AFRICAN AMERICAN VERNACULAR ENGLISH IN *SHREK* MOVIE

Devi Indah Anggreeni, M. Bahri Arifin, Ririn Setyowati

English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences
Mulawarman University
Pos-el: devindahang@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Language is influenced by social differences that appear in society, such as age, gender, religion, power, economic status, and ethnicity. Those social factors produce different kinds of language which is called as variety. Ethnicity as one of the social factors influences the emergence of variety that comes from African American people who lives in United States of America. The variety is called as African American Vernacular English (AAVE). AAVE is often used in literary works to represent African American ethnicity as occurred in *Shrek* movie through the character of Donkey. This research focused on analyzing the grammatical characteristics of Donkey's AAVE utterances and the factors underlying them through descriptive qualitative research. The result of this research showed that Donkey's AAVE utterances have three AAVE's grammatical features which are verb phrase, negation, and nominal and all four factors which consist of social class, gender, age, and linguistic environment underlying those grammatical characteristics. AAVE grammatical characteristics that appeared in Donkey's utterances are Copula/Auxiliary Absence, Invariant *be*, Subject-Verb-Agreement, Other Verb Phrase Structure, *ain't*, multiple negation, *ain't* with *but*, and second person plural *y'all*. Those grammatical characteristics are influenced by Donkey's working class status, his male gender, teenage age, and his mood when the utterances were taking place whether he was comfortable or not. AAVE grammatical characteristics indicate that Donkey's character represents African American ethnicity through his utterances and the factors underlying them show that Donkey's variety is influenced by the social factors that appear in society.

Keywords: Language, Sociolinguistics, Ethnicity, AAVE, *Shrek* Movie

ABSTRAK

Bahasa dipengaruhi oleh perbedaan sosial yang timbul di masyarakat, seperti umur, gender, agama, kekuasaan, status ekonomi, dan etnis. Faktor-faktor sosial tersebut menghasilkan berbagai tipe dari bahasa yang disebut dengan variasi. Etnis sebagai salah satu sosial faktor tersebut mempengaruhi kemunculan sebuah variasi yang berasal dari orang Afrika Amerika yang tinggal di Amerika. Variasi tersebut dinamakan bahasa Inggris Vernakular Afrika Amerika atau AAVE dalam istilah bahasa Inggris. AAVE sering digunakan di karya sastra untuk merepresentasikan etnis Afrika Amerika seperti yang terjadi di film Shrek melalui karakter Donkey. Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisa karakteristik gramatikal dari ujaran AAVE oleh Donkey dan faktor yang mempengaruhi melalui penelitian kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ujaran AAVE Donkey terdiri dari tiga fitur gramatikal, yaitu frasa kata kerja, negasi, dan nominal, dan keempat faktor yang mempengaruhinya, yaitu

kelas sosial, gender, umur, dan lingkungan linguistik. Karakteristik gramatikal yang muncul pada ujaran Donkey adalah Ketiadaan Copula/Auxiliary, Invariant be, Subjek-Predikat-Object, Frasa Kata Kerja yang Lain, ain't, negasi ganda, ain't dengan but, dan orang kedua jamak y'all. Karakteristik gramatikal tersebut dipengaruhi oleh kelas sosial Donkey yang adalah kelas bawah, gender laki-lakinya, umur remaja, dan suasana hatinya apakah dia merasa nyaman atau tidak ketika sedang berdialog. Karakteristik gramatikal AAVE dalam ujaran Donkey mengindikasikan bahwa karakter Donkey merepresentasikan etnis Afrika Amerika melalui ujarannya dan faktor yang mendasarinya menunjukkan bahwa variasi bahasa Donkey dipengaruhi oleh faktor sosial yang muncul dalam masyarakat.

Kata kunci*: Bahasa, Sosiolinguistik, Etnis, AAVE, Film Shrek*

A. INTRODUCTION

Society is made out of people with diversity background. The differences come in terms of age, gender, religion, power, economy, ethnicity, and others. Language as the essential part of life is also affected by those differences. As the result, language has many variations according to each user's region, gender, social class, ethnic, and so on. One of several factors that affects language is ethnicity. Therefore, language could vary from one ethnic group to another because every ethnic group has its own characteristics that make each language different. Language is also used to define characteristics of ethnic group membership through the different varieties of the same language (Trudgill, 2000). The example of variety that is affected by ethnic group is African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

African American Vernacular English (AAVE) is a variety of speech that is mostly spoken by the descendants of African slaves in the United States (Reyes, 2010). AAVE has its own characteristics that make it different from the Standard English. Grammatical deviation is one of the differences presented in AAVE characteristics. Since African American Vernacular English (AAVE) is used to describe African people who live in United States of America, there are many literary works that use it as the representative of African American in their works. There are many characters that represent African American in movie. Those characters do not explicitly say they are African American, yet the author shows it through their pronunciation, language use, and the appearance that is somehow African-like. This case often happens in animated movies where there are human and non-human creatures.

One of many characters that is famous for being Black in Disney animated movies is Donkey from *Shrek*. In the movie, Donkey is represented as African American through how he speaks and acts; for example his voice actor who is an African American and one scene where he is portrayed as a slave. The previous researcher analyzed about Donkey's Blackness through how Donkey acts. Hence, researcher intrigues to do an analysis about Donkey's representative on African American people through the utterances spoken by him which indicate AAVE based on the grammatical characteristics of AAVE and the factors underlying them. This research also aimed to inspire other researchers to study about AAVE and enlarge the object of the study to non-human creatures or creatures that represent human.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Sociolinguistics

Language is a tool that people use to communicate. Not only to deliver meaning, one of language principals is to maintain and establish social relationship (Trudgill, 2000). Relationship between society and language goes under the study of sociolinguistics. Dated back to 1981, Haver Currie has claimed that he is the first person to use the term sociolinguistics through an article which he published in 1951 entitled *A Projection of Sociolinguistics: The Relationship of Speech to Social Status* and suggested it to become an independent discipline (as cited in Figueroa, 1994). There have been lots of definitions of sociolinguistics from many experts. As Hymes (1974) states that there is no definite definition of sociolinguistics; the term could emphasize different meanings for everyone. However, there are similarities between every definition from each expert. Each expert agrees sociolinguistics engaged with language, culture, and society. Thus, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is a field of study that engaged in the relationship of language and the society; how language is used within different people with different social and cultural background.

b. Language Variation

Language is different from one to each other. The difference does not only happen in language as a whole (e.g. English is absolutely different from French and German), but it also happens in small linguistic unit such as sound, word, grammar, and sentence structure. In sociolinguistics, the difference is seen as social effect that occurs in particular society like gender, region, social class, and others. Therefore, there could be many variations in one language. This difference is called as variety. Variety of language is caused by either geographical or social. Geographical variation is often called as regional dialect which is a variety of language that is caused by different region or place (Trudgill, 2000). The other variety is named social variation or sociolect (social dialect). Sociolect is language variety that is used by people from different social background and status (Trudgill, 2000). It is caused by social factors such as socioeconomic status, sex, race, and age (Hudson, 1987).

These differences of linguistics features in every variety eventually produce systematic pattern in each variety. Therefore, it is possible to identify people into groups based on their language variation. The systematic pattern in a language variety built in characteristics of how a particular group speaks (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). Thus, people can be identified based on how they speak.

c. Language and Ethnicity

Ethnicity is the term used to distinguish people based on the shared values and beliefs, such as language, nationality, religion, and etc. Relationship between language and ethnicity has two different kinds of link, whether it's as identity-marking or culture-carrying marking. The simple function of language to ethnicity is language serves as the identity marker of ethnic groups (Fishman, 1999). Someone's ethnicity can be identified through how he speaks just like traditional cuisine and costume that represent ethnic groups. The deep function of language to ethnicity is that language "carries extensive cultural content" of a certain ethnic group (Fishman, 1999, p. 31).

Fishman (1999) also says that structural distinctiveness of a language is what makes the culture content cannot be transferred to other language easily. Every language encrypts human experience in its own unique way. Thus, it can be

concluded that language is different in each language and can be used as the identity marker of one's ethnicity because it carries cultural content of ethnic groups.

d. African American Vernacular English (AAVE)

African American Vernacular English (AAVE) is one of language varieties that has its own characteristics of linguistics units. There are many names that are given to this variety based on the social condition at that time, such as Negro English and Black Communication. These days, researchers prefer to use the term African American English, African American Vernacular English, African American Language, and other. According to Fought, African American Vernacular English is "a variety spoken by many African-Americans in the USA which shares a set of grammatical and other linguistic features that distinguish it from various other American dialects" (2006, p. 46). It goes along with Green's definition that said AAVE has its own set of phonology, morphology, semantic, syntax, and lexical (2002). AAVE can be described as a variety of language that is spoken by African American in United State which has its own system of linguistics features that is different from the Standard English.

The origin of AAVE comes from African who immigrated to United States of America to be worked as slaves from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). Many scholars have questioned whether AAVE begins as a creole or not. Creolist belives that AAVE has some creole roots while dialectologist view argues that AAVE is influenced by the language of the founder of colonial America (Rickford, as cited in Green, 2002; Mufwene, as cited in Green, 2000). To compromise both views, Winford (as cited in Green, 2002) argues that AAVE is never a creole but it is created by the African slaves and is developed by Africans and Europeans in the South during seventeenth century. The variety then continues to develop with creole varieties and other varieties spoken by colonial settlers. To these days, the origin of AAVE is still being researched and discussed; hence, there's no definite answer to the origin of AAVE.

e. African American Vernacular English (AAVE) Grammatical Characteristics

Many experts have written several journals and book dedicated to characteristics of AAVE such as Rickford, Wolfram, Green, and other researchers. All of them agree that AAVE has unique characteristics which deviate from Standard English. Wolfram (2004) has divided the grammatical characteristics of AAVE into four features which are verb phrase, negation, nominal, and question formation.

a. Verb Phrase

According to Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar (2014), verb phrase is a verb or a group of verbs which has the same function of a single-word verb. There are 12 AAVE grammatical characteristics in verb phrase feature which are:

1) **Copula/auxiliary absence**: the deletion of auxiliary (*is*, *am*, *are*, *have*, *has*, etc) in an utterance.
2) **Invariant *be***: the insertion of be in 3 kinds: (1) in imperative, infinitive, and after helping verbs; (2) after *will* and *would*; (3) habitual *be*.

3) **Completive *done***: replacing auxiliary after past tense verb to indicate completed action in the past.
4) **Sequential *be done***: the combination of invariant *be* and completive *done*.
5) **Remote *been***: consists of unstressed *been*, which is the equivalent of has/have *been* in SE, and stressed *BEEN*, which is *been* + past tense verb.
6) **Simple past *had + verb***: the equivalent of simple past tense.
7) Specialized auxiliaries: the use of particular auxiliaries that only present in AAVE, such as *come*, *steady*, and *finna*.
8) **Double modals**: the use of two modals at once (*may can*, *might can*, *might could*).
9) **Quasi modal**: the combination of modal and preposition/adverb as full modal verb (*liketa*, *poesta*).
10) **Irregular verbs**: past as participle, participle as past, bare root verb as past, and regularization of past tense.
11) **Subject-Verb-Agreement**: the deviation of SVA in SE: (1) absence of suffix –s in 3rd person singular present and present tense to be to past tense.
12) **Other verb phrase structure**: verb phrase structure that appears in AAVE, such as *beat*, *blessed out*, *say*, *here go*.

b. Negation

Negation is "the grammatical means by which the truth of an assertive (or positive) sentence or clause is denied" (Aarts & Weiner, 2014, p. 262). There are four grammatical characteristics of AAVE in negation feature which are:
1) ***Ain't***: the replacement of negative *be*.
2) **Multiple negation**: the use of more than one negation markers in a sentence.
3) **Negative inversion**: the reversal order of auxiliary and indefinite pronoun in the multiple negation sentence.
4) ***Ain't* with *but***: the use of *ain't* with but which means *only* or *no more than*.

c. Nominal

According to Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar, nominal is defined as the word or phrase that has the function equivalent to noun phrase. There are eight characteristics in this feature which are:
1) **Absence of suffix –'s in possessive**: the deletion of –'s after the noun to indicate ownership.
2) **Absence of suffix –s in plural noun**: the deletion of –s after the more than one entity of noun.
3) **Associative plural *an'em***: the use of *an'em* after someone's name to mark other people associated with that person.
4) **Appositive or pleonastic pronoun**: the use of pronoun that is not needed in a parallel sentence.
5) ***Y'all* and possessive *they***: the use of *y'all* as second person pronoun and possessive and *they* as possessive.
6) **Object pronoun after a verb**: the use of object pronoun after a verb as personal datives.

7) **Absence of relative pronoun**: the deletion of pronoun that links one sentence to another (*who*, *which*, *what*, *that*).

8) **Existential *it* and *they got***: the use of it to replace there is and they got as there are.

d. Question Formation

Question formation that differentiates AAVE involves subject auxiliary inversion. There are two characteristics of AAVE question formation feature which are:

1) **Non-inverted *wh* question**: *Wh* question without subject-auxiliary inversion.

2) **Inverted embedded question**: Embedded question which is inverted without *whether* or *if*.

f. Factors Underlying African American Vernacular English (AAVE) Grammatical Characteristics

There are factors that affect the grammatical characteristic of AAVE to shape themselves as they are. Wolfram (as cited in Rickford & Rickford, 2000) has conducted a study about this in his 1969 Detroit study. According to Wolfram, there are four factors that underlying the grammatical characteristics of AAVE which are social class, gender, age, and linguistic environment.

a. Social Class

According to Wolfram's study, grammatical characteristics of AAVE are affected by the social class of its speakers. He (as cited in Rickford & Rickford, 2000) mentions that multiple negation and the absence of suffix –s in present tense verb shows much more frequency of used by working class AAVE speakers than middle class ones. Another grammatical characteristic that has sharp stratification by social class factor is the absence of suffix –s in present tense verb. This characteristic also uses more by working class AAVE speakers and has a big gap of frequency between working class speaker and middle class ones. Thus, multiple negation and the absence of suffix –s in present tense verb indicate the social class factor underlying these grammatical characteristics of AAVE.

b. Gender

In Wolfram's study of Detroit, he (as cited in Rickford & Rickford, 2000) states the grammatical characteristics of AAVE are also influenced by gender. He concludes that males more often deleted their copula while speaking rather than females. The relation of AAVE with male and toughness is strong in the early study and possibly up until now (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). Therefore, the absence of copula/auxiliary marks the factor of gender in the AAVE grammatical characteristics.

c. Age

According to Wolfram (as cited in Rickford & Rickford, 2000), AAVE teenager speakers tend to delete the copula in their speeches more than the adult. Beside auxiliary absence, Wolfram (2004) also suggests three AAVE grammatical characteristics which he said as age-grading, which are invariant

be, had + verb past and the absence of suffix –'s in possessive. Age-grading itself is the characteristic that only occurs in the particular age. Hence, the AAVE grammatical characteristics that indicate age factor are the absence of suffix –s in present tense verb, had + verb past, and absence of suffix –'s in possessive.

d. Linguistic Environment

Linguistic environment is defined as the condition when the speech was taken place, whether it's the audience, set of place, or topic. Wolfram (as cited in Rickford & Rickford, 2000) says that AAVE speakers are more likely to use AAVE when they are talking to the people they are familiar with or talking about things they like. However, Rickford & Rickford (2000) also states that the style of a variety is varied according to each speaker. So, Foxy might uses AAVE more when she was comfortable, but it is not certain to be occurred in other people as well. Therefore, the researcher has concluded that the factor of linguistic environment could be seen in any grammatical characteristics each speaker used based on the familiarity of the audience and the topic they are talking.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research belongs to descriptive qualitative research which uses words to describe and analyze the data. This research is descriptive in a way that it describes the AAVE spoken by Donkey through its grammatical characteristics as well as explaining the factors underlying the grammatical characteristics of AAVE in the movie.

The data source of this research is the first tetralogy of *Shrek*, a DreamWorks animated movie directed by Andrew Adamson. Through the data source, researcher got the data which were all AAVE utterances spoken by Donkey. The researcher, as the research instrument herself, collects the data through data collection technique. The data were collected by watching the movie, synchronizing the movie script that the researcher has found with the movie, and making a list of all utterances spoken by Donkey which indicated AAVE as the primary data with the help of the script.

The data that has been collected were analyzed using Miles and Huberman's Data Analysis steps which consist of *data reduction*, *data display*, and *conclusion drawing or verification*. In *data reduction*, the researcher noted down all of Donkey's AAVE utterances and disposed the ones where he spoke Standard English so that researcher got the data that suited this research which are the AAVE utterances spoken by Donkey. The next step that researcher did was *data display* which is displaying the data that have been collected and reduced in a table. The data were sorted based on the duration which they appeared in the movie. The grammatical characteristics AAVE and their factors are sorted based on the literature review. The final step is *conclusion drawing or verification* in which the researcher has identified the amount of Donkey's AAVE utterances, which AAVE grammatical characteristics they have and the factors underlying them.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. AAVE Grammatical Characteristics

Among 339 utterances spoken by Donkey in the movie, researcher has found 58 utterances which indicate AAVE according to AAVE grammatical characteristics. Out of 4 features, AAVE utterances by Donkey only appear in 3 features which are verb phrase, negation, and nominal. Donkey does not have any AAVE utterance with inverted or non inverted question formation feature.

Out of 58 utterances, 45 utterances have AAVE verb phrase feature, 12 utterances insert negation, and 2 utterances show AAVE nominal. There is 1 utterance that has both verb phrase and negation feature in it. From 12 verb phrase characteristics, there are 4 characteristics that appear in Donkey's utterances as in 30 utterances without copula/auxiliary, 2 utterances have invariant *be*, 10 utterances that deviate Subject-Verb-Agreement rule of Standard English, and 3 utterances use other verb phrase structure. Donkey also uses three out of AAVE negation characteristics by 2 utterances use *ain't*, 5 utterances with multiple negations, and 5 utterances have combination of multiple negations and *ain't* which each 2 utterances use multiple negations and *ain't* as *am not* and *haven't* and 1 utterance uses multiple negation and *ain't* with *but*. The last 2 utterances in nominal only have one characteristics out of 8 AAVE nominal characteristics in which both of them use second person plural *y'all.* The grammatical characteristics of Donkey's AAVE utterances are further explained below:

a. Verb Phrase

This following dialogue is spoken when Donkey wanted to befriend Shrek after Shrek saved him.

Donkey: But, uh, I don't have any friends. And I'm not going out there by myself. Hey, wait a minute! *I got great idea*! I'll stick with you. You're mean, green, fighting machine. Together we'll scare the spit out of anybody that crosses us.

All utterances that Donkey said are in present tense, yet the utterance "*I got great idea*" has a past verb which does not suit the other utterances. The utterance "*I got great idea*" misses an auxiliary *have* to form a correct Standard English sentence. However, the omission of auxiliary in this utterance is identified as a grammatical characteristic of AAVE as Wolfram (2004) states that the copula/auxiliary absence is one of AAVE grammatical characteristics in verb phrase feature. Hence, it makes Donkey's utterance "*I got great idea*" as an AAVE utterance with copula/auxiliary absence as its grammatical characteristic.

Another Donkey's utterance that has AAVE grammatical characteristic in its verb phrase is present in this following dialogue when Shrek told Donkey to get out of his house.

Donkey: Oh, well, I guess that's cool. I mean, I don't know you, and you don't know me, so I guess outside is best, you know. Here I go. Good night. (Shrek slams the door) (Sigh) I mean, I do like the outdoors. I'm a donkey. I was born outside. *I'll just be sitting by myself outside, I guess, you know*. By myself, outside. I'm all alone.... There's no one here beside me....

The utterance "*I'll just be sitting by myself outside, I guess, you know*" shows AAVE grammatical characteristic which is invariant *be*. In this utterance, Donkey used *be*

with modal _will_ to let Shrek know that he will sit in his porch alone. It fits Rickford & Rickford's (2000) definition of _be_ in AAVE grammatical characteristics. Thus, this utterance has the AAVE grammatical characteristic of invariant _be_.

Donkey also used other verb phrase structure of AAVE as seen in the following dialogue.

Donkey: Oh, well, I guess that's cool. I mean, I don't know you, and you don't know me, so I guess outside is best, you know. _Here I go._ Good night.

One of the grammatical characteristic of AAVE is the verb phrase _here go_ to presenting something (Rickford, 1999). Based on that characteristic, Donkey's utterance "_Here I go_" uses the AAVE verb phrase _here go_. The _here go_ in the utterance refers to Donkey's action of stepping outside Shrek's house. It shows that the _here go_ verb phrase is used to presenting that action. Therefore, this utterance has the AAVE grammatical characteristics of one of AAVE verb phrase structures.

b. Negation

This following dialogue is spoken by Donkey when he encountered Princess Fiona in her Ogre form.

Donkey: All right, all right. Calm down. Look, it's not that bad. You're not that ugly. _Well, I ain't gonna lie._ You are ugly. But you only look like this at night. Shrek's ugly 24-7.

The utterance in the italic has _ain't_ which is one of AAVE grammatical characteristics. In this utterance, Donkey used ain't as the replacement of _am not_ by looking at the pronoun _I_ and the verb after it which is _gonna_, the informal form of _going to._ Therefore, this utterance has the AAVE characteristic of _ain't_.

Donkey also used another AAVE grammatical characteristic in negation feature which is multiple negation that appears in this following dialogue.

Donkey: Shrek? Well, you know what I like about you, Shrek? You got that kind of _I-don't-care-what-nobody-thinks-of-me_ thing. I like that. I respect that, Shrek. You all right. (They come over a hill and you can see Shrek's cottage.) Whoa! Look at that. Who'd want to live in place like that?

The utterance in italic has two negations which are "_I don't care_" and "_nobody thinks of me._" According to Green (2002), in AAVE multiple negation, the first negation does all the work to negate while the other only there to emphasize the negation. In the case of this utterance, the negative indefinite noun _nobody_ is only used to emphasize the first negation _don't_. Thus, this utterance shows the AAVE grammatical characteristic of multiple negation.

Beside using _ain't_ and multiple negation in separate utterance, Donkey also combined the two grammatical characteristics in an utterance as seen in the following dialogue when Donkey and Shrek went to the castle to recue Princess Fiona.

Donkey: Oh, good. Me neither (sees a skeleton and gasps). 'Cause there's nothing wrong with being afraid. Fear's a sensible response to an unfamiliar

situation. Unfamiliar dangerous situation, I might add. With a dragon that breathes fire and eats knights and breathes fire, it sure doesn't mean you're a coward if you're a little scared. *I sure as heck ain't no coward.* I know that.

The multiple negations in "*I sure as heck ain't no coward*" was seen by *ain't* and *no coward*. *Ain't* in this utterance replaces *am not* by looking at the pronoun *I* in the front. The second negation which is *no coward* is only used to emphasized the negation *ain't* based on Green's (2002) explanation of multiple negation. Because it is proved that the utterance possesses two AAVE grammatical characteristic, it belongs to AAVE with multiple negations and the used of *ain't* as *am not* as its characteristics.

c.   Nominal

Donkey used an AAVE grammatical characteristic in his nominal feature twice when he was hyping up the crowd while he was singing in Shrek and Fiona's weeding as written in these two utterances.

Donkey: *Come on, y'all!*
Donkey: *Y'all sing it with me!*

The phrase *y'all* is for short of you all. It is the phrase that is commonly used by African American people and is a grammatical characteristic of AAVE. In AAVE, *y'all* can be used as pronoun or possessive (Rickford, 1999). In this utterance, y*'all* refers as the second person plural pronoun *you* or also means as *all of you*. The fact that Donkey uses it in his utterances shows that the said utterance is an AAVE with second person plural *y'all* as its characteristic.

2.   Factors Underlying AAVE Grammatical Characteristics

Out of 4 factors that are mentioned by Wolfram, Donkey's utterances have all of those factors with 13 utterances of social class, 30 utterances of gender, and 34 utterances of age and 32 utterances of linguistic environment with 9 utterances of comfortable and 23 utterances of uncomfortable. One utterance could have more than one factor affecting them as happened in Donkey's utterances. The factors underlying AAVE grammatical characteristics in Donkey's utterances are explained below:

a.   Social Class

This following dialogue is spoken by Donkey in the beginning of the movie where he suddenly flew because of Tinkerbelle's dust.

Donkey: Ha, ha! That's right, fool! Now I'm a flying, talking donkey. You might have seen a housefly, maybe even a superfly *but I bet you ain't never seen a donkey fly*. Ha, ha! (The pixie dust begins to wear off) Uh-oh. (He begins to sink to the ground)

Based on the findings in AAVE grammatical characteristics spoken by Donkey, the utterance "*but I bet you ain't never seen a donkey fly*" has the grammatical

characteristic of multiple negation. this utterance which has multiple negation has its AAVE grammatical characteristic is affected by social class of the speaker which is working class.

b. Gender

This following dialogue shows Donkey's male gender through the AAVE grammatical characteristic he used.

Donkey: All right. Nobody move. *I got a dragon here*, and I'm not afraid to use it. (The dragon roars.) I'm a donkey on the edge!

The utterance above has the AAVE grammatical characteristics of copula/auxiliary absence. Based on its grammatical characteristic, it shows that this utterance is affected by the factor of gender. Donkey's maleness is also shown through the dragon he rode which is his girlfriend.

c. Age

The following dialogue is spoken by Donkey when he and Shrek climbed a mountain to get near the volcano.

Donkey: Yeah, right, brimstone. *Don't be talking about it's the brimstone.* I know what I smell. It wasn't no brimstone. It didn't come off no stone neither.

The italicized utterance has the AAVE grammatical characteristic of invariant *be* as stated in the appendix of this thesis. Wolfram (2004) mentions that invariant *be* is an age-grading variant which means that it is used by younger age and will be reduced as the speakers got older. Thus, the grammatical characteristic of this utterance can be said to be affected by Donkey's age.

d. Linguistic Environment

This following dialogue is spoken by Donkey when he was excited to be saved from the guards who wanted to capture him.

Donkey: Yes. I was talking to you. *Can I tell you that you that you was great back here*? Those guards! *They thought they was all of that.* Then you showed up, and bam! *They was tripping over themselves like babes in the woods.* That really made me feel good to see that.

On the dialogue above, Donkey used AAVE utterances with the deviation of SVA as their characteristics. According to the linguistic environment when the dialogue was spoken, Donkey just met Shrek yet he talked comfortably with him because he rescued him. The topic that Donkey talked about is the topic that Donkey liked which is the guards who were making a fool of themselves because they were scared of Shrek. Thus, it can be said that the grammatical variation in these utterances are affected by Donkey's linguistic environment.

Other AAVE utterances spoken by Donkey that are affected by linguistic environment are in the dialogue below:

Donkey: Yeah, right, brimstone. *Don't be talking about it's the brimstone.* I know what I smell. *It wasn't no brimstone.* It didn't come off no stone neither.

The dialogue above has three AAVE utterances were spoken by Donkey at once when he did not feel comfortable because he was going to crash into a dragon's habitat. Thus, these AAVE utterances are influenced by the linguistic environment of the speech. Based on the findings, Donkey uses AAVE more when he was uncomfortable rather than when he was. This finding is contrast to Rickford & Rickford's (2000) research which says that AAVE speakers tend to use AAVE more when they are comfortable. However, they also mentioned that the grammatical variation in AAVE is varied based on each speaker's style. Therefore, there is nothing wrong in Donkey's AAVE grammar variation which shows that he used AAVE more when he was uncomfortable. It is Donkey's own style in using his language.

3. Discussion

The character Donkey in the *Shrek* movie is an animal that can speak and act as if he is a human. The speech that Donkey spoke represents a variety of language which is African American Vernacular English (AAVE). The findings of AAVE grammatical characteristics in Donkey's utterance show that Donkey uses AAVE variety in his speech. The use of AAVE variety indicates that Donkey represent the speaker of AAVE which is African American people in the *Shrek* movie. As the researcher has stated in the background of this research, Disney is famous for stereotyping the representative of African American in its animated movie. One of the traits is by using AAVE as the language that the character speaks in the movie. In Donkey's case, since it is proven that Donkey used AAVE variety based on the findings that researcher has gathered, it can be concluded that Donkey's character in the *Shrek* movie represents an African American person.

The analysis of Donkey's AAVE utterances does not stop in the grammatical characteristics. Wolfram (2000) suggests that the grammatical characteristics of AAVE utterances are influenced by some factors from the speakers which are social class, gender, age, and linguistic environment. The findings of factors underlying Donkey's grammatical characteristics show that Donkey's AAVE variety represents his social background such as his working class status, male gender, and teenage age. It fits Trudgill's (2002) definition of sociolinguistics that states language can interpret someone's background. Besides that, he also said language can reflects someone's thought which in this movie is shown by AAVE functions of Donkey's utterance whether Donkey felt comfortable or not. Therefore, it can be concluded that Donkey uses AAVE as a variety by the relationship of language and society which is sociolinguistics study.

E. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the findings, the researcher has concluded that Donkey used AAVE variety in his utterances with three grammatical features which are verb phrase, negation, and nominal. There is not any question formation feature of AAVE that appears in Donkey's utterances. The grammatical characteristics of AAVE in Donkey's utterance indicate that Donkey's represent African American people in *Shrek* Movie. Those grammatical of AAVE

characteristics are influenced by social factors that occur in Donkey. It has been concluded that Donkey's AAVE utterances are influenced by four social factors which are social class, gender, age, and linguistic environment. Donkey's grammatical characteristics are influenced by Donkey's working class status, male gender, teenage age, and his mood when the utterances are being spoken.

The researcher recommends other researcher to do another researcher about Donkey's AAVE can be done through another linguistics features such as its phonology and lexical feature that might be identified as AAVE. Seeing that there are four Shrek movies, the data can be extended not only from the first movie but also the other three. Shrek movie is an interesting cartoon that builds its own society that consists of human and many non-human characters like ogre and other magical creature. Beside AAVE characteristics, other sociolinguistics aspects of the movie are enchanting enough to be analyzed though other sociolinguistics theories and other characters in the movie.

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