

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter shows the explanation about; background of study, research question, objective of research, significances of research, scope and limitation, and definition key terms.

A. Background of Study

Language is used to make important communication among human (Nurhayati, 2016 C). Communication is the key function of function (Nurhayati, 2018). Communication is needed to shared knowledge and assumption between the speaker and hearer (Nurhayati, 2016 A). The communication in each language in the world has different roles (Nurhayati, 2016 D). It often used by people to interact with one and another, also it can indicate their social status, gender, age, and ethnicity (Holmes, 2013). Language is basically built up from different dialects, as linguistic varieties which can be determined by their grammar, vocabulary, and, pronunciation (Holmes, 2013). However, there must be a kind of language which can be understand by group of society (Nurhayati, 2016 B). Usually, people which are from different social and regional differ in this point, it does not use to differentiate the groups, the other is to consolidate a group. The term of dialect is basically used by people accord their geographically pointed by speech community side, while the term of sociolect is language variation that used by people with different socially.

In particular, there are English varieties which related by ethnic groups, for instance; Irish English, Jewish English, German English, Italian English, Vietnamese English, Puerto Rican English, American Indian English, Chicano English, and African American English or African American Vernacular English (abbreviation: AAVE) (Stewart 2001). In fact, AAVE is popular among the sociolinguists, since that the writer wants to take a part in discussion by using English varieties.

In fact, the actual origin of AAVE is still debated among linguists, they separated into two camps. The first camp assists the dialect hypothesis, which stated that the origin of AAVE is from African slaved, which had to contact in speaking with indenture servants, then they are learning their dialect in an effort to communicate with the servant also other (Rickford, 2000).

Therefore, the Creole hypothesis assists that AAVE came from mixed of various West African language and English to generate a new means in order to communicate. Creolist believes that creole roots in AAVE is adapt from language of colonial America (Green, 2002). The region with slave plantations in West Africa has hundreds of unique languages and cultures since they had been forced by the European slave owners onto shared plantation. In general, Creoles are not incomprehensible to any language they take from.

However, the older of AAVE came since the enslavement in southern plantation by African American, regardless which the hypothesis that believes is more convincing. The AAVE was created by Africans and Europeans in South at 19th

(Green, 2002). Black people movement's take spread on development of AAVE. Especially in the early century 20th when millions of Black people from Jim Crow and KK moved to all the corner of the country to look for the better life. Then, AAVE spread across the America each region and there emerged the American English dialect.

AAVE is one of kind of sociolect which uses by lower socio-economic especially in Northern America (Holmes, 2013). AAVE as a social dialect includes distinctive phonological and grammatical features in comparison to American English (Ezgeta, 2012). AAVE has some characteristics that differentiate from the other English dialect. For instance, these are negator *ain't*, negative inversion, and copula/ auxiliary absence. Next, that features could be media to show others about cultural distinctiveness and their symbol ethnicity.

In actual fact, despite AAVE used by white and other colored people to communicate for casual speech, AAVE has been rejected for used in professional setting. Since, white people and black people have different historical and social background generate bad stigma and bias of AAVE (Green, 2002). AAVE is defined as inappropriate thing. It is same as with 'non-fluent, unintelligible, incoherent, and illogical speech' (Green, 2002). From that point, AAVE have to adapt their language with the American English to reach the success (Green, 2002).

Nevertheless, AAVE is more popular since of civil rights equality that adapt by America give the occasion to African Americans takes the action in every life point with equally (Galuh, 2014). AAVE still has the attention since the sociolect uses in

different circumstance, for instance, in TV shows, movies, music lyrics and in other point where African Americans success notwithstanding using AAVE. That is one of the results of mixed class of social identity also since of the civil rights equality takes a part. In the certain area, AAVE still considered to be a language inferior compared with American English because of the living condition. However, AAVE is usually used by White American in that living since part of Black American had located in the city.

There are many Black Americans that have distinctive characteristic the way when they have conversation since using AAVE. The distinctive are about their grammatical, pronunciation, and vocabulary which can make any confuse. In some case, when AAVE users and American users or other sociolect users communicate, they are facing the problems about understanding. This is very important especially for language users and foreigner. Beside AAVE can apply in informal situation, nowadays it sometimes applies in formal situation like; public speaking, business course, workplace, and work field even though it is not approved.

The forward thinking resolution to study about grammatical of AAVE is as a way translating native tongue into American English use which used in formal situation. Make it simply, when distinctive English varieties communicate, usually they are facing the problems about understanding. Studying other English varieties is needed to minimize the problems. In conclusion, studying about AAVE is needed when people usually have conversation with language user/ foreigner especially AAVE user. It is important to understand about the other's talk to avoid miscommunication.

That topic actually supported in journal entitled “AAVE Used by White American in 8 Movie” by Galuh and Damanhuri (2013) which talked about the actor, Jimmy, a white boy that uses AAVE when speak English. They examined some AAVE phonological and lexicon features at there. In the under title “The Use of Ain’t John Steinbeck’s of Mice and Men Novel” created by Khoirund and Widyastuti (2013). There, they talked about the AAVE features using negation ain’t which is popular among African American English. Nur Arifin (2017) with his thesis “Grammatical Analysis of African American Vernacular English in Straight Outta Compton Movie” explained about the grammatical feature of AAVE based theories of Walt Wolfram and Howe, which is not tolerated by American English form. Devi Indah, M. Bahri Arifin, Ririn Setyowati (2018) at their journal “African American Vernacular English in Shrek Movie” focused about grammatical characteristic of AAVE that spoken by donkey, include the factors of it.

Basically, those all previous studies and this research have some similarities which are about the analysis of grammatical characteristic African American Vernacular English (AAVE). However, this research has differences from previous study related to target movie which is analyzed and also they do not use American English as comparison from AAVE form. In this research, the writer chose a “Just Mercy” movie. This is an American biographical legal movie that co-written and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton which is aired in 2019. The movie tells the unforgettable story about Walter McMillian or John D. (Jamie Foxx) who was helped by Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan), a young attorney

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B. Research Question

The writer wants to analyze the problems in this research which are about AAVE features that appear in the utterances from the movie that belong to the American English use. Hence, the writer proposes the research question as follow:

To what extent are the differences of grammatical features of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) that appear in Just Mercy movie from American English

form?

C. Objective of Research

To know the differences of grammatical features of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) that appear in Just Mercy movie from American English form.

D. Significances of Research

The significances of this research are as follows:

- a. Practically, this research can be the other way for others to study the AAVE especially about grammatical use. English teacher can apply it as material learning for the students that aim to enrich the knowledge about English varieties. Since, the studies about AAVE still rare, the writer hopes that the other researcher urge to do such analyze with the other English varieties, therefore it can be well discussed.
- b. Theoretically, the research can give useful for lecturers, teachers, students, readers, and all the academic participants through the movie to enlarge the knowledge about grammatical features in AAVE. It may be used as model for maybe other researcher to their analysis study of AAVE.

E. Objective of Research

To know the grammatical features of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) that appear in Just Mercy movie in American English form.

F. Significances of Research

The significances of this research are as follows:

- a. Practically, this research can be the other way for others to study the AAVE especially about grammatical use. English teacher can apply it as material learning for the students that aim to enrich the knowledge about English varieties. Since, the studies about AAVE still rare, the writer hopes that the other researcher urge to do such analyze with the other English varieties, therefore it can be well discussed.
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G. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is limited to the analysis of the movie script entitles "*Just Mercy*". While the limitation of the study is the utterances that spoken by all the characters which related to gramatical characteristic of African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

H. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of some words in this research, the writer gives some explanations or definitions as follows:

1. AAVE

African American English Vernacular (abbreviation: AAVE) is a social dialect that common uses in Northern America, once, it has bad stigma since used by the colored people that known as a low social economic. In other words, it has bad prejudice. AAVE has distinctive phonological and grammatical features in comparison to American English.

2. Sociolect

Sociolect is English varieties that used by social group. In this case sociolect refers to AAVE.

3. American English

The form of written and spoken English that mostly accepted by people. It spoken by mostly people in America and a variation of English that has been standardized.

4. Just Mercy Movie

Just Mercy movie is a 2019 American biographical legal drama that co-written and directed by Destin Daniel Cretton. The movie tells the story about Walter

McMillian who was helped by Bryan Stevenson, a young attorney for appeals his murder conviction.