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by Gg Gg

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Reflection on African American English Morphology

AAE is the basic English mostly spoken by the African Americans and those who are not native Americans. It has some similarities and differences in morphology and syntax with the Standard American English. With AAE, multiple negotiations are common, which serve to intensify a negotiation rather than neutralize it. Most of the negotiations are linked to negative concord for the polarity particles to agree with one another. For example, 'I ain't comin' for lunch.' Unlike the standard American English, AAE replaces the existential 'there' with 'it.' For example, 'It ain't any clothes in the wardrobe.' Thirdly, the AAE sentence does not apply the plural where necessary, especially marking the plurals when preceded by the numerals. For example, 'it there for several decades now.'

Also, AAE English does not mark the genitives with /s/ to indicate the category of the sentence. For instance, 'I carried my sister bag.' The words such as 'like' have a different meaning in AAE and Standard American English. Like in AAE imply almost in AAE while in Standard American English, it denotes some similarity. For instance, 'he lie died and he almost died.' It is only AAE that has the subject relative clauses, unlike Standard American English. Such structures are only limited to AAE English and most popular in London. Both Standard American English and the AAE have the same verb phrase mostly used by the Southerners in

United States. Lastly, the number of forms of verbs in AAE is reduced to Standard English.

Therefore, AAE is quite different from the Standard American English.

The morphological aspect of AAE is quite interesting. However, there are a few aspects which are quite confusing. Though the grammar is not that clear, one can easily grasp the content of what is spoken. What interests me most is the shortening of the sentences by omitting unnecessary words. For example, the use of ain't, which is not applicable in Standard American English, is quite clear and simple to understand. Another interesting part is how the AAE speakers intentionally fix some words within the sentences. To other English speakers, grasping the sentence's content might be quite challenging unless the translation is done. However, once one has a mastery of the words, speaking became simpler as one does not necessarily have to utter multiple words. Therefore, I find the omission of some unnecessary words in a sentence and some of the verbal syntax quite interesting.

Understanding AAE sentence structure might be quite confusing due to applying some words tag that got different meanings. Some of the confusing aspects include; habitual, iterative, intentional aspects and some of the stressors used to indicate the past. The habitual aspect often accompanies uninflected be functions as the starter. Here, instead of indicating the frequent action using appropriate verb, they decide to omit. Occasionally, habitual aspects are often demonstrated, always using others; thus, omitting them can result in misinterpretation. The iterative aspects of AAE that involve placing words in a wrong position of the sentence often mislead. Words that are meant to occur at the final position of the sentences are misused in this case; hence, an interpretation might be necessary. Also, the intentional aspects in the structure of the sentence are somehow grammatically incorrect. In this case, when the particle 'a precedes the verb form, the sentence will be grammatically incorrect. For instance, I'm drive to town

instead of 'am about to drive to town.' Other English speakers always perceive the inappropriate sentence structure of AAE given the above-discussed aspects.

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