary in question

The inversion mentioned in this AAVE grammatical feature occurs in interrogative sentences. As it is known

by English speakers, the subject and auxiliary position in a positive sentence must be reversed to a form an interrogative sentence. In AAVE's grammar, the inversion is not obligated and so the users can be put the subject and auxiliary of an interrogative sentence unorderedly with SAE form. For instance, the sentence is she coming to the party? Can become He is coming to the party? Or even he coming to the party? The only thing that indicates it as an interrogative sentence is the question mark at the end of the sentence while the addressee will probably obtain the message by the speakers' tone to signify the interrogative sentence.

This feature is like general feature used among Black and White Americans, The Black maids in this movie use the feature several times in their utterances. This following data show the feature used Aibileen.

Skeeter: yeah, I just want to talk to you.

Aibileen: you got some more Miss Myrna questions for me?

Aibileen does not inverse the subject and auxiliary verb in her utterances, specifically, she does not change that sentences into interrogative for by not adding auxiliary do in her beginning of sentence. The appropriate based on SAE is Do you have some more Miss Myrna question for me? Based on the data above this feature is performed by Black people to every interlocutor they face regardless race and social factor.

J. Completive *done*

In AAVE, done occurs only in preverbal auxiliary position with past tense form whereas it occurs with bare verb stem (e.g. They done go) and can occur in clause-final position in some creoles (Holm 1988: 162). In many respects, it functions in AAVE like a perfect, referring to an action completed in the recent past, but it can also be used to highlight the change of state or to intensify an activity, as in a sentence like I done told you not to mess up. In this movie, The Maids perform this feature quite often in their conversation. The following data expose the use of completive done in the conversation of Maids.

(Monolog)

Aibileen: The birthing blues got hold of Miss Leefolt pretty hard. I done seen it happen plenty times.

The data above expose the use of done by Aibileen in her monolog. In her sentence, she used the word done is used to emphasize her experience associated with birthing blues phenomenon.

3. AAVE Features in Lexical

Lexical features in AAVE can be categorized into three classes. According to Green (2002, p. 32) AAVE lexical features can be classified as general words and phrase, verbal marker *be*, and current slangs. The data found in this study expose that Black Maids only utter two class of lexical features in AAVE. Those are (1) Verbal Marker *be* and (2) Current slangs.

A. Verbal Marker *be*

The verbal marker of *be* often refers to unique meaning that indicates the recurrence of an eventuality (Green, 2002, p. 25). The Black maids rarely or almost never use this lexicon to indicate their expression of eventuality in a situation. The only data found indicated as verbal marker *be* is produced by Minny toward her new employer

Minny: don't be taking to those women anymore pies. You understand?

Celia: (Nod her head)

Minny can say don't take to those women anymore pies in her utterance. However, she still using *be* + *Ving* to emphasize his warning to her employer, Miss Celia, and to indicate that she is very offended with Miss Celia's act by sending pies to her friends. Minny does this because she loves her, she does not want her employer being abused. She also does not use it to mark a recurrence of an eventuality, which indicates that verbal marker *be* is especially used by Minny to show her annoyance associated with her friend which only happen once in the movie.

B. Current slang

In this movie, Black Maids sometime uses slangs in their conversation with their interlocutors. It means that slangs can be found in their conversations with their interlocutors. This following data show the use of slangs language in conversation

Aibileen: you drunk up two glasses of grape juice. I know you got to tee-tee.

Mae : No!

The utterance above happens in conversation among Aibileen and Mae Mobley. Aibileen uses the word tee-tee to refers urinate. She uses this slang regarding her interlocutor. Since the interlocutor is a kid. She uses it to make her understand and interested to remember it because the word tee-tee is easy to remember. The next data expose another slangs language produced by Minny.

Minny: and one last thing. Come here! No sass-mouthing! I mean it

This utterance occurs when Minny Jackson advises her daughter before she go to her first job. She said no sass-mouthing which refers to behavior or talk that is rude and lacking respect, especially act like knows everything.

3. The way of AAVE used by Maids

Based on the data results of AAVE features found in maids' utterances. It obviously states that AAVE features in both phonology, grammar and lexical applied in almost all of maid's utterances. Specifically, 3 of 4 maids apply the rule of AAVE in all their utterances continuously and constantly. However the rest of the maid does not apply AAVE's rule in her certain utterances. The description of application of AAVE features in each subject of the study will be exposed in this part.

The three of maid characters performs AAVE in her communication towards black and whites. However, the last subject of the data does not merely apply all of the rule of AAVE in her utterances. The character's name is Yule Mae. In the novel of this movie Yule is told as college educated-woman. She's also Hilly's Maid. She has twin sons who are graduated in good score. She intends to send them all to the college but she lacks of money which then led her asking to her employer for loan. In her first appearances in the movie, she is asking for loan. When she talks to her employer, she does not apply the AAVE features in her utterances. In one of the collected data produced by subject of the study, it clearly can be seen that she pronounces it as /it/ which follows the rule of SAE instead pronounces it as /i/, she does not perform monophthong and all other features in her conversation. However, Yule Mae as black maids does not really forget about her own identity and culture. She still uses AAVE features when she talks to Blacks. This study finds that Yule Mae performs monophthong (data 31). She does not pronounces the word bye as /bai/ instead /ba/.

In brief, from four maids characters in this movie. There are three maids who apply the rule of AAVE in every possible way or in other words, they apply AAVE's rule whenever they are communicating with their interlocutor which means they do not differentiate the way they speaks based on the interlocutor. However, one of the four maids named Yule Mae only apply the AAVE features when she talks to Blacks. Meanwhile, she switches the way she speaks with SAE when she talks to whites.

CONCLUSION

AAVE is a vernacular language which is originally performed by Black people. This vernacular used to be considered as ungrammatical English since its features are diverged from Standard American English. However, the discrimination abolishment and right equality have made it possible for AAVE as Black vernacular language to not be despised. In the early 19th century before the Civil Right blown up, Black people are still considered inferior than Whites. They are threatening as slaves and even as an animal. This phenomenon cannot be separated with the African Mass migration which brought by Europeans. Then the Europeans sell them to the whites American. The whites who bought them feel that the blacks are their own, so they could do anything to them. As the time goes by, an aspiration to treat people equally regardless their ethnicity appears. This event is also called as Civil Right. As Maids who work for the Whites in the Jackson, Mississippi which already known as place where the center of the movement of Civil Rights, all of the Blacks especially the maids are expected to have AAVE features performed in their utterances. The three answers from research questions in this study have given evidence of the maids' situation.

The first research question discusses about the AAVE features used by maids in The Help movie. Even though there are many consonant and vowel variations described

by Green (2002), the maids in the movie only perform eight of all AAVE features in phonology. Those are Ing/in alternation, ask/aks alternation, /r/ and /l/ deletion, single final consonant reduction, final consonant reduction in cluster, monophthong, initial /th/ changing as /d/ or /t/ and reduction of first syllable. For the grammatical features of AAVE, the maids show more features with the total ten features which all of them being spoken generally. Those features are absence of copula, absence of auxiliary verb, subject-verb non-agreement, unmarked third person singular verb, existential dem, multiple negations, the use of "ain't", unmarked possession, inversion of subject and auxiliary in question and completive "done". Meanwhile from the three categories of AAVE lexicons described by Greens (2002), the maids only use slangs and verbal marker be as their AAVE feature of lexical feature.

The language of the Blacks used in this movie surely can be classified as AAVE since the features of AAVE are found in the utterances of maids. Almost all maids apply the rule of AAVE in their utterances when they are talking to their interlocutors. They constantly use AAVE by ignoring the language variation, social factors and social dimensions. However, this study find that somehow education has effect on the way the language used in certain society. It can be seen from Yule Mae utterances. She differentiates the language she used based on the language variation, social factors and social dimensions. She follows the rule of SAE when she communicates with the Whites and follows the rule of AAVE when she communicates with blacks

All in all, AAVE at that time considerate as non-standard language and seen as low-class language since this vernacular mostly used by Blacks who notably from low-class. The features of AAVE includes phonological features, grammatical features, lexical features are being used by all maids in the movie The Help. Almost all of the features occurs in maids' utterances and almost all maids perform this language. However, this study finds that education can change the way people use the language. It can be seen through Yule Mae's way of speaking.

SUGGESTION

Regarding to the results of the study, the researcher formulated suggestion dealing with this study. It is suggested that it can be relevant study concerning with language. The researcher is hoping that this study can inspire others researchers to do research related to the AAVE and also to do researcher that has the same position of AAVE considering its struggling to be recognized as part of English has shown great results. The AAVE features described by Green's (2002) shown in this study helps to describe AAVE's distinction from other dialect or other Standard English.

Hopefully, this study can be helpful to the readers in the matter of language and society especially vernacular language. Enriching the reader about AAVE features used by Black maid before the Civil Right blown up is also one of the intentions of the study. Regarding to

AAVE issue, the researcher is hoping that the following study associated with AAVE will combine the language variation (sociolinguistics) and discourse analysis to find out the effect of the use of AAVE towards the story.

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