CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter contains of definition of dialect, American dialect, Southern dialect, To Kill a Mockingbird, phonology features, grammatical features and vocabulary variation. The main purpose of this chapter is to explain the theory and the three main features in this research they are, phonology features, grammatical features and vocabulary variation

2.1 Dialect

Dialect is one of language variations. According to Trudgill (1994:2), Dialect has a speaker's social and geographical origins, means that everybody speaks a dialect. Dialects are not peculiar or old-fashioned or rustic ways of speaking. Dialect is the particular combination of English words, pronunciations and grammatical forms that share with other people from area and social background, and that differs in certain ways from the combination used by people from other areas and backgrounds.

According to world-english.org, there are some varieties of dialect in the world such as Australian English, Aboriginal English, American English, Black South African English, Elizabethan English, Canadian English, and Nigerian English etc.

2.2 American Dialect

According to Vaux, there are three main dialect areas in the United States, the South, the North, the Midlands and the West (mixture of features imported from the South, the North and the Midlands) (p.3:2003).



Figure 2.1 Map of four major dialects in United States

In the previous explanation of Vaux (2003), the researcher wanted to show the details of region of four major dialects in the US based on Professor Pat Kamalani Hurley (1996) explanation in Module 2 Lesson 2.3.2 Regional Identity: American Regional Dialects. In following explanation, the researcher shows the details of regions in the United States that represents of regional dialects in there.

(emedia.leeward.hawai.edu/hurley/Ling1022web/mod2_identity//2mod2.3U S.htm).

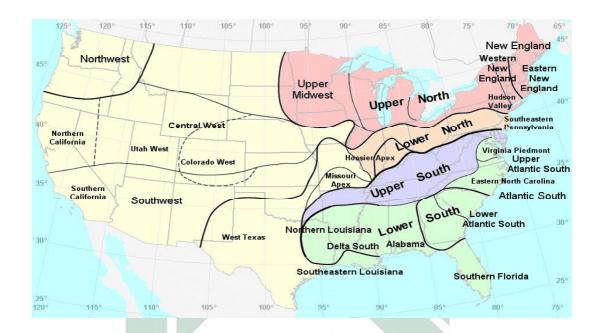


Figure 2.2 Division of regional dialects in the United States

1. General Northern

This is sometimes also refers to as General American and used in almost two-thirds of the country. It breaks down into the dialect regions, they are: Northern New England, Eastern New England, Boston Urban, Central City Area, Western New England, Hudson Valley, New York City, Bonac, Inland Northern consist of: San Francisco Urban, Upper Midwestern, Minnewegian, Chicago Urban, North Midland, Pennsylvania German-English.

2. General Southern

This dialect region matches the borders of the Confederate states that are seceded during the "Confederate War" and it is still a culturally distinct region of the United States. Since it was largely an agricultural area, people tended to move around less than they did in the north. The result, the sub dialects are much less same than those of the General Northern regions and have much more clearly defined limitation. Other languages that had an important influence on it are French (since the western region was originally French territory) and the African languages spoken by the people brought over as slaves.

Some local words in general Southern, they are: *boogerman*, *funky* (bad smelling), *jump the broomstick* (get married), *kinfolks*, *mammy*, *muleheaded*, *overseer*, *tote*, *y'all*. There are three region of General Southern: South Midland, Ozark, Southern Appalachian.

The South Midland dialect region follows the Ohio River in a generally southwesterly direction, moving across from Kentucky, Alabama, Southern Indiana, and Southern Illinois to southern Missouri, Arkansas, southern Kansas, and Oklahoma, west of the Mississippi river. Although historically more closely related to the North Midland speech, this region shows dialectal features that are now more similar to the rest of the South than the Midland, most noticeably the smoothing of the diphthong /aɪ/ to [a:], and the second person plural pronoun "you-all" or "y'all." Unlike the coastal South, however, the South Midland has always been a rhotic dialect, pronouncing /r/ wherever it has historically occurred. South Indiana is the northernmost extent of the South Midland region, forming what dialectologists refer to as the "Hoosier Apex" of the South Midland; the accent is locally known there as the "Hoosier

Twang" where Interstate 64 is usually referred to as Sixty-For or U.S. 41 is casually referred to as Forty-One. The South Midland dialect has also been called "Hill Southern", "Inland Southern", "Mountain Southern". The Appalachian dialect is sometimes included (www.wikipedia.com)

3. Southern

As the northern dialects were originally dominated by Boston, the southern dialects were heavily influenced by Charleston, Richmond, and Savannah. Some words in the Southern are: big daddy (grandfather), big mamma (grandmother), Confederate War (Civil War), cooter (turtle), fixing to (going to), goober (peanut), hey (hello), mouth harp (harmonica), on account of (because). There are five regions in Southern they are: Virginia Piedmont, Coastal Southern, Gullah, Gulf Southern, Louisiana, Cajun French, Cajun English, Yat, Louisiana French Creole.

4. Western

Compared with the Eastern United States, the Western regions were settled too recently for very distinctive dialects to have time to develop or to be studied in detail. Many words originally came from Spanish, cowboy jargon, and even some from the languages of the Native Americans: adobe, beer bust, belly up, boneyard, bronco, buckaroo, bunkhouse, cahoots, corral, greenhorn, hightail, hoosegow, lasso, mustang, maverick, roundup, wingding. There are 2 regions in Western,

they are: Rocky Mountain, Pacific Northwest Alaska, Pacific Southwest, Southwestern, Hawaii

In this research, the researcher only takes the one of the main dialects in the United States namely general Southern dialect because the setting of the novel by Harper Lee entitled "To Kill a Mockingbird" in Alabama, and this region including of the South Midland.

2.3 General Southern Dialect

Nagle and Sanders state that "The English of the Southern United States may be the most studied regional variety of any language (2003:1)." It strengthened by Michael Montgomery and James McMillan's (1989) was written and print out 3500 entries of articles, monographs, books about Southern English (Nagle and Sanders, 2003:1).

There are two kind of Southern: Old Southern and New Southern. In this analysis include New Southern. The characteristics of New Southern are use of rhoticity among the young, the loss of /j/ before /u/, the monophthongization of /ai/in certain phonetic environments, the merger of \square and \square before nasals asin \square and \square the southern drawl, the use of the pronoun \square and idiomatic expressions like \square to (Edgar Schneider in Nagle and Sanders, 2003:34).

According to Nagle and Sanders (2003:9-13), there are five settlements that give influence formation of Southern English:

a. The English Core

The first, origin of Southern English derived from initial colonial settlement by British immigrants. The first permanent English-speaking settlement in America was in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Jamestown is the place where it takes hold of economically important crop of tobacco was first cultivated, the first place African slaves were imported, also the first representative government establish. (Algeo in Nagle and Sander, 2003:9)

The example of Virginia's linguistics feature is [r] dropping. Actually, this feature is introduced during the colonial period most widespread in the coastal South and become a typical of the regional speech (Fischer in Sanders and Nagle 2003:9).

b. The Scots-Irish Stratum

The second immigrant derived from northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland or can call Scots-Irish (Fischer in Sanders and Nagle 2003:10). According to Algeo in Sanders and Nagle (2003:10), the great majority of Scots-Irish in America is Delaware or Pennsylvania which is reaching the deeper of Virginia in the 1730s and Carolina in the 1750s than British immigrant.

Various linguistic features according to (Montgomery in Sanders and Nagle 2003:10) such as the Southern double modals (*might could*, *might would*).

c. The African stratum

The third immigrant is African stratum can call as African American. Dutch slave traders introduced African slavery to America in 1619, whereas 400,000 Africans had been forcibly settled in America to be slaves in the plantation economy of tobacco, rice, and cotton cultivation because there was raise of the trade in the eighteenth century (Algeo in Sanders and Nagle 2003:11).

The African stratum also gives influence and contribution to the existence of a number of social or ethnic varieties that spoken by African Americans in the Southern English. That variety is spoken by Gullah Creole on the islands off the coast of South Carolina and Georgia. Gullah Creole is nonstandard varieties of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) as the varieties of standard American English. Those varieties also embellishment with features from the nonstandard varieties and spoken by blacks and whites people. For example, *gumbo*, *voodoo* (both through Louisiana French), *banjo*, *buckra* "boss" or derogatory for "white man," *cooter* "turtle," *goober* (and its synonyms *pinder* and *goober pea*), and *okra*. (Sanders and Nagle 2003:11-12).

d. The Amerindian and Polynesian strata

The fourth immigrant derived from Amerindian population. This population consists of many groups diverse in culture and language. The Amerindians give contribution in vocabulary variation was almost entirely lexical, especially terms for New World fauna, such as *raccoon*,

terms in flora, such as *persimmon*; artifacts, *moccasin* and *tomahawk*, terms of place names, such as *Shenandoah*; and other cultural referents, such as *pone* (as in *corn pone*). Hawaiian people also have contribution in terms like *aloha*, *lei*, *hula*, and *ukulele* (Algeo in Sanders and Nagle 2003:12).

e. Other immigrant strata

There are so many settlers came to America also from other countries and linguistic areas such as; Chinese, Danes, Dutch, Finns, French, Germans, Italians, Japanese, Jews, Portuguese, Russians, Scandinavians, Spaniards, and Swiss. Those ethnic groups settled mainly outside the South and their influence directly and automatically enrich linguistics feature of the Southern English (Algeo in Sanders and Nagle 2003:12-13).

2.4 To Kill a Mockingbird

In the following explanation before in last paragraph of 2.2 about the subject of this research, in this section the researcher give explanation more clearly about "To Kill a Mockingbird".

Harper Lee is the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird". The author published her written text "To Kill a Mockingbird" in 1960, but she needs a two-year to revising and rewriting under the guidance of her editor, Tay Hohoff, of the J. B. Lippincott Company.

(resourches.mhs.vic.edu.au/mockingbird/histoical.htm).

The novel won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize. The novel was highly popular and the selling of the novel more than fifteen million copies. Though in composing the novel she delved into her own experiences as a child in Monroeville, Lee intended that the book impart the sense of any small town in the Deep South, as well as the universal characteristics of human beings. The book was made into a successful movie in 1962, starring Gregory Peck as Atticus (www.wikipedia.com).

In this novel, there are thirty characters but the researcher only takes three characters as the main characters and also as the narrator in the story. The names of them are Jean Louise Finch (Scout Finch), Jeremy Fich (Jem Finch) and Atticus Finch.

The researcher interest to this novel as the subject analysis because the title is very unique because the title have implicit meaning that draw a main problem of the novel and she is interest enough because there are so many data that available and possible to analyze. And then, this novel also has good moral value, which is Atticus Finch as the lawyer did not distinguish the right of white or black people although there was racial segregation that makes black people or nigger did not have equal right like white people. He still defends his client, Tom Robinson because he knows that his client did not guilty although he knows that, he can not win Tom Robinson's case. Tom Robinson in the story as the symbol of the title "To Kill a Mockingbird" as the innocence thing that killed by devil because the judge approve that he is guilty. Finally, the police shoot him until he died because

he tries to escape from the jail. It is draw the title of this novel, why we must kill a mockingbird that did not have a fault. The birds only whistles in the tree without eat the harvest of farmer in farm. (resourches.mhs.vic.edu.au/mockingbird/histoical.htm).

In this research there are three main point that will be analyzed by the researcher that is phonology features, grammatical features and vocabulary variation.

2.5 Phonology Features

According to Wolfram in Nagle and Sanders (2003:151) there is a set of structures of phonology features that have varieties of vernacular varieties in the United States such as:

- a. The phonetic weakening of interdentally fricatives such as [δ] and [θ] to their corresponding stops in syllable-onset position (e.g. [dis] "this" [tin] "thin") is a general trait of vernacular English dialects around the world.
- b. Labiodentals fricative [f] or [v] may be used for the standard English interdentals, as in *toof* for *tooth*, *aufor* for *author*, *smoov* for *smooth*, and *brover* for *brother*.
- c. The fronting of [ŋ] to [n] in unstressed syllables such as *swimmin*' for *swimming* or *coming* for *comin*'.
- d. The retention of the initial h in (h)it and (h)ain't.
- e. vowel nucleus in the /ai/of tide [taid] and time [taim]

In this research, the researcher only looking for the utterances that available in the novel of Harper Lee entitled "To Kill a Mockingbird". There

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are thee feature of phonology feature that appear in this novel they are, the fronting of $[\eta]$ to [n] in unstressed syllables or can call —in ending, [d] dropping and contraction of the pronunciation.

The example of this –in ending can be found in the novel page 7, 13, 192:

"Goin' on seven."

"Always runnin".

Got somethin'.

Scout Finch utters "comin, runnin, somethin" instead of 'coming, running, something' as the standard pronunciation. It happens almost in every verb with –ing and represent that the person who produces the utterance belongs to the lower social group. By this, it reflects that Scout Finch is in a lower social group but she is not a lower class actually. She is a daughter of lawyer namely Atticus. Citing to the novel of "To Kill a Mockingbird" page 11 that draws the condition of Atticus family:

Scout : "Why does he pay you like that?"

Atticus : "Because that's the only way he can pay me. He has

no money."

Scout : "Are we poor, Atticus?"

Atticus : "We are indeed.

Jem : "Are we as poor as the Cunninghams?"

Atticus: "Not exactly. The Cunninghams are country folks, farmers, and the crash hit them hardest. Professional people were poor because the farmers were poor. As Maycomb County was farm country, nickels and dimes were hard to come by for doctors and dentists and lawyers.

The example of [d] dropping can be found in the novel page 20:

"A Hot Steam's somebody who can't get to heaven, just wallows around on lonesome roads **an'** if you walk through him, when you die you'll be one too, **an'** you'll go around at night suckin' people's breath-"

The [d] dropping is accumulated in some words and some contractions of only in one word, but in the sentence above this feature just accumulated from one word. The word is 'and' as shown in above conversation between Jem and Dill.

The example of contraction of the pronunciation can be found in the novel page 19:

I'm gonna put em in my trunk."

The sentence above contains a contracted form of 'going to' which is pronunced by Jem simply as 'gonna' to ease his articulation.

2.6 Grammatical Features

According to Michael Montgomery in Nagle and Sanders (2003: 107), there are three maintaining grammatical features that have uniquely southern structures and special meanings. Based on the explanation of Reed and Reed in 1001 Things everyone should know About the South, yall, might could, and fixin to represent three grammatical features particularly associated with southern speech. Its also appear in popular dictionaries of southern speech (Mitchell 1976, 1980), in literary works representing Southern dialect (Burkett 1978), and in films including southern characters (Herman 1947).

"Yall, might could, and fixin' to are what Wolfram and Fasold (1974) refer to as "socially diagnostic" features and used to identify

social characteristic of the speaker. The terms are often avoided by well-educated Southerners conscious of speaking "standard" English in formal contexts like Atticus as the lawyer in To Kill a Mockingbird's story that always speaks in Standard English. Otherwise, their use is spread widely among regional and social dialects within the South."

a. Yall

There are several variants in structure of "yall" (you all) and punctuation, y'all, ya'll, yawl. The origin of structural yall is a subject of considerable scholarly interest and some people regard yall as a contraction of you+all and typically put an apostrophe after the y. Others put the apostrophe after the a and think of it either as a contraction of ya+all (with ya being you in fast or informal speech) or as a grammaticalized form not involving the contraction of you (Chyntia in Nagle and Sanders, 2003:107).

Montgomery (1992) suggests the possibility that *y'all* derive from the Scots-Irish *ye aw*. He points out that the stress pattern does not favor the contraction of *you+all*; since *you* has the primary stress and *all* the secondary stress, contraction would tend to produce *you'll*, not *y'all*. Also, even though *all* is a productive morpheme in Southern speech (we have *what-all*, *who-all*, *we-all*, and so on).

The uses for *yall*, besides referring to more than one addressee, also function as an "associative plural" to give a meaning something

like "you and the rest of your family or friends"; as an "institutional" pronoun, for example:

"Yawl hush," growled Jem," (p. 20)

The meaning of "yawl" in the following above is refers to Scout and Dill as a sign of closeness or friendliness with both of them. And the others function of "Yall" as a greetings, partings, invitations or attention-getters, and in contrast to *you-all* also as a mark of intimacy or informality.

b. Might Could

There are some expression of modals as a degree of uncertainty and politeness that used by Southerners. Modal auxiliaries include present and past-tense pairs may/might, shall/should, will/would, can/could, must, ought.

The structural modals divided into two general categories: a. Double modals: might could.

b. Multiple modals: might should oughta.

c. Fixin' to

The meaning of fixin' to is something like "about to." It is expresses the intention to do something in short period of time. *Fixin' to* in *The Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE)* is not limited to the South examples are cited from Michigan,

California, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. *DARE* includes several variants, which confirm a link between *fixin' to* and the verb *fix*:

- to fix to go to Boston
- to fix for the trip
- busy fixing for company tomorrow
- fix up for the drought
- fixed to stay a week
- fix for going to the school house
- fixing up for a storm
- all these people I've got to fix for

The example of the sentence above can be found in the novel page 76:

"I was **fixin' to run off** tonight because there they all were."

d. Other prominent grammatical features

Wolfram and Schilling-Estes in Nagle and Sanders (2003:117) listing the grammatical features associated with Southern English is *American English: Dialects and Variation*, especially the grammatical section of the "Appendix: Inventory of Socially Diagnostic Structures":

- irregular verb patterns in the rural South (*Something just* **riz** *up right in front of me*)
- completive *done* in AAVE and in Anglo American vernaculars

 (I done forgot what you wanted)
- be+s in some parts of the South influenced by Highland Scots
 and Scots-Irish (Sometimes it bes like that)

- remote time b'een (stressed) inAAVEto denote distant past (I
 b'een known her)
- indignant come in AAVE (He come telling me I didn't knoww hat I was talking about)
- a-prefixing in Appalachian English and other rural varieties

 (Kim was a drinkin'
- are absence in Southern Anglo and AAVE (You ugly)
- singular s on plural verbs in rural Upper and Lower South (Me and my brother gets in fights)
- -s absence on third-person-singular forms in AAVE (*The dog stay outside in the afternoon*)
- -ly absence in Appalachian and Ozark English (I come from Virginia original)
- intensifying adverbs in Southern English (*She is* **right** *nice*)
- steady in AAVE (They be steady messing with you)
- plural -s absence with measurement nouns, especially in isolated southern areas (*The station is four mile down the road*)
- possessive -s absence in AAVE (*The man hat is on the chair*)
- *mines* as possessive pronoun in AAVE (*It's* mines)
- Possessive forms ending in -n in phrase-final position in Appalachian English (*Is it* yourn?)
- relative pronoun absence in subject position in southern-based varieties (*That's the dog bit me*)

 Existential they in southern-based vernaculars (They's a good show on TV).

Actually, *yall*, *might could*, and *fixin to* are included in the appendix, as are habitual *be*, *ain't*, and multiple negation, which have already been mentioned.

The main point, not all the members of a group will use all of these grammatical features to the same degree. The example of the grammatical feature above can be found in the novel: "She ain't even started to school yet." (p. 4)

The meaning of the sentence above that utters by Jem is to explain that Scout never learn something in the school because she is not even started to school yet. Ain't in the sentence above means that is not but in the other case the meaning of ain't it can be am not or are not.

2.7 Vocabulary Variation

According to Montgomery and Hall's dialect dictionary of Smoky Mountain speech features in Nagle and Sanders (2003:154-158), there are more 1000 items in every region. In the other occasion, Wolfram said that "the uniqueness of sociolinguistics including dialect can be have similarities or differences depends on the situation in their region and every speech community have characterize and automatically give effect on language change and maintenance with the community.

There are so many region of the South and Alabama is one of them and the region also have own characterize speech features that drawing in Harper Lee's literary work entitled "To Kill a Mockingbird" and utter by the three white people in the novel. This is some example of the unique words produced by the main characters:

- "Nome, I mean the folks on our street are all old. (p. 49)
- "Yessum. How do you know?"(p. 23)
- "Are those the Ewells sittin down **yonder**?" (p. 88)

The first sentence, main characters utter Nome means non-standard spelling of is a contraction of No ma'am and used by soft-spoken young women. In the second sentence, Scout utters it when Miss Maudie asks her about smell of mimosa. According to UrbanDictionary.com, Yessum is Southern polite people to a female (usually an elder) meaning "Yes, Ma'am".

In the third sentence, Scout utters it when she ask to Jem about Mrs. Ewell position that sitting down in behind Mr. Tate. According to UrbanDictionary.com, Yonder is word derived from Southern regions and a term to describe an unspecified, unknown, or estimated amount of distance between two and different points, usually between two different points, usually between one's current position and a spot outside the field. It can also be used when referring to a point of interest that can be visibly seen. Also can be used when referring to the direction in which something or someone is going.