## **CHAPTER IV**

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The aims of this chapter is concerned with the analysis of the data in order to answer the research problems presented in chapter I. In the first part, the writer focuses on the grammatical patterns of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in Richard Wright short story, *The Man Who Almost A Man*. In the second part, the writer describes the reasons of African American characters using AAVE in this short story.

# 4.1 Findings

In this study, the writer found 47 AAVE grammatical patterns. The writer also provided the Standard American English (SAE) forms that correspond to the grammatical patterns of AAVE.

## 4.1.1 Grammatical Pattern of AAVE

In the finding, the writer found nine grammatical patterns of AAVE uttered by African American characters in short story *The Man Who Almost A Man.* Grammatical pattern of AAVE includes syntactic and morphological pattern. The syntactical patterns consist of the use of ain't, invariant be, invariant BIN, invariant don, multiple negation, omitting auxiliaries in question, and relative clause. While, the morphological patterns consist of past morphology, and verbal -s.

**Table 4.1 Each AAVE Grammatical Pattern** 

	PATTERNS	AAVE	SAE	р	n
Grammatical Pattern		It ain mine!	It <b>isn't</b> mine!	4	
	The Use of Ain't	yuh <b>ain</b> !	You are not!	5	١ , ا
		It <b>ain</b> but two dollahs.	It <b>is not</b> expensive, just two dollar	6	3
	Invariant Be	It <b>be</b> fer Pa.	It <b>is</b> for Papa (Dave's Dad)	6	1
		Where yuh <b>been</b> , boy?	Where <b>have</b> you been, boy?	3	
	Invariant BIN	Then somethin musta been wrong wid ol Jenny	Then something must have been wrong with old Jenny	10	2
	Invariant Dən	Ah <b>done</b> worked hard alla summer	I have worked hard all summer	6	2
		Whut yuh done?	What you have done?	10	
	Multiple Negation	Ah <b>don</b> wanna buy <b>nothing</b> .	I <b>don't</b> want to buy anything	1	
		You ain't nothing but a boy.	You are <b>nothing</b> , you are just a boy	2	
		Ah <b>ain</b> feedin <b>no</b> hogs in mah house!	I am <b>not</b> feeding hogs in my house!	3	12
		Yeah, but <b>ain no</b> usa yuh thinking bout throwin nona it erway.	Yeah, but it <b>is not</b> useful thinking about throwing a money	5	
		Don yuh talk t me bout no gun!	Don't talk to me about a gun	5	
		Ah'll <i>never</i> ast yuh fer <b>nothing</b> no mo	I'll never ask you anymore for anything	5	
		Yuh ain gonna toucha penny of tha money fer no gun!	Yuh are not going to touch a penny of the money for a gun	5	
		Ah knows yuh <b>ain</b> got <b>no</b> sense.	I know you <b>didn't</b> have a sense	5	
		Pa ain got no gun.	Papa didn't have a gun	6	
		Ah done worked hard alla summer n <b>ain</b> ast yuh fer <b>nothin</b> , is Ah, now	I have worked all summer and <b>didn't</b> ask you anything	6	
		Yuh <b>don</b> need <b>no</b> gun.	You <b>don't</b> need a gun	6	
		Ain nothin wrong,	Nothing wrong	6	
	Omitting Aux in Question	Whutcha want?	What do you want?	1	
		How yuh, Mistah Joe?	How are you, Mister Joe?	1	10
		You wanna see it here?	Do you want to see it here?	1	18
		You plannin on buying something?	Do you plan to buy something?	1	

		Your ma lettin you have your own money now?	Do your Mother let you to have your own money now?	1	
		Whut you plannin on buyin?	What is your planning to buy?	2	
		Whut you want with a gun?	What do you want with the gun, Dave?	2	
		Whut yu wan fer it?	What do you want for it?	2	
		Whut this?	What is this?	3	
		Yuh crazy?	Are you crazy?	3	
		yuh hear?	What did you hear?	6	
		Know whut this is, Jenny?	Do you know what is this, Jenny?	8	
		Whut yuh do wid the gun?	What have you do with the gun?	10	
		Whut yuh do wid it?	What did you do with it?	12	
		Where Dave?	Where is Dave?	10	
		Where yuh git the money?	Where did you get the money?	11	
		Whut yuh wan fer yo mule, Mistah Hawkins?	What do you want for your mule, Mister Hawkind?	12	
		Whut yuh do wid it?	What will you do?	12	
	Relative	Ma, Gawd knows Ah	Ma, God knows that I	5	1
	Clause	wans one of these.	want one of these	)	1
	Past Morphology	Ma <b>give</b> it t me.	Ma gave it to me	11	1
		Ah wans t take it	I want to take it home	1	
		home wid me	with me	-	]
		Ah plows mo Ian than anybody over	I plow more than somebody over there	4	
		Ma, Gawd knows Ah wans one of these.	Ma, God know that I want one of these	5	
	Verbal -s	Not ef <b>Ah knows</b> it	Not if I know it	5	8
		Ah knows yuh ain	I know you didn't have a		
		got no sense.	sense	5	
		But Ma, <b>Ah wans</b> a gun	But Ma, I want a gun	6	
		Ah wans a gun	I want a gun	6	1
		Please, Ma! Ah loves yuh, Ma.	Please, Ma! I love you, Ma	6	

The list of grammatical pattern of AAVE shown in the Table 4.1 which represent grammatical patterns of AAVE. The theories supporting the

study are taken from Green (2002), Edward (2009), and other supporting

materials.

4.1.1.1 The Use of Ain't

Green states that ain't is classified as the negation. It is different

from other negation auxiliaries in SAE. In SAE, the negation is formed from

any particular auxiliary or conjugated form of be, do, have, modals +

contracted not (n't). Although ain't may occur in environments which have

function as isn't, didn't and haven't, can't. As shown in table 4.1, the use of

ain't occurs 3 times. The utterance that uses this feature is found in the

following conversation:

**Conversation 1** 

Dave : "Naw, Ma, Gimme ma catlog, Ma."

Dave's Mam : "Quit hollerin at me! Whut's wrong wid yuh? Yuh crazy?"

Dave : "But Ma, please. It ain mine! It's Joe's! He tol me t bring

it back t im termorrow. "

This conversation happened when Dave grabbed the catalogue and

Dave's Mam asked him to stop holler at her. Dave might look weird until

his mam said that he was crazy. Dave grabbed the catalogue because that

was not belong to him. It was belong to Mr. Joe, the store owner. Dave

would brought back the catalogue to Mr. Joe tomorrow.

The use of *ain't* mostly happens when Dave speaks with his family.

Mostly ain't in this short story are without t. Dave uses ain't in it ain mine

to utter the negative sentence about the thing which is not belong to Dave.

The rule in SAE if we want to utter the negative sentence there should be

not form preceding auxiliary for nominal sentence. So, this family prefer

use ain't in their conversation for negative sentence to simplify their

utterances.

**4.1.1.2** Invariant *be* 

Invariant be which may also be in the form of bes in some instances

indicates habitual meaning. Whereas the auxiliary/copula be and other

auxiliaries in AAVE can be absent or do not have to occur obligatorily. The

aspectual marker be cannot be left out of the sentence. If it is omitted, some

sentences may receive ambiguous interpretations, or they may not receive

the intended interpretation. In AAVE, the use of be replaces to be is, am,

are in SAE. It occurs just once, the utterance that uses invariant be is

presented in the following conversation:

**Conversation 2** 

Dave's Mam : "Yuh bring it straight back t me, yuh hear? It be fer Pa."

Dave : "Yessum! Lernme go now, Ma."

The conversation above happened when Dave's Mam gave Dave

money to buy a gun but he should promise to her. Dave should give the gun

to his father. After he promised to his mam, he left the home to buy a gun

as soon as possible.

Invariant be occurs just once in the story. For the conversation

above, Dave's Mam did not do habitual activity, but here she changes

auxiliary is in nominal sentence into be in order to generalize all auxiliary

form in her utterance. The utterance should be in "It is for Papa" for the rules in SAE.

#### 4.1.1.3 Invariant *BIN*

Commonly, the using of special auxiliary *been* is to replace *have*. They are usually used to indicate the actions that occurred perfectly. Invariant *BIN* occurs twice. The example is presented below:

## **Conversation 3**

Dave

: "Waal, Ah brung ol Jenny down here sos; Ah could do mah plowin. Ah plowed bout two rows, just like yuh see. **Then somethin musta been wrong wid ol Jenny.** She wouldn ack right a-tall. She started snortin n kickin her heels. Ah tried t hol her, but she pulled erway, rearin n goin in. Then when the point of the plow was stickin up in the air, she swung erroun n twisted herself back an it . . . She stuck herself n started t bleed. N fo Ah could do anything, she wuz dead."

This conversation happened when Dave explained what he had done. Something wrong happened with old mule, Jenny. Jenny was snorting and kicking her heels. She was blending. Dave's mother still pushed Dave in order to tell the truth what he had done until made Jenny dead.

Dave's mother utters *BIN* to indicate something happens completely. She asks Dave about what her son had done. The using *been* in "Then somethin musta been wrong wid ol Jenny" replaces *have*. As the SAE, the sentence should be "Then something must have been wrong with old Jenny".

### 4.1.1.4 Invariant Dan

The verbal maker d 
o n indicates about some eventuality which has ended or having had some experience. Sometimes, don precedes a verb in the -ed form. Invariant d 
o n occurs twice The following example is below:

### **Conversation 4**

Dave's Mam : "Whut happened, Dave? Whut yuh done?"

Dave : "Nothin"

Dave's Dad : "C mon, boy, talk,"

This conversation happened when Dave's Mam and Dave's Dad asked what did he done. Whether Dave did not want to say anything. Dave's Mam asked about something happen in the past.

Dave's Mam asked to Dave, "Whut yuh done?" indicates that she wants to know something has ended, and of course he just realized something has done. As the SAE form, the utterance should be "What have you done"?

# 4.1.1.5 Multiple Negation

The multiple negation is a sentence which consists of more than one negator, it can be double negator, triple, or more. Usually, if there are two or more negative markers in a single sentence, it will make a positive sentence instead the negative one. The data shows that there are simplification of structure by equalizing some negative markers using ain't. Ain't in some sentence could replace is not, am not, are not, was not, were not, have not, has not, had not, do not, does not, did not. The writer finds

many double negation occurring in this short story. It occurs 12 times. For instance:

#### **Conversation 5**

Dave : "Ma, ef yuh lemme buy one Ah'll never ast yuh fer

nothing no mo."

Dave's Mam : "Ah tol yuh t git outta here! Yuh ain gonna toucha penny

of tha money fer no gun! Thas how come Ah has Mistah Hawkins t pay yo wages t me, cause Ah knows yuh ain got

no sense."

Dave : "But, Ma, we need ggun. Pa ain got no gun. We need a

gun in the house. Yuh kin never tell whut might happen."

This conversation happened when Dave asked money to his mam to buy a gun. If his Dave's Mam let Dave to have a gun, he will not ask something else. He thought that the gun is an important thing for his family. Whether his mam did not allow Dave to have a gun, he still forced his mam that have the gun in the house is a must.

The conversation above shows that Dave use more than one negation in an utterance. Based on SAE, double negation in one sentence means positive sentence. Although those characters use double negation in conversation, for instance, "Pa ain got no gun", means his father didn't need a gun. So, double negation in AAVE means negative sentence. Dave and his mam tend to use multiple negation in the utterances to emphasize negative sentences.

## 4.1.1.6 Omitting Aux in Question

Auxiliary verb precedes the subject is described as question. However, you will find some yes-no questions in AAVE are formed without

overt auxiliaries in the sentence initial position. It occurs 18 times, the example in this following conversation:

#### **Conversation 6**

Dave : "Naw, Ma. Gimme ma catlog, Ma."

Dave's Mam :"Quit hollerin at me! Whut's wrong wid yuh? **Yuh crazy"**Dave : "But Ma, please. It ain mine! It's Joe's! He tol me t bring i

t back t im termorrow. "

This conversation happened when Mother's Dave curious about the thing that Dave brought. Dave answered his mam's question. He said that the thing he brought just a catalogue from Mr. Joe the gun store owner. But, his mam grabbed the catalogue and she would to use it in the house. Dave asked his mother to give it back to him because it was not belong to him. Dave should bring the catalogue back tomorrow to Mr. Joe.

There are no auxiliaries *are* in the initial position of the sentence. For Dave's Mam utterance "Yuh crazy?". That indicates omitting auxiliary in a question. Green argued that the auxiliary assumes a position in the front of the sentence preceding the subject (2000, p.84). These example indicating that they are questions, but, of course, the intonation pattern used in uttering the sentences marks them as questions.

# 4.1.1.7 Relative Clause

The clause serves as modifiers or qualifiers of a preceding noun and are referred to as relative clauses. In AAVE and in other varieties of English, some relative clauses modifying a noun in predicate nominative or object position are not obligatorily introduced by a relative pronoun. Relative

clause occurs just once, uttered by the main character, Dave. Following

conversation indicates that there is no overt relative pronoun:

**Conversation 7** 

Dave

: "Ma, Gawd knows Ah wans one of these."

Dave's Mam : "One of whut?"

Dave : "One of these,"

This conversation happened when Dave asked to his mam about his

salary from Mr. Hawkins. Dave clarified that he wanted to have a gun. His

mother answered that she would kept his salary because it would be paid for

the next winter school that came more closely.

There is no overt relative pronoun. In the sentence "Ma, Gawd

knows Ah wans one of these", the sentence clause introduced by a zero

relative pronoun modifies noun in the predicate nominative position. These

sentence should be "Ma, God know that I want one of these".

4.1.1.8 Past Morphology

In AAVE, usually no distinction form between simple past and past

perfect. For the most part, the same form or identical morphology is used in

both simple past and past perfect. It occurs just once. The utterance is below:

**Conversation 8** 

Dave's Dad : "Where yuh git the money?"

Dave : "Ma give it t me."

This conversation happened when Dave's Dad and Mr. Hawkins

asked to Dave where he got the money to buy a gun till the mule has shouted

by him. They also asked what happened with Dave until he shoot that mule.

Dave argued that he did not shoot the mule but the gun jumped when he pulled the trigger. Immediately he looked at the mule, Jenny has bleed.

Dave does not differ the tenses when he speaks. It proves that Dave does not pay much attention in grammatical rule in his utterance when he speaks. The utterance which refers to an activity in the past should be using past tense. For the correct utterance above, should change base form *give* into simple past *gave*.

### 4.1.1.9 Verbal -s

The grammatical rule of SAE form is the use of ending -s/-es in present tense verb of third person singular subject she, he and it. In AAVE, the ending of -s/-es is omitted or added. This is example of verbal-s in third person singular subjects:

# **Conversation 9**

Dave : "Aw, Ma, Ah done worked hard alla summer n ain ast yuh

fer nothin, is Ah, now?"

Dave's Mam : "Thas whut yuh spose t do!"

Dave : "But Ma, Ah wans a gun. Yuh kin lemme have two

dollahs outta mah money. Please, Ma. I kin give it to Pa ...

Please, Ma! Ah loves yuh, Ma."

This conversation happened when Dave proved that he had worked hard all summer. He want to let two dollar to his mother because he want to have a gun. Dave believed if the he has a gun, he gave the gun to his Dad.

As shown in the conversation above, non-standard English verbals is frequently used when Dave and his mother are talking each other. In SAE, the sentence "Ah loves yuh, Ma" should be written as "I love you, Ma".

## 4.1.2 The Reason of African American Characters Using AAVE

After analyzing the short story *The Man Who Almost A*, the writer found 47 grammatical patterns of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). This phenomenon happens because Niggers have some reasons using AAVE in this short story.

# 4.1.2.1 To Show the Identity of African American Ethnic Group

The unique characteristic of specific social groups can be used to reinforce membership of the identity. When speaking, an African-American man or woman may choose to emphasize the features of AAVE. Yet, they want to stress their social identity of ethnic group as an African American. The characters in this short story using some grammatical patterns of AAVE. It can be seen from the conversation which shows the interaction between Dave and Mr. Joe as the store owner, both of them tend to use AAVE in their conversation:

Mr. Joe :"Howdy, Dave! Whutcha want?"

Dave : "How yuh, Mistah Joe? Aw, Ah don wanna buy nothing.

Ah jus wanted t see ef yuhd lemme look at tha catlog

erwhile."

Mr. Joe :"Sure! You wanna see it here?"

Dave : "Nawsuh. Ah wans t take it home wid me. Ah'll bring it

back termorrow when Ah come in from the fiels."

This conversation happened when Dave went to store gun then

Dave said that he didn't want to buy anything and just want to borrow a

catalogue. Dave promised to bring back the catalogue after he worked from the field.

Ogbu, an African American in Edward (2009, p. 94) told, when a black people are talking Standard American English (SAE), he or she is pretending to be white or talking like white people. Black people told to the researcher that it is insane to pretend to be White, and that speaking SAE is a pretend, a fake language. Finegan (2008, p. 380) adds that one reason other varieties resist because vernacular has deeply relation to the social identities of the speakers. Yet, the vernacular language between Dave and Mr. Joe shows that they are tend not using SAE because AAVE is the best language as the identity of African American.

## 4.1.2.2 To Show the Solidarity among Black American and White American

Dave lives with his parents and one young brother. They use AAVE in conversation. He always using AAVE while meet with Mr. Joe, African American store owner. But, sometimes his language changing when he meet with Mr. Hawkins, White American. It because its language as their solidarity among the same ethnic group and the others. It can be seen from the conversation between Dave and Mr. Joe then and Mr. Hawkins:

Mr. Joe :"Howdy, Dave! Whutcha want?"

Dave : "How yuh, Mistah Joe? Aw, Ah don wanna buy nothing.

Ah jus wanted t see ef yuhd lemme look at tha catlog

erwhile."

Mr. Joe :"Sure! You wanna see it here?"

This conversation happened in the gun store, Mr. Joe as the owner and he is African American. Both of them represent AAVE grammatical

pattern. When Mr. Joe asked about the thing Dave want, Mr. Joe omit auxiliary verb *do* in "Whutcha want?" and the utterance should be in *What do you want?* For SAE. Then Dave asked about Joe's condition, Dave omits auxiliary *are* which the utterance should be in *How are you, Mr. Joe?* Then following by double negation to convey that *I don't want to buy anything* in SAE. Again, Mr. Joe asked Dave but he omits auxiliary *do* for SAE *Do you want to see it here?*.

Dave came to the field so early and Mr. Hawkins asked him what he did he done.

Mr. Hawkins : "Hey! That you, Dave? What're yuh doing here so early?"

Dave : "Ah didn't know Ah wuz gittin up so early, Mistah

: "Ah didn't know Ah wuz gittin up so early, Mistah Hawkins. Ah wuz fixin t hitch up ol Jenny n take her t the

fiels."

Mr. Hawkins: "Good. Since you're so early, how about plowing that

stretch down by the woods?"

Then, when Dave swear to the Mr. Hawkins that he did not kill the mule. Dave using SAE grammatical correct in his utterance

Dave : "Ah swear fo Gawd, Ah didn go t kill the mule, Mistah

Hawkins!"

Mr. Hawkins : "But you killed her!"

Not all grammatical patterns of AAVE is used by Dave when he speaks with white American. Although, a phonemic orthography in this short story different from SAE. The conversation above happened when Mr. Hawkins asked to Dave why he came so early to the field. They have a good conversation. It happened before there is a conflict between them, Dave shoot a Mr. Hawkins' mule. Because both of African American and White

American were a close contact, it makes their languages influenced each other.

Mr. Hawkins : "Well, boy, looks like yuh done bought a dead mule! Hahaha!" "Ain tha ershame." "Hohohohoho."

Mr. Hawkins using AAVE grammatical pattern in the sentence above. He uses negation *ain* in the utterance. People who live in America actually could use SAE in daily life, but Mr. Hawkins sometimes did not do that. They may switch the language because language as the solidarity and also language can make them become more intimate.

### 4.2 Discussion

This study describes grammatical pattern uttered by the Nigger characters in Richard Wright short story, *The Man Who Almost A Man* in another variation of American English. The writer uses African American Vernacular English by Green (2002) in classifying data. There are 16 patterns of AAVE grammatical patterns, they are; the absence of aux & conjugated forms, the use of ain't, inverting auxiliary in question, omitting aux in question, aux in question tag, verb phrase ellipsis, invariant *be*, invariant *bin*, invariant *dən*, multiple negation, existential *it* and *dey*, relative clause, preterit had, past morphology, verbal –s, and the absence of possessive -'s. AAVE is one of other variation of America English used by majority African American people in US.

African American characters not always using AAVE in every utterance. As stated in the table 4.1, shows nine grammatical patterns of

AAVE used by Nigger characters. They are the use of ain't, invariant be, invariant BIN, invariant d n, multiple negation, omitting auxiliary in question, relative clause, past morphology, and verbal -s. As in the case for the grammar rules, these variation will not occur in every utterance of every word.

Niggers may not differ or may they do not know that spoken utterance and written utterance is not the same. This phenomena shows that another variation of American English played in Richard Wright. However, this short story successfully represents AAVE. The finding of this study supports the newest previous study which the object study is *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* published on 1885 that AAVE still used on 1960 when this short story published.

The newest previous study has successfully to study AAVE. Ningrum (2014) examines AAVE in written form in the novel by Mark Twain. She analyzes AAVE using theory by Trudgill. She finds some grammatical patterns of AAVE such as special auxiliary verb uses of *been* and *done*, existential *it* functions as there, the use of multiple negations, the use of *ain't*, verb forms *is* and *was* replace *are* and *were*. Moreover, this study gets the new findings of AAVE grammatical pattern. There are invariant *be*, omitting auxiliary in question, relative clause, past morphology, and verbal -s.

In this century, speakers who use AAVE cannot indicates as the lower class or slavery. Ezgeta (2012) examines grammatical variability of

the selected AAVE features in interviews with ten African-American public figures. The selected features include the third singular -s absence, the possessive -s absence, the plural -s absence, and the generalization of is and was to plural and second person pronouns. The result says that linguistic pattern and environmental constrains in the use of AAVE features contribute to a better understanding and a wider acknowledgment of the fact that African-American is a regular and systematic using vernacular language. It means that AAVE in this century is not only used by lower-social class, but the public figures also use AAVE. It indicates that AAVE now as the general language for all social class.

As a Moslem, the solidarity among dissimilarity is a good way as Allah SWT says in the al-Qur'an Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13:



"O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted". (Q.S. Al Hujurat: 13)

The verse above tells us that human are created diverse into tribes and interracial, so they acquainted and help each other in social life. We have to live harmonious surrounded by the diversity. This verse also forbid us being haughty and jeering the pauper because of social classes, occupation, and the wealth.

Although black American and white American are boundaries with the languages and also the color of skin, they should keep good relationship. The message of the diversity delivered in the al-Qur'an Surah Ar-Rum verse 22:

"And of His signs is the creation of heavens and earth, and the diversity of your languages and colors. Verily, in that are indeed signs for those who hear". (Q.S. Ar-rum: 22)

This verse tells about a lot of languages in this world and also diversity of colors. They should be able live diversely. No one has the similarities with others. Even distinguishable from one another in their speech or attitudes. Neither real nor hidden, it is only be seen through contemplation.

The development of language variation especially AAVE will be the gap for the further research. Moreover, this study not completely discuss about lexical pattern and phonological pattern because the object of the study taken from written form. For that reason, the study about AAVE is suitable for spoken text that contains of voice and sound. It will be the gap for the further studies to analyze AAVE in a movie. The next studies will

give new nuance to find the new kinds of AAVE which contain of phonological pattern never been discussed by the newest previous study.

