CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The focus of this study is to know the linguistic features in Black Vernacular English used by Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's *Native son* based on syntactical and phonological features. The main purpose of this chapter is to answer the research question which has been presented in Chapter One. In this discussion, the data were taken from the utterances uttered by Bigger Thomas while had conversation with other characters. The writer took the data only the utterances that contain Black Vernacular English.

4.1 Findings

After conducting the research concerning in linguistic features especially in syntactical and phonological features of Black Vernacular English in Richard Wright's *Native son* used by Bigger Thomas as the main character, the researcher found that Bigger Thomas uses the syntactical and phonological features, but from eight syntactical features, just six features used by Bigger Thomas. They are, Absence of copula – be, the use of ain't, double negation, generalization of 'is' and 'was', direct question, and completive done. In phonological features, there are six features, but just three features used by Bigger Thomas, they are deletion of 'l' and 'r', deletion of unstressed syllable and the use of an', 'em' and 'im'.

4.1.1 Linguistic Feature

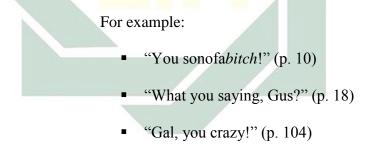
There are many linguistic features which can be used to identify or analysis sentences or utterances. Linguistic feature is a linguistic item which is used to analyze sentence or utterance by its lexical, grammatical, phonological, syntactical or morphological features. Here, the researcher used two linguistic features, they are syntactical and phonological features to analysis the Black Vernacular English which are used by Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's *Native son*. There are eight features in syntactical, absence of copula –be, omission of –s in third person singular, the use of ain't, double negation, generalization of 'is' and 'was', absence of relative pronoun, direct question and completive done. In phonological features, there are six, g dropping, realization of voiced 'th', consonant cluster simplification, deletion of L or R, deletion of unstressed syllable and the use of 'an, 'im and 'em.

4.1.1.1 Syntactical Features

Syntactical feature is a feature in linguistic to identify the construction of words to sentences from a language that used by its speakers. From eighth syntactical features which are available in Black Vernacular English, only six features are used by Bigger Thomas. They are in absence of copula, the use of ain't, double negation, generalization of 'is' and 'was', direct question, and completive done. In absence of copula – be, Bigger Thomas used each of them just nine times, (4, 36 %). In the use of ain't, Bigger Thomas applied sixty one times, (29, 61 %). In double negation, Bigger Thomas employed forty three times, (20, 87 %). In Generalization of 'is' and 'was', Bigger Thomas used it only two times and (0, 97 %). In direct question, Bigger Thomas exploited thirty two times, (15, 53 %). And in Completive done, Bigger Thomas operated it five times (2, 42 %).

4.1.1.1.1 Absence of Copula – be

According to Trudgill (2000: 54) and Rickford (1999: 6), one of many important characteristics of Black Vernacular English is the deletion of –to be- in the present tense of Standard English. As shown at the table in the apendices, the absence of copula – be is utilized by Bigger Thomas only nine times in the novel (4, 36 %).



It is quite common for Black Vernacular English speakers to omit the verb-be while talking to others. The three sentences above, show us the truth, that most of Black Vernacular English speakers often omit the verb- be. Whereas, in Standard English the sentences above must be:

- "You are son of a bitch!"
- "What are you saying, Gus?" and

• "Girl, you are crazy!"

4.1.1.1.2 The use of Ain't

According to Rickford (1999: 8) stated that ain't in Black Vernacular English is used as a general negative indicator. In this case, Bigger Thomas mostly used this characteristic, as many as sixty one data (29, 61 %) data that the writer gets. For example:

- "It's funny how the white folks treat us,
 ain't it?" (p. 20)
- "Naw; it **ain't** like something going to happen to me." (p. 24)
- "We can do it, if you niggers **ain't** scared." (p. 27)

As we know, 'ain't' replaces 'am not', 'is not', 'are not', 'has not', 'have not', and 'did not' in Standard English. In the first sentence, the word 'ain't it' replaces 'isn't it' in Standard English in the form of question taq or taq question. While in the second sentence, the word 'ain't', replaces to be 'is not'. And, the third sentence, the word 'ain't', replaces auxiliary 'do not'. So we should change the sentences above in Standard English:

> "It's funny how the white folks treat us, isn't it?"

- "Now; it is not like something going to happen to me."
- "We can do it, if you niggers do not scare."

4.1.1.1.3 Double Negation

According to Trudgill (2000: 57), "In Black Vernacular English, if a sentence has a negative indefinite like *nobody*, *nothing*, then the negative auxiliary (*doesn't, can't*) can be placed at the beginning of the sentence. Rickford (1999: 8) stated "Multiple negation or negative concord is negating the auxiliary verb and all indefinite pronouns in the sentence. In Richard Wright's *Native son*, Bigger Thomas used double negation as many as forty three times, (20, 87 %). For instance:

"Don't tell 'em nothing," (p. 15)
"They don't let us do nothing." (p. 22)
"I ain't having nothing to do with that gang no more," (p. 100)

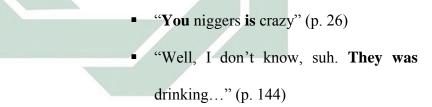
The bold words above indicate the use of double negation used by Bigger Thomas while having conversation with other characters. And it often happened in Black Vernacular English speaker. Actually, in the first, second and the third sentences, it is allowed to make them become Standard English by replacing **nothing** becomes **anything**. And in the third sentence, the word **no more,** must be omitted and replaced with **anymore**. The three sentences above are in syntactical features in Black Vernacular English which the Standard English become:

- "Do not tell them anything,"
- "They do not let us do anything."

• "I am not having anything to do with that gang anymore".

4.1.1.1.4 Generalization of "is" and "was"

Generalization of "is" and "was as Rickford (1999: 7) mentioned that Generalization of 'is' and 'was' use with plural and second person subjects. This feature also happened in Bigger Thomas utterance in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the writer found. Bigger Thomas used this feature only twice (0, 97 %). they are:



In Black Vernacular English, we often find utterances in the form of generalizing to be 'is' matched with plural subject, and single subject with to be 'are' for example. From the two sentences above, it can be seen that the two sentences use the 'to be' forms inappropriate tense so that the sentences become nonstandard. To form them in a good Standard English, they must be:

"You are crazy niggers" and

"Well, I do not know, sir. They were drinking..."

4.1.1.1.5 Question Inversion

According to Trudgill (2000: 57) "Rules for question inversion in indirect questions in BVE differ from those in Standard English". In addition, Rickford (1999: 8) argued that "Formation of question inversion of the subject and auxiliary verbs, usually with rising intonation.

Direct question or question inversion also happened in Bigger Thomas utterance in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the researcher found. Bigger Thomas used this feature as many as thirty two times (15, 53 %). The writer will give some example below:

• "What I do now" (p. 11)

• "How many times you want to ask me?" (p.

""You want me to do anything now?" (p.

117)

14)

The researcher found in the novel that Black Vernacular English speaker, omit 'to be' or 'auxiliary'. As cases in the first and second sentences above, the form of the interrogative sentences is omitting the auxiliary 'do' in the form of simple present. Whereas the right form in the Standard English is:

• "What **should** I do now?" and

• "How many times **do** you want to ask me?"

In the first sentence, 'do' which is in bold writing, as auxiliary, and the second 'do' is the verb of the sentence. In the second sentence, the sentence, only miss the auxiliary 'do'. Whereas in the third sentence, the Black English speaker omits the auxiliary 'do' in the first sentence. Whereas in Standard English, the sentence should be:

• "Do you want me to do anything, now?"

Similar to the first sentence above, the bold 'do' is as an auxiliary, and the second 'do' is as a verb.

4.1.1.1.6 Completive "done"

Brown and Attardo (2000: 132), stated that "*Done* alone also indicates recently completed action". Moreover Rickford (1999: 6) stated that "The use of 'done' to emphasize the completed nature of an action.

The use of completive 'done' also happened in Bigger Thomas utterances in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the researcher found. Bigger Thomas used this features as many as five times (2, 42 %). The researcher gave some example below:

- "Aw, Vera. Ask Ma. I done told her everything." (p. 98)
- "Yessuh. I'm telling the truth. I just started to work here last night. I <u>ain't done</u>

<u>nothing</u>. I did just what they told me to do." (p. 153

 "You done helped me to steal enough from the folks you worked for to put you in jail already." (p. 165)

In the first and the third sentences, the form of the sentences is same. They are positive sentence, and inside of 'present perfect tense' which the form in Standard English is: 'S + HAS/HAVE + V3 + O', but in Black Vernacular English, it becomes 'S + DONE + V3 + O'. Thus, the first and the third sentences should become:

• "Oh, Vera. Ask Ma. I have told her everything."

 "You have helped me to steal enough from the folks you worked for to put you in jail already."

The second sentence is the most unique one, There are three cases in this sentence, they are the use of ain't, double negation and completive done. If we want to make it in the Standard English form, it will be:

> "Yes, sir. I am telling the truth. I just started to work here last night. I <u>have not done</u> <u>anything</u>. I did just what they told me to do.

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4.1.1.2 Phonological Features

Phonological features is a feature to identify the sound system of a language that used by the speakers of a language. Within the phonological features, from the sixth features which are available, only three features which is used by Bigger Thomas in Richard Wright's *Native son*. They are deletion of L or R, deletion of unstressed syllable and the use of an', 'em and 'im. In deletion of L or R, Bigger Thomas used it as many as four times (1, 94 %). And in deletion of unstressed syllable, Bigger Thomas used it as many as fourteen times (6, 79 %). Whereas in the use of an', 'em and 'im, Bigger Thomas used it as many as thirty six times (17, 47 %), While three features which are not used by Bigger Thomas at all are; G dropping, Realization of voiced 'th', and consonant cluster simplification, which same as 0 %.

4.1.1.2.1 Deletion of L or R

According to Fromkin, Radford &Hyams, (2007: 424), argued BVE includes a rule of *r*-deletion that deletes /r/ everywhere except before a vowel". In addition, "There is also an *l*-deletion rule for the some speakers of BVE, creating identically pronounced pairs like *toll* and *toe*, *all* and *awe*, *help* and *hep*".

Deletion of L and R also occurred in Bigger Thomas utterances in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the researcher found. Bigger Thomas used this feature as many as four times (1, 94 %). The writer will give some example below:

- "Awright," (p. 7)
- "Gal, you crazy!" (p. 104)
 - "The **gal's** gone, see? They don't know where she is? don't nobody know. But they might think somebody did if they was told, see?" (p. 136)
- "Soon, as they begin to worry about the gal." (p. 139)

In the first utterance, Bigger Thomas exactly want to say "All right", but as a characteristic of Black Vernacular English, he deletes voice 'L' and replaces it with 'W', which must be in:

"All right,"

In the second sentence contains two cases, they are absence of copula – be and deletion of "R". So, in Standard English, the sentence must be:

• "Girl, you are crazy!"

While in the third sentence, there are three cases happened. They are, deletion of "R" and changes "I" becomes "A" in word "gal's", double negation in "don't nobody know" and generalization of 'was' in "they was told". If we want to change it into a good Standard English, so, it must be:

"The girl has gone, see? They do not know where she is? Nobody knows. But they might think somebody did if they were told, see?"

In the last sentence, same as the second and the third sentence, the last sentence here, deletes "R" and changes "I" becomes "A" in word "gal". So, the Standard form of English is:

• "Soon, as they begin to worry about the girl."

4.1.1.2.2 Deletion of Unstressed Syllable

According to Rickford (1999: 5), deletion of unstressed initial and medial syllables, as in 'fraid' for Standard English 'afraid' and also 'sec't'ry' for Standard English ' secretary'. Deletion of Unstressed Syllable also happened in Bigger Thomas utterance in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the researcher found. Bigger Thomas used this features as many as fourteen times (6, 79 %). The writer will give some example below:

- "How come? You scared 'cause he's a white man?" (p. 26)
- "Suh, 'Bout what?" (p. 52)
- "And get it, too. You see, we cash in, 'cause nobody else trying to." (p. 136).

The first and the third sentence, have the same cases, they are in word "'cause", which should be **because**. Whereas in the second sentence, the word "'bout", should be **about**. So, if we try to transform the three sentences above become a good Standard English, must be:

- "How come? Do you scare because he is a white man?"
- "Sir, **about** what?" and
- "And get it, too. You see, we cash in,
 because nobody else trying to."

4.1.1.2.3 The Use of an', 'em and 'im

Mufwene, (In Junaidi 2011: 21), finds this more similar to English creole than to other varieties of English, although southern white varieties use it too. it is usually used after a proper name, to mark associative plurals, as in "Felicia an" 'em" for "Felicia and them".

The use of an', 'em and 'im also occurred in Bigger Thomas utterance in Richard Wright's *Native son* which the researcher found. Bigger Thomas used this feature as many as thirty six times (17, 47 %). The writer will give some example below:

- "I got **'im**, By God, I got **'im**" (p. 10)
- "Don't tell **'em** nothing," (p. 15)

- "Every time I think of 'em, I feel 'em," (p. 24)
- "I heard about **'em**." (p. 75)
- "Yeah. I was driving 'em last night." (p. 100)

In the second until the fifth sentence, Bigger Thomas used "em" to replace "them". Also in the second sentence, consists of double negation feature, which should be "Do not tell them anything," while in the first sentence, he used "im" to replace "him". So, if revolutionize the five sentences above become good Standard English should be:

- "I got him, By God, I got him"
- " "Do not tell **them** anything,"
- "Every time I think of them, I feel them,"
- "I heard about **them**."
- "Yeah. I was driving them last night."

4.2 Discussions

English is one of the languages which are used by many people in the world. In reality, there are many people coming from different background use English as their daily communication language. As the result, the variation of English appears. People who were coming to America, have different way in speaking English if they are compared to British English, Australian English, or Black English. When Black people speak English, it is called as Black Vernacular English.

Black Vernacular English is one of variety in English language which is used by African Americans (even not all) and has its own characteristics which are different with other variety. It is one of many English varieties that still exist. The speakers of this languages are also still many, they spread trough all over America.

In this section, the researcher discussed the finding of data analysis. After analyzing the data in the novel, the researcher found that racial backdrop can be one of someone's motives to use different language. As Bigger Thomas did in this novel, a twenty year-old man who works as a driver to Dalton's family who get a terrible trouble because he killed Miss Dalton which becomes a long story in the novel. As one of Black American character, his utterances may use a lot of Black Vernacular English. There are two linguistic features that is used by the researcher to analyze this novel in order to find the Black Vernacular English used by Bigger Thomas, they are syntactical and phonological features, such as "Gal, you crazy!", "I ain't looking at her, ma" and "don't tell nobody". Which the Standard English is "Girl, you are crazy!", "I did not look at her, ma" and "Do not tell to anybody".

Yet, not all of the Black Vernacular English features are appeared in *Native son*. There are several types of Black Vernacular English features that

are not discover in the novel. In syntactical features, from eight types, only two which is not found in the novel, they are omission of –s in the third person singular and absence of relative pronoun. However in Phonological features, from six types, only three which are not appear in the novel. They are realization of voiced "th", Consonant cluster simplification and deletion of L or R.

Moreover, Previous research on BVE conducted by Elfa Kusuma (2007) focus on linguistic features and the percentage of each features, Junaidi (2011) and Adharini (2005), shows the kind of Black Vernacular English and the Standard English, Galuh (2011), shows the syntactical, phonological and morphological features of African American Vernacular English and the last, In Ningrum (2014), shows the African American English and slang. Until this study conducted, there is no researcher who tried to combine analysis from the previous study by showing the linguistic features, the standard form and also the percentage on each features.

And also, some study conducted by Kinzler and DeJesus (2013). They did research entitled "Northern = smart and Southern = nice: The development of accent attitudes in the United States", A study conducted by Snell (2013) on Language and Educational Journal. She did research entitled "Dialect, interaction and class positioning at school: from deficit to difference to repertoire", also A study conducted by Louw & Wet (2009). They did a research entitled "The perception and identification of accent in spoken Black South African English" on journal of Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, and the last, A study conducted by Lemmer (2007). She conducted a research entitled "Peer Reviewed Article Accent/Dialect Coaching for a Multilingual Student Cast—A Case Study" on Voice and Speech Review journal article. All the four studies above done in field or we usually called it study case.

From four articles above which data were available and taken from daily conversation in the researcher's society which can be used as data to analysis BVE in spoken data. Hence, the researcher in this study cannot find the society which used BVE in daily conversation, so she decided to take novel as her data since the data were available. Also, the previous researches show the dialect toward children's attitudes, dialect toward class positioning at school, people perception toward dialect, and the dialect which affected the outcome of student in multilingual coaching cast. Thus, in the first time, the researcher wants to investigate the type and impact of BVE which is used by Bigger Thomas. But then, after she gained the data, the researcher only find one point which show the impact, that is, the increasing of segregation.

In addition, the researcher wants to give another view about this study. Black Vernacular English is one of variety in English language which usually used by black people (even not all of them use it). The researcher, and other people who learn English not as their first language will sometimes cannot directly understand when they face to Black Vernacular English in written or spoken.

Therefore, when we as a second English learner who habitually speak English in Standard English, we must respect the people who speak English in other variety, such as Black Vernacular English because BVE also one of variety in English Language which give us a new knowledge in learning English.

A language variety appeared because of some factors such as the differentiation of tongue, background and also skin color. This based on Quran surah Ar-Ruum ayah 22:

The surah says: And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge. The surah means that we all as human being created by God with the diversities of our language and our skin color. The differentiation of language appeared because different tongue which created a new variety of a language.

Yet, as educated people, we must be able to be a good example to other people. As Pramoedya Ananta Toer (2005) said "Seorang terpelajar harus juga belajar berlaku adil sudah sejak dalam pikiran, apalagi dalam perbuatan. Itulah memang arti terpelajar, (p.77)". The researcher interpreted as an educational person, we must be able to be fair in doing things since in our mind because our deed can be presented in our behavior. Our speech, for instance, indirectly shows who we are, and our background. Hence, we must be careful with our speech.

As a Muslim, the researcher wants to give Islamic point of view in respect and not to be arrogant other people who use or speak Black Vernacular English as their language. The messages of being respect and not arrogant is also delivered in the al-Qur'an Surah Al-Luqman ayah 18-19:

وَلا تُصَعِّرْ حَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلا تَمْشِ فِي الأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَحُورٍ (١٨) وَاقْصِدْ فِي مَشْيِكَ وَاغْضُضْ مِنْ صَوْتِكَ إِنَّ أَنْكَرَ الأَصْوَاتِ لَصَوْتُ

The surah says "And do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people and do not walk through the earth exultantly. Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful. And be moderate in your pace and lower your voice; indeed, the most disagreeable of sounds is the voice of donkeys." The researcher suggests that we are as mere human, must be always behave humble. Being humble and respect other people can be demonstrated in the way we speak and in our behavior. Moreover, for the further studies, researcher suggested that Black Vernacular English can be analyzed in talks show programs, public speech, language acquisition on African American descendants and so on. Also for the speakers of Black Vernacular English, nevertheless BVE is one of varieties which enrich English languages yet, the speakers must be able to use Standard English. The last, for the government should has a movement to increase the user of Standard language without decompress the language varieties.