

**THE STUDY OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AMERICAN  
DIALECTS ON JIMMY KIMMEL'S AND ELLEN  
DEGENERES' SHOWS**

**THESIS**



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THE STUDY OF NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN AMERICAN DIALECTS  
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By and large, a language consists of at least more than one dialect, and a language has more impact and power than a dialect. As a sub-unit of the language which can allude to a regional language variety or a casual, colloquial, or non-standard language variation, dialect is viewed as a revolting, obscene, and impolite language (Ma & Yuan, 2004). According to Labov (1972), the term dialect is utilized in various conventions to allude to systematic linguistic language variation, measurably connected with a sociolinguistic parameter. In that capacity, it can be hard to delimit.

Dialect is a significant issue of sociolinguistic research. It includes two aspects; language structure and social context. It endeavors to talk about speech behavior dependent on social and cultural phenomenon through interactive study, explaining the language (Yang, 2000). Newmayer (1986) states that sociolinguistic is associated with language and social relations. He additionally incorporates the utilization of language in the various social condition in the study of sociolinguistic. From the explanation above, we can see that the appearance of dialect in a language is so fundamental. People may speak different dialects in one language, but they still understand the messages that the speaker wants to deliver. It is related to the mutual intelligibility features in every human being. Mutual Intelligibility is a relationship among languages or dialects in which speakers of different but linked varieties can easily understand each other without intentional study or extraordinary effort. It is genuinely used as an essential criterion for separating languages from dialects.

This research deals with the Northern and Southern American dialect used by a different person of the same language. The division of humanity into other individuals is so central and evident that everybody takes it for granted. The way that the distinctions are so fundamental implies that it is not astounding that it is also reflected and appeared in every human language. Recently there has been high interest in analyzing dialect. In 2013, Michael Dunn conducted dialect research in the title *Gender Determined Dialect variation*. He focuses on straight out gender dialects from three interrelated viewpoints.

In contrast with Dunn, Deviana (2012), Anggawati (2014), and Megawati (2014) conducted research that focused on the Javanese language. They specify their research on the Surabaya dialect, which is the part of the Javanese language. Edensor (2009), A'la (2009), Santika (2014), Berglund (2017), and Wulandari (2018) conducted dialect research with the movie as the data source. They focused on particular geographical dialects such as Southern American dialect, West Country dialect, South Yorkshire dialect, etc. While in 2017, Sukmawati conducted dialect research with the title *A Contrastive Study Between British & American English: Morphological Perspective*. Here, she compared the contrast between British and American English from a morphological perspective.

Dunn (2013), in *Gender Determined Dialect Variation*, studied a pragmatic cross-cultural approach to the thought of gender. He treats from three interrelated perspectives, the functional typology of gender and dialects, tending to how gender dialect is utilized, and the general characterization of gender dialects. As a result, he shows that gender dialect is only attested in a small community, and no

doubt, gender dialects are only stable in a small-scale society. Gender dialects are a possible result of gendered sociolinguistic variety, which shows the general significance of the social flagging capacity of language contrasted with securing case and informative effectiveness.

Edensor (2009) conducted the research in *Dialect in Film: Examples of South Yorkshire Grammatical and Lexical Features from Ken Loach Films*. She focuses on the English dialect in South Yorkshire, looking at traditional and present-day perspectives over thirty years. Her study related to the level or breadth of dialect diminishes over the years, tending towards a more leveled, less regionally marked English. As a result, she found less non-standard grammatical forms and less dialectal expressions in the 2001 film than in the 1969 film. The decreasing aspect is in the pronunciation of *-ing*, final *-ed*, and some parts are disappearing. In conclusion, she states that the dialect in South Yorkshire showed a few changes, yet the progressions did not influence all features similarly.

In 2018, Wulandari conducted the study of the dialect used in the film. She analyzed the Southern American dialect used by the *Gone Girl* movie's main character and the factors that affect Southern American dialect. She focuses on language variation and shows that the main character's dialect patterns fluctuate from the scope of phonological features, grammatical patterns, and vocabulary variation. The theory she used is from Nagle and Sanders. As a result, she found some Southern American dialect patterns that consist of phonological features, grammatical features, and vocabulary variations. Also, she states that the factor that influences Southern American dialect comes from the geographical area. It

refers to a regional dialect of the main character in the *Gone Girl* movie, American English.

Megawati (2014) examines dialect used by English Department students of Brawijaya University from Madiun and Surabaya. She focuses on lexical and what are the Javanese levels of the word are used. She used a qualitative approach since the Data is exhibited in the form of terms instead of the number. The result of her study found 29 utterances containing lexicon in Javanese using Madiun and Surabaya dialect. There are also 20 words of informal javanese language , seven words of formal javanese language, and no words of *madya* or the level of language wich in between formal and informal used in the Surabaya dialect. In conclusion, she states that Surabaya dialects are ruder than the societies of Madiun dialect.

Sukmawati (2017) analyzed a contrastive study between British and American English through a Morphological perspective. The focus of her research is on the contrasts between British and American English vocabularies and the distinctions between British and American English spellings. It reveals three dialect types, such as the word with the same meaning but different terms, the same name but other purposes, and words with different meanings. Also, there are two types of differences between British and American English in spellings, namely words with the same pronunciation but different in spelling and terms with different spellings for a different meaning.

Most of the previous researches concentrated on particular geographical dialects such as South Yorkshire, American Southern, West Country, Surabaya



dialect, etc. In contrast, this research focused on two different dialects: North American dialect and South American dialect. Although Sukmawati (2017) has conducted research focusing on two different dialects, those are British and American dialect, but her analysis concentrates only on morphological perspective in general. To fill the gap, I examined how Northern and Southern American dialects are used by different people of the same language based on its phonological, grammatical, and vocabulary variation. Furthermore, most of the previous research (A'la 2009, Berglund 2017, Edensor 2009, Santika 2014, Wulandari 2018) analyze the dialect from the movie. It is different with my study that examining talk show. The reason why I choose talk show as my object is because people's utterances are more spontaneous.

The present researcher intends to analyze the language variations of Northern American and Southern American dialects in Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres utterances. Due to their background, Jimmy Kimmel and Ellen DeGeneres were chosen to reflect the Northern American and Southern American dialect. Jimmy Kimmel was born on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1967, in New York City, United States, part of North American. He spends his childhood there with his family. While Ellen DeGeneres was born on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1958, in Metairie, Louisiana, United States. Ellen spent most of her childhood in New Orleans, part of South America. When she was 13<sup>th</sup> years old, moving with her mother to Atlanta, Texas, but still in the South American region. This study aims to reveal the phonological features, grammatical features, and vocabulary variation of







the belief or ideology that it is right and wrong in languages, that is a correct way of using words and grammar, and there are many ways of getting it wrong.

Understanding language is essential because it connects people with interesting social, cultural, and cognitive issues. Language is organized in such different layers (Schneider,2011). Language has three structure layers: the sounds of language, the words of a language, and how words put together. The variation that is related to the sound is called phonological variation. It is variations that refer to the different ways people speak their language. The other is linguistic variation, which is concerns differences in the words that speakers use. The morphological variations have to do with differences in expression in terms of their internal structures.

### **2.3 Dialect**

Dialect is a variety of language caused by the geographical area used to communicate with each other. It is also frequently as often as possible term connected to language variations, particularly those spoken in progressively confined pieces of the world, which have no written form. Likewise, it is regularly viewed as a standard deviation, distortion of the right standard form of language (Trudgill , 2004). Labov in Brown and Attardo (2000) states that every speaker has a different frequency in the terms they used a prestige of a language based on their background. It refers to grammatically, lexically, or just phonologically assortments. If two speakers state separately, *I done it last night* and *I did it last night*, it very well may be said that they are talking different dialects. So dialect is a variety of how the specific region people used language to communicate with





region has a specific grammatical pattern that differs from other languages. For example, in American English, the collective nouns are considered singular (e.g., *the band is playing*). In contrast, collective nouns can be either singular or plural in British English. However, the plural form is most often used (e.g., *the bands are playing*).

### **2.3.3 Vocabulary Variation.**

The different language provides different vocabularies as its features. It has been shown that the native speakers of specific languages differ considerably in their vocabulary size. Variation in speech, in turn, is attributed to variations in the processing of language. It is always own by the regional dialect users. Regarding American dialect, each regional dialect has unique vocabulary variation. North America has the word *pop* to say a soft drink, while in the Northeast, they used the word *soda*.

### **2.4 Different Dialects in America.**

Every region in America has its language variations, which makes it different from the other areas. Based on the TELSUR Project of the University of Pennsylvania (Labov et al., 2006), there are three 20th/21st-century shifts in American English: North, South, and West.













and producer. Ellen was born on 26th January 1958, in Metairie, Louisiana, United States. Ellen spent much of her childhood in New Orleans before moving with her mother to Atlanta, Texas, at 13. *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* has won more than 20 Emmy awards a day in its first five seasons. According to some survey platforms such as *Statista, Ranker, Screenrant, The Netline, Variety, and so on, Jimmy Kimmel Live1* and *Ellen DeGeneres Show* is a top 10 most successful talk show United States. (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ellen-DeGeneres>).

















































































