

**BLACK WOMEN'S DIALECT USED BY THE MAIN  
CHARACTER IN ZORA NEALE HURSTON'S NOVEL  
“THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD”**

**THESIS**



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BLACK WOMEN'S DIALECT USED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN  
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GOD"

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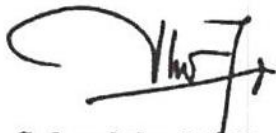
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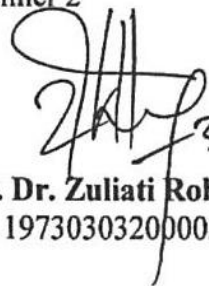
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## ABSTRACT

Wardani, A. D. (2022). *Black Women's Dialect Used by The Main Character in Zora Neale Hurston's Novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God."* English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Suhandoko, M.Pd.

Keywords: black women's dialect, Standard English language, dialect patterns, Hurston's novel

This study focuses on analyzing the dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations, and revealing the socio-cultural background of black women's dialect in Hurston's novel entitled "Their Eyes Were Watching God." This study aimed to investigate the different dialect patterns in the grammatical features according to Rickford's theory (1999) and vocabulary variations of the black women's dialect based on Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyam (2010) compared to the Standard English through Hurston's novel. In addition, this study proposed to provide information on the factors that may represent the socio-cultural background of Black English people in Hurston's novel according to Rickford and Rickford's theory (2000). The researcher applied a descriptive-qualitative approach in this analysis. The research data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences uttered by Janie as the black woman in Hurston's novel. The data were analyzed through classification, identification, and interpretation of the black women's dialect patterns uttered by Janie Mae Crawford as the main character in the novel.

In this study, the researcher found eight types of Black English dialect's grammatical features. The most frequent category of grammatical features used by Janie in Hurston's novel is the use of *Ain't*, which replaces the auxiliary verb *am not, are not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not* in Standard English. Moreover, the vocabulary variations used by Janie often appeared when talking with the other speakers. She often used unfamiliar vocabulary, such as the use of the terminology "outa," "lemme," "gimme," "chillun," and "gal," which in Standard English is "out off," "let me," "give me," "children," and "girl." These results showed that Janie used a unique variation of the Black English dialect vocabulary different from Standard English, but still has the same meaning. Besides, the researcher found three factors representing Black English speaker's socio-cultural background, such as gender, age, and linguistic environment. This study showed that the gender factor has the highest frequency in representing black English people's socio-cultural background, which can be seen through the grammatical features used by Janie as the speaker. Moreover, the researcher highlights that Janie's speech can represent her socio-cultural backgrounds, such as her female gender, mature woman, and the speaker's environment.

## ABSTRAK

Wardani, A. D. (2022). *Dialek Perempuan Kulit Hitam yang Digunakan Pemeran Utama dalam Novel Zora Neale Hurston "Their Eyes Were Watching God."* Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Dosen Pembimbing: Suhandoko, M.Pd.

Kata Kunci: dialek perempuan kulit hitam, Bahasa Inggris Standar, pola dialek, novel Hurston

Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisis pola dialek, termasuk fitur gramatikal dan variasi kosa kata, serta mengungkap latar belakang sosial budaya dialek perempuan kulit hitam dalam novel Hurston berjudul "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui perbedaan pola dialek dalam fitur gramatikal berdasarkan teori Rickford (1999) dan variasi kosa kata dialek perempuan kulit hitam berdasarkan Fromkin, Rodman, dan Hyam (2010) dibandingkan dengan Bahasa Inggris Standar melalui novel Hurston. Selain itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan informasi tentang faktor-faktor yang dapat mewakili latar belakang sosial budaya orang kulit hitam Inggris dalam novel Hurston menurut teori Rickford dan Rickford (2000). Peneliti menerapkan pendekatan deskriptif-kualitatif dalam analisis ini. Data penelitian ini berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat yang diucapkan oleh Janie sebagai perempuan kulit hitam dalam novel Hurston. Data dianalisis melalui klasifikasi, identifikasi, dan interpretasi pola dialek perempuan kulit hitam yang diucapkan oleh Janie Mae Crawford sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel tersebut.

Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan delapan jenis fitur gramatikal dialek bahasa Inggris kulit Hitam. Kategori fitur gramatikal yang paling sering digunakan oleh Janie dalam novel Hurston adalah penggunaan *Ain't*, yang menggantikan kata kerja bantu *am not, not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not* dalam bahasa Inggris Standar. Selain itu, variasi kosa kata yang digunakan Janie kerap muncul saat berbicara dengan pembicara lain. Dia sering menggunakan kosakata asing, seperti penggunaan kata "outa", "lemme", "gimme", "chillun", dan "gal", yang dalam bahasa Inggris Standar adalah "out off", "let me", "give me," "children," dan "girl." Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa Janie menggunakan variasi unik dari kosakata dialek Bahasa Inggris kulit hitam yang berbeda dari Bahasa Inggris Standar, namun tetap memiliki makna yang sama. Selain itu, peneliti menemukan tiga faktor yang mewakili latar belakang sosial budaya orang kulit hitam Inggris, seperti jenis kelamin, usia, dan lingkungan bahasa. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa faktor gender memiliki frekuensi paling tinggi dalam merepresentasikan latar belakang sosial budaya orang kulit hitam, yang dapat dilihat melalui fitur gramatikal yang digunakan oleh Janie sebagai pembicara. Selain itu, peneliti menyoroti bahwa tuturan Janie dapat mewakili latar belakang sosial budayanya, seperti jenis kelamin perempuan, perempuan dewasa, dan lingkungan penutur.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several things related to this research, including the background of the study, research questions, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Language development is closely related to the cultural development of society, which can give rise to a variety of dialects. Generally, dialect is a linguistic variation characterized by the grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and speech of individuals from diverse social classes (Holmes, 2013). In line with Holmes, Budiarsa (2015) claims that dialect results from different languages used in society. Coupland (2007) added that dialects are a common term used in sociolinguistics to refer to the social classes, periods, areas and proposed that dialects refer to a social form. Furthermore, Wray and Bloomer (2006) argue that dialect is a language related to a specific region and social background, characterized by grammar, vocabulary, and some linguist accents. The researcher concludes from the previous explanation that dialect is a language variety primarily spoken by a particular group of people and affected by regional origins, socioeconomic class, and distinguished by grammar, phonology, and vocabulary. Consequently, studying a region's dialect may help people comprehend the variety of languages spoken by individuals in that area and the intended message as a whole. In sum, using a dialect can indicate the speakers' social backgrounds, and the dialect is already attached to them.

The existence of dialects can be seen in various forms of communication, such as in a novel, movie, news report, and talk show. Dialect is often used by novel writers, filmmakers, and news anchors to show the setting and character. Therefore, it is not surprising that novel writers often use dialects to represent the setting and each character in the story. This reason relates to what Locher and Jucker (2017) affirm that dialect informs the audience about the story, including its historical, geographical settings, and fictional characters. Generally, a novel is a fictional narrative regarded as a symbol of society, depicting several aspects of social reality and reflecting social life (Jie, 2013). Hence, stories and dialects are closely related because dialect is a tool for conveying the author's social criticism of differences in social class and race. Those explanations show that dialect in a literary work, especially in the novel, has a significant role because it has an intended message that reflects the character's identity.

Several researchers with a range of focuses have conducted studies about dialect. Novels (e.g., Ningrum & Rohmah, 2014; Santika, 2016; Deputatova et al., 2019), movies (e.g., Zewitra, 2019; Wulandari, 2018; Halimah, 2018), social media (e.g., Grieve et al., 2019; Jones, 2015), and talk shows (e.g., Baidowi, 2021) were among the data sources used by researchers studying about dialect. The study about dialect is closely related to English because English is rich in dialects, especially in the Southern dialects of African-American English, which have their uniqueness. The Southern dialects of African American English have distinctive features such as the elimination of initial syllable, the shortening of words inwardly, the flipping of final consonants and "-ng" transforming to "-n," the ignorance of agreement of predicates and subject, the corruptions of pronouns,

and the occurrences of double negatives (Burkette, 2001). In similar words, Green (2002) states that black people have specific communication patterns that refer to the sounds. In the Southern dialect of African-American English, the sound "th" is pronounced as "d," as in *dat* ('that'), *dees* ('these'), *de* ('the'), *dey* ('they'), *den* ('then'), and *dem* ('them') to indicate that the characters speak a dialect that differs from the Standard English at that time.

Furthermore, the Southern dialect of African-American English has the specific characteristic to express something strongly in speech events that differ from Standard English. Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015) define Standard English as the variety typically taught in schools, spoken by educated people, and used in the news broadcast. To conclude, Standard English is an English speech or text with a proper structure and grammar to understand its meaning. In contrast, the Southern dialect of African-American English is one of several varieties of English known as non-standard English and is mainly spoken by Black English people or called Negro (Green, 2002). Moreover, Trudgill (2000) classified African-American English's Southern dialect using grammatical features to distinguish it from Standard English. In the form of grammar, Trudgill (2000) classified the features such as the use of "invariant be", missing -s in third-person singular present-tense forms, the use of negative auxiliary preposition, the negative indefinite (e.g., nobody, nothing) then the movement of negative auxiliary (e.g., doesn't, can't) to the beginning of the sentence, and the use of existential "it" functions as "there."

Language is an essential part of the expression of group identity. Identity also includes all the attributes inherent in us, including gender. Regarding gender, in the Southern dialect of African-American English, the dialect of black men is

distinguished from that of black women. Generally, black men and women are usually called black people or Black English speakers. Black English occurred during the enslavement of blacks from Africa to America. Fought (2006) defines Black English as a mix of languages that evolved due to slavery and discrimination. Currently, socio-cultural background leads to social life behavior in a particular place told in literary works in the form of life habits, traditions, beliefs, and ways of thinking. As a result, the socio-cultural background relates to the main character's social status, including low, middle, or upper levels. Since the main character in the novel can become a role figure in real life, the researcher feels interested in the dialect used by the main character.

In the last few years, several studies have been conducted in analyzing dialect. The studies of dialect focusing on novels as the data sources have been conducted by Ningrum and Rohmah (2014), Santika (2016), Deputatova et al. (2019). Ningrum and Rohmah (2014) focused on the research about slang and African American English dialect used by Jim and Huck in the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." The researchers explained African American English dialect and slang features in the novel to show that African American English (AAE) and slang are primarily used daily by African Americans. However, non-African Americans may choose this variety as their language choice.

On the other hand, Santika (2016) focused on the West Country dialect in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter. She employed descriptive research to reveal the pattern of the West Country dialect and the significance of Hagrid's characteristics. In conclusion, both studies by Ningrum and Rohmah (2014) and Santika (2016)

discussed the dialect features, including grammar, phonology, vocabulary, and dialect used by Hagrid in the novel "Harry Potter" and Jim in the novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" who usually speak AAE dialect to represent the social class.

Furthermore, Deputatova et al. (2019) studied Harper Lee's novel's extra-linguistic Southern American English dialect features. They used *Go Set a Watchman* novel as their data source. Unlike the studies by Ningrum and Rohmah (2014) and Santika (2016), the research by Deputatova et al. (2019) analyzed the speech variety, including grammatical, lexical levels, and phonetic according to its extra-linguistic elements by comparing them with the standard English language to see the possible differences. The study concluded that the faults in asking a common question, correspondence of the tense forms of the verb, and omission of the auxiliary verbs in the questions are among the most common grammatical errors in the speaker's dialect.

On the contrary, Zewitra (2019) researched the African American language features, including phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon, to see the relationship between language and society in the movie entitled "Freedom Writers." This study revealed some differences in linguistic features used by different groups of people based on their status in society caused by factors such as race, the form of language styles, education level, and social background. Apart from that, some previous researchers (e.g., Grieve et al., 2019; Jones, 2015) used Twitter as the data source to analyze the dialect. Grieve et al. (2019) systematically compared lexical dialect maps based on surveys and Twitter corpora. This study used a corpus-based approach to collect the data and showed



the regional patterns found in 139 lexical dialect maps based on 1.8 billion words of UK Twitter data and the BBC voices dialect survey. Meanwhile, Jones (2015) focused on Twitter as one of the social media platforms that contain non-standard orthography. The studies showed that non-standard African-American Vernacular English orthography depicts different dialect areas with shared phonological and lexical elements.

The studies mentioned above have concentrated on using dialects that only focused on language variations, including grammatical, phonological, lexical, and analyzing dialect based on the relation between language and society through the data source. However, to the best of the researcher's knowledge, little attention has been paid to compare the grammatical features and vocabulary variation used among black women's dialects and the Standard English language. Moreover, none of the studies analyzed the socio-cultural background of Black English people and compared the black women's dialect features with Standard English using Hurston's novel entitled "Their Eyes Were Watching God" as the research data source. Therefore, studying the grammatical features and vocabulary variation enable the researcher to portray the main character's speech in Hurston's novel that contains many instances of non-standard grammar and various vocabulary used by the author as the identity of the linguistic elements. Besides, the researcher also analyzes the representation of black women's dialect based on their socio-cultural background through the novel.

The novel entitled "Their Eyes Were Watching God" tells about Janie Mae Crawford's experiences as a middle-aged black woman in the South America, including her three unhappy marriages and her attempts to get through life while

being treated the society. Janie tells the story about her three unhappy marriages and her quest for love to Pheoby, Janie's friend. Then, the novel follows Janie's emotional development and maturity through her three marriages. In conveying the story, Hurston has a unique style of speech through the black woman character that attracted the researcher's attention to study more considerably.

The present researcher is interested in the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* because of Hurston as the author. She focuses on the storyline on a black woman character who uses the Southern dialect of African-American English. Beal (2010) informs that one of the features of Southern dialect is the negative form like "ain't," to refer *are not*. Moreover, the researcher chose the topic of black women's dialect in this study because black women's dialect is unique and differs from Standard English. For example, the sentence of "You can tell 'em what Ah say," "don't think no mo' 'bout 'em," "talkin' to yu lak dis" etc., which in Standard English is "You can tell them what I say," "do not think any more about them," "talking to you like this."

In her investigation, the researcher employed Rickford's theory of African American Vernacular English patterns (1999) to analyze the grammatical features together with Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyam's theory of the lexical features of African American Vernacular English (2010) to analyze the vocabulary variation. Using these two theories, the researcher would investigate the grammatical features and vocabulary variation to increase the reader's knowledge about the different dialect patterns of the Black English dialect compared to Standard English through Hurston's novel. The researcher only chose to analyze the grammatical features and vocabulary variation because those features are essential

to investigate dialect use. This reason can be proven through the study conducted by Zewitra (2019), who concluded that analyzing grammatical features and vocabulary is crucial because it tends to show the level of education in each person. It relates with Fought (2006), who confirms that grammatical features are prominent in general, explaining their sharper differentiation based on the class. In addition, the researcher only examined grammatical features and vocabulary variations because those dialects pattern can be found and seen directly in the use of black women's dialects through the novel as the data source.

Furthermore, the researcher employed Rickford and Rickford's theory (2000) to analyze the socio-cultural background of the main character inside the written text. Besides, this theory reveals that dialect can represent the socio-cultural background of Black English people through black women's grammatical features. The speakers can describe their identity, including age, gender, social class and the linguistic environment, through the speaker's grammatical features (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). It relates with the previous explanation that the socio-cultural background refers to the social status of the main character, including low, middle, or high levels. In addition, Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018) in their research confirm that the grammatical features used by Black English people in literary works can represent their social background. Hill (2017) also adds that through grammatical variety, we can see the diversity between the middle class and working-class speech, the variety formed by social caste, and the variety explained by age and gender. In response to the background above, the researcher would investigate Janie's words, sentences, and utterances throughout the novel to examine the socio-cultural background of black people

and dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations that distinguish between black women's dialect and the Standard English.

## 1.2 Research Questions

From the background of the study above, the researcher formulated the research questions regarding black women's dialect in the novel entitled "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*," as follows:

1. What are the differences between grammatical features found in black women's dialect in the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and in Standard English?
2. What are the distinctions of vocabulary variations used by black women's dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel by Hurston and in Standard English?
3. How does black women's dialect represent the socio-cultural background of black people in Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?

## 1.3 Significances of the Study

This present study is expected to enrich the previous studies in dialect patterns, particularly in grammatical features and vocabulary variations of the black women's dialect, and increase the reader's knowledge of language variation, specifically in Black English dialects. Furthermore, this study aims to describe how the different dialect patterns in the grammatical features and vocabulary variations of the black women's dialect compared to the Standard English through Hurston's novel entitled "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*." The researcher only

chooses to analyze the grammatical features and vocabulary variation because those features are essential to investigate dialect use.

This study aims to reveal eight grammatical features of the black women's dialect employed by Rickford's theory (1999). Moreover, this study also seeks to convey the various vocabulary of the black women's dialect and reveal the socio-cultural background of black women's dialect, which can be viewed from the primary factor, such as gender and social class. This present study about dialect analysis can benefit teachers to enrich their knowledge of black women's dialect patterns that are different from Standard English in general and can be used as a source of learning or additional information about dialects in an area. In addition, the results of this study can be used by the government as a source of information in answering the problems about dialect that occur in a specific area. Besides, this research is expected to provide information on the factors that may represent the socio-cultural background of Black English people in a novel. Last but not least, through this research, the researcher hopes that people could find out other's socioeconomic backgrounds by paying attention to their dialect patterns.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

In this research, the researcher focuses on studying sociolinguistics, especially language variation, emphasizing black women's dialect. This research will only use Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" as the data source. The researcher will limit the study intended on the main character's dialect named Janie Mae Crawford. Janie is a strong black woman character living in South America. In the novel, Janie tells the story about her three unhappy marriages and her attempts to get through life while being treated differently by

society. Besides, she is the most important character who has a unique style of speech that was thick with an African American English dialect.

The researcher only focuses on analyzing the socio-cultural background and dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations that distinguish between black women's dialect and the Standard English language. In addition, the researcher did not reveal the phonological features in this study because this pattern can be analyzed through the spoken language as the data source, such as movies, news reports, and talk shows. Besides, the phonological features are not analyzed in this study because the novel is a written language, not a spoken language. So the novel does not have phonological features. Therefore, the researcher only examined grammatical features and vocabulary variations in the novel because those dialect patterns can be seen directly in the use of black women's dialects throughout the novel as the data source in this study. Moreover, the researcher chose only a particular factor, such as gender, age, social class, and linguistic environment, in analyzing an utterance because this present study wants to investigate more deeply the representation of black women's dialect for each factor by comparing one utterance with another following the theory of Rickford and Rickford (2000).

### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

*Dialect* is a form of language variety used among people in a particular group and spoken in a specific area with slightly different words and grammar than other areas.

*A grammatical feature* is a feature that is related to using a special or unique grammar in a specific area.

***Vocabulary variation*** is a set of unique vocabularies due to social interaction, and each region has a different vocabulary as a feature.

***Black women's dialect*** is a variation of the African-American Vernacular English used by Black English, especially for black women.

***Standard English*** is an English variety widely used by people with high academic qualifications, and frequently used in newspapers, books, dictionaries, and can be taught in both written and spoken ways.

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** is a novel written by Zora Neale Hurston released in 1937 and has a unique style of speech to tell the story of Janie Mae Crawford, whose life is a quest to find her true love, which represents racial, class, and gender issues in America at that time.



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## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In this chapter, the researcher serves some theories used as the basis of this study and supports this research background.

#### **2.1 Language Variation**

Generally, language variation is a type of language variety adjusted to its function and situation without neglecting the main rules applied in the language. Holmes (2013) defines that languages offer several ways to say the same thing, such as salutations, describing objects, and paying praises. In line with Holmes, Wray and Bloomer (2006) argued that variation is a crucial feature of language and emerges in society due to people's diverse interest in using various languages. In addition, language variety can be found in bilingual or multilingual communities residing in a specific area, so their language variances contain in it (Diani et al., 2021). To conclude, the variety of language will occur depending on who the interlocutor is, what the situation is at that time, and what is being discussed according to the context of the conversation.

Moreover, language varieties may present social information. It ensures that people can speak one language and use another language to communicate with their groups in any case. Generally, language diversity is related to the speaker's heritage or elements of their social identity, including their social status or ethnic community (Tegegne, 2015). Besides, language diversity refers to different ways of speaking a language, including the type of dialect, accent, and other varieties of language (Ulum & Setiawan, 2014). But, it often carries the social norms and has been affected by geographical factors, social status, and educational context



(Mesthrie, 2011). In conclusion, the language variation can represent social factors, such as the speaker's relationship with the listener in a specific situation and how the speaker feels toward the listener.

Language variety or linguistic variations are among the most significant aspects of understanding the speaker's language since they can connect people with fascinating cultural, social, and cognitive issues. Consequently, studying language variation reveals valuable knowledge about languages and how they change (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). This variation shows how speakers say something that has the same meaning and purpose even though the speaker's pronunciation and word structure are different. The development of dialect variants, different linguistic patterns, and even different accents are examples of language variations due to the influences of geographic area (Aini et al., 2015). To sum up, language variation is characterized as a variety in a language used by the language user. It has its feature due to the social group factor or geographical area. In this case, the researcher will analyze language variations that focus on dialect variations, especially in the Southern dialect of African-American English.

## **2.2 Dialectology**

The branch of linguistics that presents the fundamentals of studying language variation between and within communities is called dialectology. Dialectology reflects on regional dialects and studies language variety based on regional differences in a language field. Chambers and Trudgill (2004) define that dialectology as the difference between dialects at any significant level of linguistic study, or in other words, in terms of any structural unit. In line with Trudgill, Malmkjaer (2002) affirms that dialectology is a study about dialects, particularly

descriptive and theoretical components. Simply, dialectology can be called the study of dialects. Each dialect is distinct from the others because it has its characteristics. There are variations in linguistic elements such as phonology, syntax, morphology, vocabulary variation, and semantics.

### **2.3 Dialect**

Dialect is a language variation affected by the region or geographic origin in which people can communicate. Dialect is a term used to describe a language variation with its vocabulary, pronunciation, and other grammatical features (Tegegne, 2015). Moreover, it is also affirmed by Coupland (2007), who claims that dialects are the general term used in sociolinguistics to refer to ways of interacting related to social classes, period, and locations and that dialects can also refer to as social types. Dialects can be separated into social and regional dialects (Holmes, 2013). Wardhaugh (2006) stated that regional dialects originate where the users are from and have been spoken in the area for decades.

Meanwhile, social dialects are dialects linked to different factors, including social status, beliefs, and ethnicity. Baidowi (2021) affirms that social status in social dialect can be determined by various factors, including occupation, location, ethnic origin, caste, and education. The dialect has become a term that refers to an individual's non-standard use of a language. It is also known as linguistic variety. Budiarsa (2015) describes that dialect is a subset of a spoken language used by a group of people and distinguished from phonological, grammatical, and syntactical markers. To conclude, dialect is a specific characteristic that separates a person's speech from the others since everyone has their communication styles.

People often use a specific language variety determined by some reasons during the conversation. One of the reasons people use a particular dialect or language variant is their ability to connect with others while remaining distinct. Second, they do things in their societies that are valued. Third, they would not act in a demeaning way to their communities. As previously explained, each dialect has its linguistic feature, which is used to analyze sentences or utterances by its phonological, grammatical, morphological, and vocabulary variation. Based on the limitation of this study, the researcher wants to research in-deep about grammatical features and vocabulary variation of the black women's dialect based on some linguist theories such as Rickford (1999) and Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2010).

### **2.3.1 Grammatical Features**

The grammatical feature is related to using a special or unique grammar in a particular area. Grammar is the knowledge speakers have about the units and rules of their language. It includes controls for combining sounds into words (phonology), management of word formation (morphology), rules for combining words into phrases and phrases into sentences (syntax), as well as the rules for assigning meaning (Fromkin et al., 2010). According to Chambers and Trudgill (2004), the term grammatical is the categories that are expected to reveal dialectal variants are determined. Another opinion about grammatical features comes from Holmes (2013), who states that grammatical features are used to indicate the influence of local languages. Simply way, grammatical is the study of the essential difference that extends to other areas of language use.

Moreover, the researcher discovered the opinion from Romaine (2000) that the educated speakers in certain countries would tend not to use non-standard grammatical features. Besides, Trudgill (2000) classified African-American English's Southern dialect using grammatical features to distinguish it from Standard English. In grammar, Green (2002) shows one of the grammatical features used by black people, like the negation feature. For example, in Standard English, the sentence "*I ain't never seen nobody preach*" is "I have never seen anyone preach." It can be seen that black people's dialect uses negation as grammatical features such as *ain't*, *never*, and *nobody* used in a single negative sentence. The researcher concluded that grammatical feature is a feature in linguistics related to using a special or unique grammar that its speaker uses to indicate the social class in a particular area. There are several grammatical features of Black English dialect based on Rickford (1999), as follows:

**a. Absence of Auxiliary "is" and "are"**

The absence of auxiliary or copula "*is*" and "*are*" is used when expressing actions and present tense, which are different in Standard English (Rickford, 1999). However, this feature does not have a precise meaning, but it is crucial in ensuring that a sentence is grammatically correct. The use of auxiliary "*is*" and "*are*" omitting in spoken or written language is one of the criteria of Black English dialect (Rickford, 1999).

**b. Use of Invariant "be"**

Rickford (1999) confirms that the use of invariant "*be*" can be used in sentences stating about the habitual aspect, used with auxiliary "do-" in questions,

or used constant **“be”** for future. In line with Rickford’s theory, the study conducted by Aryani (2020) states that the use of invariant **“be”** is unquestionably the most noticeable grammatical element of AAVE. This invariant “be” feature results from phonological processes that impact contracted versions of will and would-be. For example, *“He be walkin’,” “Do he be walkin’ every day?”* and *“He be here tomorrow.”* This type is concerned with the grammatical features of Black English.

**c. Use of Unstressed “been” or “bin”**

Rickford (1999) affirms that this feature can be employed as a verbal marker to communicate about an event in the distant past and continues up to the present. This feature also includes the grammatical feature of the Black English dialect to show a particular aspectual function that denotes an activity that occurred in the distant past. The example of the unstressed **“been”** can be shown in the sentences of *“He been sick”* and *“I been known her.”* The use of unstressed **“been”** or **“bin”** is a feature that several Black English speakers already know.

**d. The use of y’all**

*Y’all* forms indicate the third plural possessive and the second person plural based on the Rickford theory (1999). This feature includes the type of nouns and pronouns changing in grammatical features. The example of the use *y’all* in the sentence, as in *“It’s y’all fruit”* and *“yo’ wife had plenty money when y’all got married.”*

**e. The Use of *Ain't***

Rickford (1999) states that the use of *ain't* like the general preverbal negator. Furthermore, according to Aryani (2020), *ain't* is a negative indicator that corresponds to any present tense of be + not and have + not. In line with them, Sari (2019) confirms that the negative sentences in African American Vernacular English mostly use the negation "*ain't*." The example of use *ain't* in the sentence, as in "*She ain't here,*" "*You ain't raised yo' hand,*" and "*if it ain't too late.*"

**f. Multiple Negations**

Rickford (1999) affirms that multiple or double negations negate the auxiliary verb and the indefinite pronouns in the sentence. The double negatives of the Black English dialect are governed by syntax rules and are not irrational (Fromkin et al., 2010). For instance, "*He don' do nothing,*" and "*Maybe he ain't nothing.*" Based on those examples, it can be seen that if a statement contains an unfavorable indefinite such as (e.g., *nobody* or *nothing*), the negative auxiliary (*doesn't, don't, can't*) can be inserted at the beginning of the sentence in Black English dialect (Trudgill, 2000).

**g. Use of Completive *done* or *be done***

Based on Rickford (1999), this feature is intended to underline the completed nature of an activity or an action. In line with Rickford, Aryani (2020) affirms that the usage of completive *done* emphasizes a state transition or escalating an event. It can be concluded that the use of *done* is frequently associated with the past tense of a verb as in the sentence "*She done did it,*" "*They already done it,*" and "*Ah ain't done nothing.*" Meanwhile, this type of use "*be done*" in the sentence is

for resultative the future or conditional perfect as in “*He be done had his job.*” It relates with Green (2002), who confirms that the distinctiveness of Black English dialect is seen in a series of auxiliary particles such as the use of *done*, *be done*, and *been done*.

#### **h. Absence of Relative Pronoun**

Black English dialect has some distinctive grammatical features, such as the absence of relative pronouns including *who*, *whom*, *what*, *which*, or *that* (Rickford, 1999). In this case, the omitted form is a subject relative pronoun. Rickford (1999) affirms that many variants of English allow the removal of the object relative pronouns, but the omission of subject relatives is rarer and more unique as in the sentence “*That’s the woman (whom) I saw.*”

#### **2.3.2 Vocabulary Variation**

The different vocabularies are produced as a function of each language. It has been discovered that fluent speakers of other languages have vastly different vocabulary sizes. The speech variation is related to the differences in language processing. Speakers can broaden any language’s vocabulary to add additional terms for new concepts. Vocabulary gives us an understanding of how people use words and create meaning (Fromkin et al., 2010). Vocabulary variations are shared through dialect that reveals whether dialects of a language are mutually intelligible, for example, Japanese people have various vocabulary variations. The language variations of women and men occur in several languages, especially in Japanese, in which women may choose to speak and communicate using a distinct

female dialect. However, they understand the standard dialect used by both women and men.

**Table 2.1 Table of Vocabulary Variation**

<i>Standard English Word</i>	<i>Women's Japanese Word</i>	<i>Men's Japanese Word</i>
Stomach	Onaka	Hara
Delicious	Oishii	Umai

Source: Fromkin, Radford & Hyams, 2010, p. 450

As can be seen from the table above, the Japanese language has many honorific words that vary from Standard English and is intended to express politeness, modesty, humility, lower social status, and their ordinary meaning (Fromkin et al., 2010). In addition, Green (2002) confirms that several vocabulary variations by adolescent African Americans are used for labeling people. Below are examples of slang terms used to refer to females and males.

**Table 2.2 Table of Slang Terms**

<i>Vocabulary Variation</i>	<i>Literal Meaning</i>	<i>Used to</i>
Bopper	A female who is preoccupied with material gain or a promiscuous female	Used to refer to a female
Dime	Beautiful woman	Used to refer to a female
Balla	A male who has acquired money and material possessions	Used to refer to a male
Scrub	A male who is not self-sufficient	Used to refer to a male

Source: Green, 2002, p. 28

### 2.3.3 Phonological Features

The phonological feature identifies the language's sound system that the speakers of the language use. The study by Santika (2016) stated that the differences among dialects could lie in the distinctive phonology features. The statement is also supported by Mesthrie (2011), who claims that phonology is



used in sign linguistics to describe the same area of linguistics that it refers to in spoken language studies. In line with Green (2002), who states that black people have specific communication patterns that refer to the sounds. In the Southern dialect of African-American English, the sound "th" is pronounced as "d," as in *dat* ('that'), *dees* ('these'), *de* ('the'), *dey* ('they'), *den* ('then'), and *dem* ('them') to indicate that the characters speak a dialect that differs from the Standard English at that time. The researcher concluded that the different ways each speaker speak their language can be called a phonological feature.

Furthermore, there are differences in the pronunciation of the word "test" in Standard English and African American Vernacular English. In African American Vernacular English, it is pronounced as "*tes*." These different pronunciations are the result of phonological processes. These are the other examples of the Standard English words, such as "test," "kind," and "contact," which in African American Vernacular English or Black English dialect becomes "*tes*," "*kin*," and "*contac*" with no clusters like *nd* and *st* in the final consonant (Green, 2002).

#### **2.4 Standard English Language**

Numerous different languages, primarily English, are spoken by several other people worldwide. Besides, English can be called a universal language since it is used in several countries. It is possible to classify English as a Standard language. Generally, language is separated into standard and Non-standard. The common language is concerned with the characteristics of a specific language variety and has no geographical boundaries. It referred to English as a Standard language used in several countries and governed by laws (Yule, 2010).

The statement is also supported by Holmes (2013), who claims that standard language is often a specific dialect that has gained prominence due to economic, social, political factors. Besides, the study conducted by Nisak (2013) states that Standard English seems to have more status and power than any other English dialect because it is considered highly prized by many people due to white-collar employment. It has a better grammar that many people equate with the correct way of doing things. In addition, Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015) define that Standard English is described as the English variation commonly taught in schools, spoken by educated people, and used in news broadcasts. Moreover, Standard English is the type of English used in the book, and it is a language, not a dialect (Hudson, 1996).

Nowadays, English is present in any printed book that contains Standard English features, which is the absolute opposite of Non-standard English. For instance, Standard English can be seen from the grammatical features like, “*She does not write it,*” “*He did it two weeks ago.*” According to the above statements and examples, the researcher concluded that Standard English is a variety of English widely used by people with high academic qualifications, and frequently used in newspapers, books, dictionaries, and can be taught in schools in both written or spoken ways. Standard English is typically written and spoken by qualified students and considers vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.

## **2.5 Black Women’s Dialect**

Generally, black women and men can be called black people or Black English. Black English occurred during the enslavement of blacks from Africa to America. Fought (2006) defines Black English as a mix of languages that evolved

in response to slavery and discrimination and distinctive from Afro-American culture. The discussion regarding Black English becomes a black people's identity, a variation of American English. Historically, black women have never been removed from all problems defined with relevance to gender and with the capacity for intellectual and social reforms in the past (Higginbotham, 1992). The black people in America, particularly black women, became victims of segregation and slavery. They were treated poorly by the whites. The issues of slavery inspired many great authors of the period and racial injustice to portray the situation and conditions. The authors also point out the Black English dialect, which has its distinctive speaking style.

As a vernacular language used by almost all African Americans, the Black English dialect is one of the non-standard English varieties. According to Green (2002), the term "Black English" can be used to refer to the entire range of linguistic forms utilized among black people in the United States. The most straightforward cases include that Black English and Standard English have slightly different dialects (Romaine, 2000). For example, "*She hasn't got any*" is included in Standard English, meanwhile in Black English dialect, "*She ain't got none.*" The other example from Black English dialect is "*ef he miss, den you go again.*" The standard language can be "*if he misses, then you go again*" (Romaine, 2000). Based on the above explanation and examples, the present researcher concluded that black women's dialect, also known as Black Vernacular English, is a form of English spoken by African Americans with distinct characteristics different from other varieties.

Furthermore, there is a distinction between men's and women's vernacular language. Fromkin et al. (2010) show that women's speech styles are less likely to use vernacular forms such as the reduction of "-ing" to "-in" or "him" to "'im" as in "*I was walkin' down the street when I saw 'im.*" Some dialects of English drop word-initial "h" in casual speech as in *'arf an hour* (half an hour), *'appy* (happy), and *'enry* (Henry). This h-less pronunciation is more common in the speech of men than women. It is due to sexism in society, which requires women to speak more "appropriate" English than men. This thought arises because women are expected to behave better than men in society.

## **2.6 Socio-cultural Background of African-American Vernacular English**

According to Rickford and Rickford (2000), some points can be used to analyze the socio-cultural background of black people through their grammatical features. Besides, Lanehart (2001) argues that there are multiple sources of language input and various socio-cultural backgrounds of African American English people. This theory includes numerous factors such as the family's community of residence, educational background, language variety status, socioeconomic status, social history, and broader social attitudes toward African American English people. It relates with Rickford and Rickford (2000), who confirmed that four factors could represent the socio-cultural background of black people's dialect through their grammatical features, which are gender, age, social class, and linguistic environment.

a. Gender

According to Rickford and Rickford (2000), expressing masculine or feminine identity seems to be very important to analyze through the grammatical features in the speaker's utterances. In this point, the male gender tends to show masculinity and toughness compared to the female gender. Rickford and Rickford (2000) assert the usual gender-differentiation pattern in grammatical patterns such as the absence of auxiliary or copula. For instance, lower working-class black men often deleted copula in their utterances (e.g., "*He walkin*") while lower working-class black women used more precise speech (e.g., "*She's tall*"). It relates to the study conducted by Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018), who argues that the male gender often deleted their copula while speaking than the female gender. It is due to the standard forms of speech being generally associated with high social status backgrounds. Therefore, the female gender uses more familiar forms of speech to claim that status (Holmes, 2013). It can be concluded that gender identity seems to be an influential factor in social background, and gender can determine the dialect used by the speakers.

b. Age

Rickford and Rickford (2000) argue that age variation is a relevant factor in the social background. They add that younger people use vernacular grammar more often than older speakers. For instance, lower working-class black adolescents usually remove their copula up to 68 percent (e.g., "*He happy*") compared to lower working-class adults who removed their copula up to 38 percent. It is related to Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018), who asserts that black adolescent speakers tend to remove the copula more in their speech than

adults. In addition, three grammatical characteristics indicate the age factor as the speaker's social background, such as the use of invariant be, had + past verb, and the absence of the suffix –'s (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). It can be concluded that black adolescents speak English differently than older blacks.

c. Social Class

Generally, speech can also provide information related to the social class background of the speakers. It relates to Rickford and Rickford (2000), who asserts that the social class of each speaker can be seen through the grammatical features used by the speaker itself. They also argue that lower working class (unskilled workers) and upper working class (skilled workers) use multiple negations, as in *"He can't see nobody,"* that often used by the lower working class than the upper working class. In addition, Nisak (2013) confirms that the use of multiple negations is mostly found in lower black workers. It means that people in lower social classes are less concerned with the completeness of sentences and tend to deliver the message itself (Santika, 2016).

Furthermore, Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018) revealed that other grammatical characteristics could distinguish the social class of speakers, which is the absence of the suffix -s in present tense verbs. For instance, the lower working-class black speakers often remove the -s suffix in present tense verbs, as in *"He walk."* In contrast, upper-working black speakers rarely use these grammatical features in their conversations. To conclude, the use of multiple negations and the absence of the –s suffix in present tense verbs can indicate the speaker's social background and indicate that lower working-class black people speak English differently than the upper working class.

#### d. Linguistic Environment

Rickford and Rickford (2000) argue that the linguistic environment is one of the factors that can represent the speaker's social background through the context of the conversation. In addition, Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018) confirm that this factor is defined as the condition when the speech takes place, whether it's the audience, set of locations, or the topics. It means that black people are more likely to use the Black English dialect when talking to people they know or about things they enjoy. For instance, if in an interview, a black people meet a person they are familiar with, then a black person is more likely to use a black English dialect which (e.g., "*He walk,*" "*He gon do it,*" "*John a man*") with the person they are familiar. In contrast, when black people meet interviewers they do not know, they will use the Black English dialect less frequently (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). It can be concluded that the linguistic environment is one of the factors that can be used to represent the social background of the speaker by looking at the grammatical characteristics used by each speaker based on the familiarity of the audience and the topics they talk about.

#### 2.7 Their Eyes Were Watching God

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* was published in 1937 by Zora Neale

Hurston. The novel tells about Janie Crawford's experiences as the beautiful and robust black woman character living in South America, which is the novel's focus. The novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" is the narrative of Janie, whose life is a search to find her true love and her attempts to get through life while being treated differently by society. Janie tells the story about her three unhappy

marriages and her quest for love to Pheoby, Janie's friend. The novel follows Janie's emotional development and maturity through her three marriages.

The story starts when Janie moves to Eatonville, Florida, after a long time away. The gossiping citizens of the town challenge Janie in Eatonville, whose comments concentrate around the fact that Janie had left town with a young man named Tea Cake. Pheoby Watson speaks up for Janie in the middle of their rumor and walks over. Janie informs Pheoby about her life, including what happened when she first left Eatonville. Furthermore, Janie's grandmother introduces Janie to Logan Killicks, who became Janie's first husband when she was young. Logan treats Janie as an infant, expecting her to follow him obediently. But, Janie is adamant and refuses. Janie flees with Joe Starks, a handsome and charming man, when Logan threatens to kill her.

Joe and Janie relocate to Eatonville, Florida, the first all-black town in the United States and the childhood home of Zora Neale Hurston. Janie believes that she is experiencing happiness for the first time. Joe, like Logan, has stringent gender expectations and wants Janie to support him rather than disagree with him. Then, Joe finally passes away and leaves Janie under her own. At the end of the novel, Janie moves to Eatonville because she can't longer stand being in the Everglades, surrounded by memories of her loved Tea Cake.

Nevertheless, the story written by Hurston attracts the reader's attention because the novel represents a lot of racial, class, and gender issues in America at that time through her unique style of language. Therefore, many researchers used Hurston's novel as the research data; for instance, Triyogo and Chairunnisa (2017) studied gender discrimination using a feminist approach in the story "*Their*



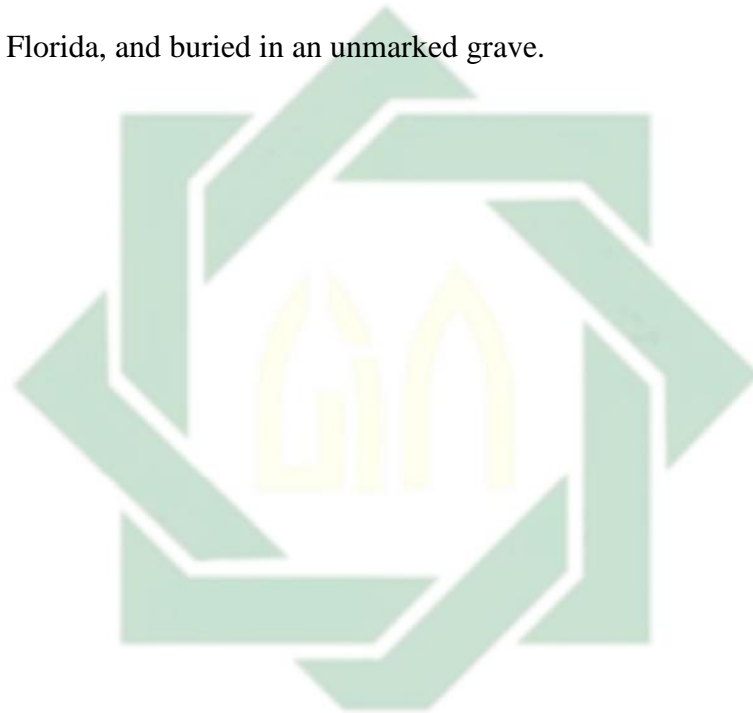
*Eyes Were Watching God.*” Besides, Qashgari (2017) also researched language, racism, and feminism used *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as the research data. As far as the researcher knows, several studies dealing with Hurston’s novel use a feminist approach, and none has examined Hurston’s novel by analyzing dialect patterns. Therefore, this study examines Hurston’s novel by analyzing dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations that distinguish between black women’s dialects and Standard English.

### **2.7.1 Zora Neale Hurston’s Biography**

Zora Neale Hurston became an anthropologist, folklorist, and author during the Harlem Renaissance, during which many African-American authors and artists flourished. Their art and writing provided a new perspective on African-American experiences. Hurston was born and grew up in the United States. She was born in Notasulga, Alabama, on January 7, 1891, but later displaced to Florida. Hurston was born into a family of people who had previously been enslaved. Her father, namely John Hurston, was a minister, and Hurston moved the family to Florida when she was a child. Hurston lived with various family members for the next several years after her mother’s death, Lucy Ann Hurston, in 1904 and her father’s subsequent remarriage.

Hurston loved literature, and she desires to understand people and how cultures evolve. To support herself and continue her education, Hurston did a variety of occupations, including as a maid for an actress in a traveling Gilbert and Sullivan troupe. Hurston graduated from Howard University with an associate degree in 1920. Hurston started writing about African-American culture and immediately became a crucial figure in the Harlem Renaissance.

Hurston kept writing fiction and anthropological works in the 1930s, involving *Mules and Men*, which recorded Black folklore. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is Hurston's best-known book, published in 1937, after the Harlem Renaissance and during the great depression. Hurston has been described as a libertarian and conservative author. Hurston had multiple strokes a few years later. On January 28, 1960, a former author and folklorist died poor and alone in Fort Pierce, Florida, and buried in an unmarked grave.



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## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter is divided into several sub-chapters: research design, data collection techniques, research instrument, collecting data, and data analysis techniques.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research in this study. The researcher used this method for investigating the words, sentences, and utterances of Janie Crawford as the main character in the novel entitled *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Specifically, qualitative research focuses on words rather than statistics or numbers. In line with Wray and Bloomer (2006), qualitative research involves the description and analysis instead of counting features. Moreover, Litosseliti (2010) defines that descriptive qualitative research is particularly beneficial in providing in-depth and comprehensive data. In other words, descriptive qualitative research is concerned with the patterns, structures, and how something appears in the text, and the theory is generated from the textual data (Litosseliti, 2010). In this study, the researcher applied the descriptive qualitative method to acquire description and comprehension in analyzing the data of black women's dialect from the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* to reveal the research questions.

#### **3.2. Data Collection**

This sub-chapter described the research data, subject of the study, research instruments, data collection techniques, and data analysis.

### 3.2.1 Research Data

The researcher used the utterances of Janie Crawford in the novel entitled *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston as the primary data of this research. The researcher analyzed Janie's utterances by using Rickford (1999), Fromkin et al. (2010), and Rickford and Rickford's (2000) theory. The research data of the current study is in the form of words, phrases, and sentences uttered by the main character in Hurston's novel. The number of pages in "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*" book is around 193 pages. The researcher also analyzed the socio-cultural background of black people and the dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations that distinguish between black women's dialect and the Standard English language.

### 3.2.2 Data Source and Subject of the Study

The researcher took the data source of this research from a psychological fiction novel published in 1937 by Zora Neale Hurston as an American writer. The data source is the novel entitled *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The researcher also read the book several times to ensure that the researcher understands its meaning and messages. In this study, the researcher used Janie Mae Crawford as the subject of this research because she has a unique style of speech cramped with African American English dialect that attracted the researcher's attention to study more considerably.

Janie is the most crucial character in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel as the black woman and the main female character. She has the most conversations in the story with her unique dialect. Moreover, "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*"

was one of Hurston's best-known works and regarded as a classic of the Harlem Renaissance in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was one of the successful novels that explain the struggle of women to get through life while being treated differently by society. Besides, the novel also explores the traditional gender roles in America, in which a man is more dominant than a woman.

### **3.2.3 Research Instrument**

The main instrument in this research is the human instrument. Since this research is descriptive qualitative, the human instrument is the researcher herself as she classified, analyzed the data, and outlined the research findings. The researcher used other instruments to support this research, including English dictionaries, laptops, book references, and several official websites.

### **3.2.4 Data Collection Techniques**

The technique of collecting data is the way for the researcher to collect the data in research. In this research, the present researcher used data collection as the following steps:

a. **Reading the Novel**

The researcher read *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel from the first until twenty chapters, with around 193 pages. The researcher also read the story several times and read it carefully to understand the content better. The researcher also paid attention to the unique words used by the main character to find out the dialect terms.

## b. Identifying Data

After reading the novel, the researcher identified the data. The researcher identified the selected data that indicate the black women's dialect patterns uttered by Janie Mae Crawford as the main character in the novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God." The researcher identified data by selecting Janie's words, sentences, and utterances that contain the dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variation, to distinguish between black women's dialect and Standard English based on the theories. Besides, the researcher also identified data by selecting Janie's words, sentences, and utterances that can represent the socio-cultural background of Black English people.

First, the researcher identified the grammatical features of Janies' utterances using Rickford's African American Vernacular English patterns (1999). The researcher highlighted any sentences, phrases, and words related to grammatical features in yellow and then assigned some codes to help the researcher identify the data. The codes used are presented in the following tables:

**Table 3.1 Codes of Grammatical Features**

No	Grammatical Features	Codes
1.	Absence of Auxiliary "is" and "are"	AA
2.	Use of Invariant "be"	UI
3.	Use of Unstressed "been" or "bin"	UU
4.	The use of <i>y'all</i>	Uy
5.	The Use of <i>Ain't</i>	Ua
6.	Multiple Negations	MN
7.	Use of Completive "done" or "be done"	UC
8.	Absence of Relative Pronoun	ARP

The following is an example of how the codes are used during the identification of the grammatical features of Janies' utterances in the novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

"Mah **mamma** didn't tell **me Ah** wuz born in no hurry. So whut **business Ah** got rushin' now? Anyh **Ua** dat **ain't** whut **youse** mad about. **Youse** mad 'cause Ah don't **fall** down and wash-up dese sixty acres uh ground yuh got. You **ain't** **done** me no favor by marryin' me. And if dat's what you call yo'self doin', Ah don't thank yuh for it. **Youse** mad 'cause Ah'm tellin' yuh whut you already knowed."

**Figure 3.1: Sample of the Identification the Grammatical Features Following Rickford's Theory**

In addition to analyzing the grammatical features, the researcher also identified black women's dialect vocabulary variations based on Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams's (2010) theory. In her identification of vocabulary variations used by Janie in "Their Eyes Were Watching God," the researcher highlighted all the variations in purple following Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyam's theory of the lexical features of AAVE (2010). The following is an example of how the highlights are used to identify vocabulary variations of Janies' utterances in "Their Eyes Were Watching God."

from de heart." Janie extended her hand. "Good **Lawd**, Pheoby! **ain't** you never goin' tuh **gimme** dat **lil** rations you brought me? Ah **ain't** had a thing on mah stomach today exceptin' mah hand." They both laughed easily. "Give it here and have a seat."  
 "Ah knowed you'd be hongry. No time to be huntin' stove wood after dark. Mah mulatto rice ain't so good dis time. Not enough bacon grease, but Ah reckon it'll kill hongry."  
 "Ah'll tell you in a minute," Janie said, lifting the cover. "**Gal**, it's *too* good! you switches a mean fanny round in a kitchen."

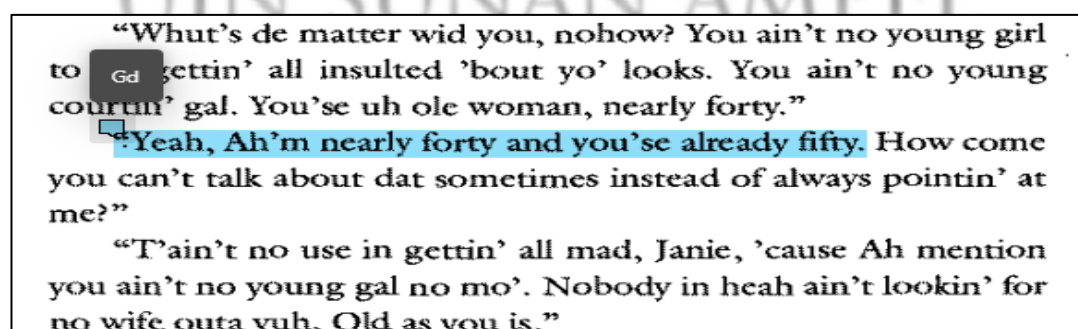
**Figure 3.2: Sample of the Identification of the Vocabulary Variations Following Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyam's Theory**

After identifying black women's dialect patterns, the researcher identified the socio-cultural background of Black English people based on Rickford and Rickford (2000), including gender, age, social class, and linguistic environment. In her identification of the socio-cultural background of Black English people in "Their Eyes Were Watching God," the researcher highlighted any sentences, phrases, and words related to the socio-cultural background of Black English people in blue and then assigned some codes to help the researcher identify the data. The codes used are presented in the following tables:

**Table 3.2 Codes of Socio-Cultural Background of Black English People**

No	Factors of Socio-Cultural Background	Codes
1.	Gender	Gd
2.	Age	Ag
3.	Social Class	SC
4.	Linguistic Environment	LE

The following is an example of how the codes are used during the identification of the socio-cultural background of Black English people in the novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God."



**Figure 3.3: Sample of the Identification of the Socio-Cultural Background of Black English People Following Rickford and Rickford's Theory**



### 3.3 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher performed the following procedure.

1. In the first data analysis step, the researcher classified the identification results found. The researcher classified the identified data through the table by grouping them into types of grammatical features of black women's dialect and compared them to Standard English based on Rickford (1999). The following is an example of a table that the researcher used to classify the data.

**Table 3.3 Grammatical Features of Black Women's Dialect**

NO.	TYPES	PAGES	DATA	STANDARD ENGLISH LANGUAGE	IDENTIFIED
<b>GRAMMATICAL FEATURES</b>					
1.	Absence of Auxiliary "is" and "are" (AA)				
2.	Use of Invariant "be" (UI)				
3.	Use of Unstressed "been" or "bin" (UU)				
4.	The use of <i>y'all</i> (Uy)				
5.	The Use of <i>Ain't</i> (Ua)				
6.	Multiple Negations (MN)				
7.	Use of Completive "done" or "be done" (UC)				
8.	Absence of Relative Pronoun (ARP)				

After classifying grammatical features of black women's dialect, the researcher also classified the vocabulary variations of black women's dialect based on Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams's (2010) theory. Below is an example of vocabulary variations of black women's dialect.

**Table 3.4 Vocabulary Variations of Black Women's Dialect**

	<b>DATA OF BLACK WOMEN'S DIALECT</b>	<b>STANDARD ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>	<b>LITERAL MEANING</b>
<b>VOCABULARY VARIATIONS</b>	<i>"Looka heah, Pheoby, is Sam waitin' on you for his supper?"</i> (cp 1: p 7)	"Look at here."	to look out or keep in watch someone or anything else that may happen.

The researcher also classified various grammatical features of black women's dialect that have been identified to gain several factors representing black people's socio-cultural background, including gender, age, social class, and linguistic environment based on Rickford and Rickford (2000). Here is an example of the socio-cultural background of black people.

**Table 3.5 Socio-cultural Background of Black English People**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>FACTORS</b>	<b>DATA</b>	<b>INTERPRETATION</b>
1.	Gender		
2.	Age		
3.	Social Class		
4.	Linguistic Environment		

2. After classifying the data, the researcher described the classified data. The researcher described the data one by one found in the novel and wrote down how it should be written in Standard English form.

3. To answer the first research problem, the researcher analyzed the eight types of grammatical features of black women's dialect found in the novel following Rickford's theory (1999). Meanwhile, the researcher analyzed the vocabulary variations of black women's dialect found in the novel based on Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams's theory (2010) to resolve the second research problem of this study. To fulfill the third research problem of this study, the researcher analyzed the socio-cultural background of black people found in the novel following Rickford and Rickford's theory (2000).
4. After describing the data, the researcher discussed the findings by reiterating the eight types of black women's grammatical features found in the novel and compared the black woman's dialect with Standard English. Moreover, the researcher briefly summarized the literal meaning related to the classified data of black women's vocabulary variation. In addition, the researcher described the socio-cultural background of black people found in the novel. At this step, the researcher also contextualized the findings within previous researchers and theories.
5. After discussing the data, the researcher drew conclusions based on the findings. The researcher stated the answers to the main research questions in this step, followed by a summary and reflection. Recommendations for future work related to the topic also be outlined.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter is a crucial part of the present research. The researcher reports the study analysis result that consists of two sub-chapters, which are findings and discussion. The findings and discussion are presented to fulfill the research problems.

#### 4.1 Findings

In this part, the researcher presented the results of the data analysis based on the research questions in this study: (1) What are the differences between grammatical features found in black women's dialect in the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and in Standard English? (2) What are the distinctions of vocabulary variations used by black women's dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel by Hurston and in Standard English? (3) How does black women's dialect represent the socio-cultural background of black people in Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?

##### 4.1.1 Grammatical Features Used by Black Women's Dialect in Hurston's Novel

In this section, the researcher presented answers to fulfill the first research problem related to the grammatical features of black women's dialect that differ from Standard English. Besides, the researcher found eight types of black women's grammatical features based on Rickford's theory (1999). It includes the absence of auxiliary "is" and "are," use of invariant "be," use of unstressed "been" or "bin," the use of *y'all*, the use of *Ain't*, multiple negations, use of complete

*done* or *be done*, and absence of relative pronoun. Here is a table of data findings related to the grammatical features of black women's dialect.

**Table 4.1 Grammatical Features Used by Black Women’s Dialect in Hurston’s Novel**

Types of Grammatical Feature	Data Findings
Absence of Auxiliary “is” and “are”	20
Use of Invariant “be”	5
Use of Unstressed “been” or “bin”	13
The Use of <i>y’all</i>	6
The Use of <i>Ain’t</i>	43
Multiple Negations	35
Use of Completive “done” or “be done”	15
Absence of Relative Pronoun	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>

Source: Data Processed (2022)

Table 4.1 above showed that black women's dialect uses 146 grammatical features in the novel “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” The most frequent category of grammatical features found in Hurston's novel is the use of *Ain’t* with a range of 43 data.

#### 4.1.1.1 Absence of Auxiliary “is” and “are”

The absence of auxiliary or copula "is" and "are" in an utterance is used when expressing actions and present tense. Moreover, it is one of the characteristics of the Black English dialect. On the other hand, Black English speakers frequently omit their copula, making the sentence grammatically incorrect. This feature also represents the missed function of copulative auxiliaries "is" and "are," which differ from the Standard English form. Here is some datum found by the researcher taken from the novel related to the absence of copula “is” and “are”:

##### Datum 1

“Ah'll cut de p'taters fuh yuh. **When yuh** comin' back?” (Cp 4: p 27)

The researcher found an error contained in Janie's utterance. This utterance presents the formulation of Black English dialect in “wh-question,” but the speaker ignores the auxiliary verb. In the utterance above, the subject “you” is referred to Logan Killicks as Janie's first husband. As the speaker, Janie asked her husband when he was coming back because Janie would cut some potato for him using the form of “wh-question.” The formulation of Black English dialect is not used in the Standard English form, which places the verb “be” as a copulative verb to connect the subject. However, Janie's utterance's subject “you” makes the inappropriate form tense nonstandard grammatically because her utterance begins with “wh-question” and without subject-auxiliary “are” before the subject “you.” As we know that the “wh-question” in Standard English grammatical structures should begin with the subject-auxiliary, so the sentence is produced correctly. Forming this sentence in good Standard English must be *“I will cut the potato for you. When are you coming back?”*

## **Datum 2**

“**Dey dead**, Ah reckon. Ah wouldn't know 'bout 'em 'cause mah Grandma raised me.” (Cp 4: p 28)

In the utterance above, the researcher concludes that Janie is having a conversation with someone and refers to the plural subject “they,” which refers to Janie’s papa and mama. In Janie's utterance above, the researcher understands that Janie's parents have died and she lives only with her grandmother. However, Janie's utterance's subject “they” make the inappropriate form tense nonstandard grammatically because she omits the auxiliary "are." Moreover, it differs from the grammatical structure in Standard English in which the subject "they" is more

appropriate to use the auxiliary "are." Forming this sentence in good Standard English must be "***They are** dead, I guess. I wouldn't know about them because my Grandma raised me.*"

### Datum 3

"Nanny, Ah come to see that **baby uh** yourn." (Cp 2: p 17)

In this present utterance, the researcher highlight that Janie is having a conversation with Nany, which is her grandmother. However, Janie's utterance's subject "baby" makes the inappropriate form tense nonstandard grammatically. Meanwhile, this datum differs from the previous datum, such as datum (1) and (2). It is because Janie omits the subject-auxiliary "is" in that utterance. Moreover, it also differs from the grammatical structure in Standard English. The subject "baby" is included in a singular noun and is more appropriate to use the auxiliary "is." So, Standard English would complete the sentence as "*Nanny, I come to see that **baby is** your own.*"

### Datum 4

"De store is got tuh be sold and then **we goin'** off somewhere tuh git married." (Cp 12: p 113)

The researcher also found a grammatical error in the subject "we," which had omitted the auxiliary verb. In Janie's utterance, she deleted the auxiliary "are" between the words "she" and "going." Meanwhile, the subject "we" in Janie's utterance referred to Janie and her third husband, Tea Cake. In that conversation, Janie was talking to Pheoby, her best friend, about Janie's plans to marry Tea Cake. Moreover, it differs from the grammatical structure in Standard English in which the subject "we" is more appropriate to use the auxiliary "are." Janie's

utterance above omits the additional "are," making the inappropriate form tense nonstandard grammatically. So, Standard English would complete the sentence as *"The store is got to be sold, and then we are going off somewhere to get married."*

#### 4.1.1.2 Use of Invariant "be"

The invariant "be" is unquestionably the most noticeable grammatical element of African American Vernacular English or Black English dialect. The use of consistent "be" can be used in sentences about the habitual aspect, used with auxiliary "do-" in questions, or used constant "be" for the future. Janie rarely uses this type of black women's grammatical feature in this study. Below is some data found by the researcher related to invariant "be" based on the black women's grammatical features taken from Hurston's novel:

##### Datum 5:

"Useter **be** name Janie Mae Crawford." (Cp 4: p 29)

The sentence above shows black women's grammatical characteristics, such as the use of invariant "be." Janie used invariant "be" to indicate the habitual aspect in this sentence. Meanwhile, it differs from the grammatical structure in Standard English in which the invariant "be" intended as usually or regularly. The speaker uses the invariant "be" in the sentence when she talks with Joe Starks to mention the speaker's name. When they make the conversation, Joe Starks can't say the speaker's name. From Janie's utterance above, she uses the invariant "be," making the ungrammatical sentence. So, the researcher should change the sentence above in Standard English as *"User usually name Janie Mae Crawford."*



**Datum 6:**

“But de minute Ah marries 'im everybody is gointuh **be** makin' comparison.” (Cp 12: p 114)

Janie's utterance above presents invariant *"be"* to let Pheoby know that when she marries Tea Cake, all people in Eatonville will compare Tea Cake, her third husband, with Joe Stark, her second husband. Moreover, this utterance has the black women's grammatical feature of invariant *"be"* to indicate the future. Thus, forming this sentence in good Standard English must be *"But the minute I marries him, everybody is going to **be** making a comparison."*

**Datum 7:**

“He'll **be** heah wid some new medicine right away.” (Cp 19: p 183)

There is the use of invariant *"be"* before the word *"heah,"* so the researcher classifies it as the types of black women's grammatical features. Besides, Janie, as the black woman, uses invariant *"be"* to inform her husband, Tea Cake, that the doctor will come to their house with brings some new medicine to heal it. Moreover, the invariant *"be"* in that sentence has the function to indicate the future. It relates with Janie as the black woman's speaker who contracted the word "will" into 'll before using the invariant *"be."* Forming this sentence in good Standard English must be *"He will **be** here with some new medicine right away."*

**4.1.1.3 Use of Unstressed “been” or “bin”**

The use of unstressed *"been"* or *"bin"* includes the grammatical feature of the Black English dialect to show a particular aspectual function that denotes an activity that occurred in the distant past. The use of *"been"* in Standard English is the past participle of the verb "be," which use as part of the perfect tense along

with the auxiliary "have" or "has." Here is some data found by the researcher taken from the novel related to the use of unstressed "*been*" or "*bin*" in black women's dialect:

### Datum 8

“Ah **been** a delegate to de big 'ssociation of life. Yessuh! De Grand Lodge, de big convention of livin' is just where Ah **been** dis year and a half y'all ain't seen me.” (Cp 1: p 6)

In this datum, the researcher found a Black English grammatical in the use of "been" uttered by Janie as the black women English. The speaker uses the feature of unstressed "been" to tell the historical story to her friend, Pheoby, because her hometown neighbors gossip about Janie and want to know about Janie's life. Meanwhile, the speaker did not produce the sentence correctly because the speaker deleted the auxiliary "have" and stressed "been" individually as the auxiliary after the subject "I" and denotes an activity that occurred in the distant past. Forming this sentence in good Standard English must be added the auxiliary verb "have" after the subject "I" become "*I have been a delegate to the big association of life. Yessuh! The Grand Lodge, the big convention of living, is just where I have been this year and a half you all have not seen me.*"

### Datum 9

“Pheoby, we **been** kissin'-friends for twenty years, so Ah depend on you for a good thought.” (Cp 1: p 7)

There is the use of the auxiliary "been" after the plural noun "we," so the researcher classifies it as grammatical features of the unstressed "been." The speaker uses the element of unstressed "been" to refer to Janie's utterance that she believed and tried to hear good thoughts and suggestions from Pheoby, her best

friend because they have been friends for around twenty years. Janie's utterance shows how the word "been" acts individually, followed by "kissing" as the present participle word. This utterance also presented that the word "been" in the African American English dialect acts as the auxiliary verb and is used after the deletion of the auxiliary "have or has." Moreover, the researcher can be seen that the speaker did not use the Standard English grammatically because the speaker deleted "have" and stressed "been" individually as the auxiliary after the plural noun "we" to talk about an event that situates in the past and continues up. So, Standard English would complete the sentence as *"Pheoby, we **have been** kissing friends for twenty years, so I depend on you for a good thought."*

#### **Datum 10**

"It ain't always **been** too pleasant, 'cause you know how Joe worships de works of his own hands." (Cp 8: p 82)

This datum indicated a grammatical feature used unstressed "been" as the auxiliary. This sentence refers to Janie's utterance, who is talking to Pheoby, that she is not happy when she is with Joe, her second husband, who is always selfish and proud of his work. Moreover, this utterance is different from Standard English grammatically because Janie's utterance formed the sentence with the subject pronoun "it" and the perfect auxiliary "been" without the first additional "have or has." Hence, to make the sentence in good Standard English, it must be *"It **hasn't been** too pleasant because you know how Joe worships the works of his own hands."*

#### **Datum 11**

"Joe ain't **been** dead two months." (Cp 9: p 91)

In that sentence, the researcher found a Black English grammatical in the use of unstressed "been" uttered by Janie as the black women English. Janie, as the speaker uses the feature of unstressed "been" to inform Ike Green that she didn't want to be forced to marry again because her second husband, Joe Starks, hasn't been dead for around two months. However, the speaker did not produce the sentence in grammatical correct because the speaker deleted the auxiliary verb "have or has" and stressed "been" individually as the auxiliary after the subject "Joe," which is a singular noun and denotes an event that occurred in the distant past. Following the grammatical structure of Standard English in the data, it is better to add the auxiliary verb "has" and followed by the negative sentence after the subject "Joe" becomes "*Joe hasn't been dead for two months.*"

#### 4.1.1.4 The Use of *y'all*

In this point, the use of *y'all* includes the grammatical features of the Black English dialect to indicate the third plural possessive and the second person plural. This feature is commonly used in movie dialogues, novels, and talk shows. The type of *y'all* has numerous grammatical structure and punctuation variations, including *y'all*, *ya'll*, and *yawl*. The use of *y'all* is considered to be a contraction of you + all in Standard English or with an apostrophe placed after the "y." Here is some data found by the researcher taken from the novel related to the use of *y'all* in black women's dialect:

#### Datum 12

"He told me how surprised He was 'bout **y'all** turning out so smart after Him makin' yuh different." (Cp 6: p 75)

Based on the datum above, it can be understood that the speaker wants to speak up and tell all of her second husband's business partners that her husband has made their business associates successful. Besides, the researcher concludes a black women's grammatical feature in using *y'all* in that utterance, referring to Walter Thomas, Coker, and Jim Stone as Joe Starks's business partner. Furthermore, the phrase *y'all* in that sentence points out the second person plural pronoun instead of you. Forming this sentence in good Standard English grammatically and has a precise meaning must be, "*He told me how surprised he was about you all turning out so smart after him making you different.*"

### **Datum 13**

“Ah was wearin' it for de rest of **y'all**.” (Cp 12: p 113)

In datum 13, there is a Black English grammatical in the use of *y'all* uttered by Janie as the black women English. Janie, as the speaker, uses this feature to inform Pheoby that she wore a dark black and white dress to show people at Eatonville that Janie was mourning the death of her second husband, Joe Starks. However, there is a black woman's grammatical feature in using *y'all* in that utterance, which refers to Eatonville folks. Following the grammatical structure of Standard English in the data, it is better to use the phrase "you all" to point out the second person plural pronoun becomes "*I was wearing it for the rest of you all.*"

### **Datum 14**

“Ah'm glad **y'all** stop dat crap-shootin' even if it wasn't for money,” (Cp 18: p 159)

In datum 14, also use the grammatical feature of *y'all* in Janie's utterance that has the same cases in datum 12 and 13. In this datum, the phrase *y'all* refer to the

Tea Cake as Janie's third husband and Motor, Tea Cake's friend. However, the speaker did not grammatically produce the sentence in Standard English because the speaker used the phrase *y'all* as the second person plural pronoun. While this sentence should be written in Standard English as "*I'm glad all of you stop that crap-shooting even if it wasn't for money.*"

#### 4.1.1.5 The Use of *Ain't*

In this section, the use of *ain't* is the most popular feature and a common negator used by Black English speakers. In addition, *ain't* function as a negative marker because *ain't* is a shortened form of the auxiliary verb am not, are not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not in Standard English. Meanwhile, this feature can occur in the first person, second person, and third person. Here is some data found by the researcher related to the use of *ain't* based on the black women's grammatical features taken from Hurston's novel:

##### Datum 15

"Here, Pheoby, take yo' ole plate. Ah **ain't** got a bit of use for a empty dish." (Cp 1: p 5)

In this datum, the functions of *ain't* is to replace the auxiliary "haven't" in Standard English form after the first person singular "I" as the subject. It relates with the first person particular "I," which is mainly followed by the perfect auxiliary "have." Besides, in this datum, the verb is past participle with the word "got" after the negative auxiliary *ain't*. Meanwhile, it differs from the Standard English form, which never uses the negative auxiliary *ain't* and prefers to apply the state of *auxiliaries + not*. Hence, to make the sentence in good Standard

English, it must be "*Here, Pheoby, take your all plate. I **haven't** got a bit of use for an empty dish.*"

### Datum 16

"Ah **ain't** gointuh do it no mo', Nanny. Please don't make me marry Mr. Killicks." (Cp 2: p 15)

In this datum, the *ain't* replaces the auxiliary "am not" in Standard English after the first person singular "I" as the subject. It is due to the use of *ain't* precedes future tense marker with the word "going to." Meanwhile, the usage of *ain't* in this datum as a double negation with the word "no more" is found in a single sentence. In this case, the use of *ain't* in black women's dialect and Standard English is different because in Standard English form never uses this feature instead of *be + not* or *auxiliaries + not*. So, the Standard English for the datum (16) should be written in "*I **am not** going to do it anymore, Nanny. Please don't make me marry Mr. Killicks.*"

### Datum 17

"Naw, Jody, it jus' looks lak it keeps us in some way we **ain't** natural wid one 'nother." (Cp 5: p 46)

In datum 17, Janie as a black woman uses the grammatical feature of *ain't*. In this utterance, Janie used *ain't* as the replacement of the negative auxiliary "are not" by looking at the pronoun we as the first person plural pronoun before the auxiliary *ain't*. Besides, the pronoun "we" referred to Janie and Jody or called Joe Starks, her second husband who was arguing. Thus, the Standard English form for this utterance in datum 17 becomes "*No, Jody, it just looks like it keeps us in some way where we **are not** natural with one another.*"

### Datum 18

"It's right dere on de nail, **ain't** it?" (Cp 6: p 70)

In this datum, Janie also uses the grammatical feature of *ain't*, which has the same issue as in datum 15, 16, and 17. In addition, the negative auxiliary "ain't it" replaces "isn't it" in Standard English in the form of a question tag. Besides, the utterance is included in present tense form because the statement locates in the current time. Moreover, it also relates with Janie as the speaker who answered the question from Joe Starks, her second husband, regarding where she placed the last bill ordered by his husband. Furthermore, it can be seen by direct conversation conducted by Janie and her husband about the fact. Thus, the researcher should change the sentence above in Standard English as *"It is right there on the nail, isn't it?"*

### Datum 19

"Listen, Jody, you **ain't** de Jody ah run off down de road wid." (Cp 8: p 86)

In datum 19, there is a Black English grammatical in the use of *ain't* uttered by Janie as the black women English. Janie, as the speaker, uses this feature to replace the negative auxiliary "are not" by looking at the pronoun "you" as the second person pronoun before the auxiliary verb *ain't*. Besides, the pronoun "you" in that sentence is referred to Jody or called Joe Starks, Janie's second husband. Following the grammatical structure of Standard English in the data, it is better to use the negative auxiliary "are not" after the second person plural pronoun becomes *"Listen, Jody, you aren't the Jody I run off down the road with."*



### Datum 20

“Why **ain't** you at de ball game, too? Everybody else is dere.” (Cp 10: p 95)

In this datum, Janie uses the grammatical feature of *ain't*, which has the same cases as in datum 18 about the uses of an interrogative sentence. Besides, the negative auxiliary "ain't" replaces "aren't" in Standard English. However, the utterance is present tense because the statement is located in the current time. Moreover, the subject pronoun of this datum is you as the second person pronoun before the auxiliary verb *ain't*. Therefore, the negative auxiliary "ain't" must change to "are you not," as in Standard English. Simply way, the utterance (20) in Standard English becomes "*Why **are you not** at the ball game, too? Everybody else is there.*"

#### 4.1.1.6 Multiple Negations

In this part, multiple negations negate the auxiliary verb and the indefinite pronouns in the sentence. In this grammatical feature, if there is a statement that contains an unfavorable indefinite such as (e.g., nobody or nothing), then the negative auxiliary (doesn't, don't, can't) can be inserted at the beginning of the sentence, which is a characteristic of the Black English dialect. The type of multiple negations is black women's grammatical feature that the researcher frequently finds after using *ain't*. Here is some data found by the researcher related to the use of multiple negations:

### Datum 21

“Ah **don't** mean to bother wid tellin'em **nothin'**, Pheoby.” (Cp 1: p 6)

The highlight words above indicate multiple negations, one of Janie's Black English grammatical features while conversing with her best friend, Pheoby. This utterance has two negations: "*Ah don't mean*" and "*tellin' 'em nothin'.*" Meanwhile, it differs from the Standard English form, which only uses one negator to express a sentence. In this case, a negative indefinite like **nothing** is only used to stress the first negation **don't**. In addition, in datum (21), it is better if the utterance becomes to Standard English form by changing the word "nothing" to "anything" as "*I **don't** mean to bother with telling them **anything**, Pheoby.*"

#### **Datum 22**

"Yeah, Pheoby, Tea Cake is gone. And dat's de only reason you see me back here—cause Ah **ain't** got **nothing** to make me happy **no more** where Ah was at." (Cp 1: p 7)

The bold words in that utterance presented the grammatical features of multiple negations in one sentence, which includes "*ain't,*" "*nothing,*" and "*no more.*" Moreover, this utterance might confuse several English speakers when they are not usual with this kind of multiple negations form. Meanwhile, the negative auxiliary "*ain't*" stands after the first person singular "I" as the subject, which becomes the auxiliary do + not. Hence, in these multiple negation constructions, the negative auxiliary can be signed on auxiliaries **don't** (ain't) and indefinite nouns such as **anything** (nothing) and **anymore** (no more). Besides, it differs from Standard English, which only uses one negator to express a sentence. Thus, the Standard English form in this datum as "*Yeah, Pheoby, Tea Cake is gone, and that's the only reason why you see me back here because I **don't** have **anything** to make me happy **anymore** where I was at.*"

### Datum 23

“Ah **ain't never** seen mah papa.” (Cp 2: p 8)

This type of multiple negations also may happen in the datum 23, “*Ah ain't never seen mah papa.*” This sentence combines the use of the negative auxiliary *ain't* and the negative adverb *never*. Moreover, *ain't* in this sentence displaces the auxiliary “have not” by looking at the pronoun *I* as the first person singular and the verb “seen,” which is a form of the past participle. Besides, the other negation that is *never* is only used to stress the first negative auxiliary *ain't*. In this case, the datum (23) should use Standard English form to make the appropriate meaning by omitting the word *not* after the auxiliary *have* and before the negative adverb *never* becomes “*I have never seen my papa.*”

### Datum 24

“Yes, Ah do, and then agin Ah don't know whether Ah do or not, 'cause **nobody ain't never** showed me how.” (Cp 10: p 95)

In this datum, multiple negations include in one sentence, such as the words “nobody,” “ain't,” and also “never.” Besides, this datum is almost similar to the datum (23), which also uses the negative auxiliary *ain't* before the negative adverb “never.” Moreover, *ain't* in this sentence replaces the auxiliary verb “has not” by looking at the indefinite pronoun *nobody* becomes to *anybody*. Meanwhile, the verb *showed* also changes to the verb *shown*, which is the past participle form. Hence, in these multiple negation constructions, the negative auxiliary can be signed on the indefinite pronoun *nobody* becomes to *anybody*, the negative auxiliary *ain't* becomes *has not*, and the negative adverb *never*. Thus, the Standard

English form in the datum (24) becomes *"Yes, I do, and then again, I don't know whether I do because **anybody has never** shown me how."*

### Datum 25

"Don't git mad, Tea Cake, Ah just **didn't** want you doin' **nothin'** outa politeness." (Cp 11: p 109)

The highlight words above indicate multiple negations almost similar to the datum 21. Datum 21 uses two negations: *don't* and the negative indefinite *nothing*. It relates with this datum that also uses two negations such as *didn't* and the negative indefinite like *nothing*, which used to stress the first negation *didn't*. Meanwhile, it differs from the Standard English form, which only uses one negator to express a sentence. In addition, in datum (25), it is better if the utterance becomes to Standard English form by changing the word "nothing" to "anything." So this utterance is written in Standard English form as *"Don't get mad, Tea Cake. I just **didn't** want you doing **anything** out of politeness."*

#### 4.1.1.7 Use of Completive *done* or *be done*

In this part, the completive *done* is intended to highlight the completed nature of an activity or an action. Moreover, the *done* usage is frequently associated with the past tense and refers to the recent past action. Furthermore, the invariant *done* can be used to substitute the verb "has," "have," or "had." Here is some datum found by the researcher related to the use of completive *done* or *be done*:

### Datum 26

"You ain't **done** me no favor by marryin' me." (Cp 4: p 31)

The use of *done* in this datum refers to the action taken by Janie, who is being mad because she was married to Logan Killicks, her first husband. Besides, Janie used this grammatical feature to reinforce the meaning and stress a different condition. This utterance is a unique sentence because the sentence combines two grammatical features, such as the use of *ain't* and completive *done*. Moreover, this utterance might confuse several English speakers when they are not usual with double grammatical features in one sentence. Furthermore, the function of *ain't* in that utterance is to replace the auxiliary "haven't" in Standard English after the second person singular "you" as the subject. It relates to the second person, particular "you," mainly followed by the perfect auxiliary "have." So this utterance is written in Standard English form as “*You **have not** me any favor by marrying me.*”

#### **Datum 27**

“Somebody **done** tole 'em what to set down for.” (Cp 12: p 112)

The completive of *done* in datum (27) talks about past actions. Besides, this feature shows the completed activity with the completive of “*done*” in that sentence. Moreover, this datum includes the positive sentence and uses the present perfect tense with the verb “*told*” in Standard English. It relates to Standard English, which uses the formula *Subject + Have or Has + V3 + Object* as the present perfect tense. Furthermore, the usage of *done* in that utterance displaces the auxiliary “*have or has*” in Standard English after the singular noun “*somebody*” as the subject. It relates with the singular noun “*somebody*,” which is primarily followed by the perfect auxiliary “*has*.” Thus, the datum (27) should be written in Standard English as “*Somebody **has told** them what to set down for.*”

### Datum 28

“We **done** made up our mind tuh marry.” (Cp 12: p 113)

The highlight words above indicate the use of “done” in black women’s grammatical features with “made up” a past participle form. Moreover, this utterance expresses that Janie as the speaker and Tea Cake, have been thinking about getting married. Furthermore, the usage of *done* in that utterance removes the auxiliary “have” in Standard English after the plural noun “we” as the subject. So, the statement can be understood in Standard English as “*We have made up our minds to marry.*”

### Datum 29

“But he **done** showed me where it's de thought dat makes de difference in ages.” (Cp 12: p 115)

The highlight words above indicate the use of *done*, which is almost similar to the datum (27). Datum 27 uses the completive *done* to talk about an action that taken place in the past time. It relates with this datum that the speaker also uses the completive *done* to express the statement that Tea Cake discussed previously. Moreover, this datum uses the verb “showed” after the word “done.” Furthermore, the use of *done* in that utterance replaces the auxiliary “has” in Standard English after the third person singular “He” as the subject. Other than that, the verb “showed” in the datum above includes the simple past tense of the verb “show” that must change to past perfect tense form, which becomes “shown” after the auxiliary “has.” In this case, the datum (29) should use Standard English form to make the appropriate meaning by omitting the word *done* and replacing it with the

auxiliary *has* and becomes “*But he **has shown** me where the thought makes the difference in ages.*”

#### 4.1.1.8 Absence of Relative Pronoun

The absence of relative pronouns results from omitting relative pronouns, including *who*, *whom*, *what*, *which*, or *that*. Besides, the omission of the relative pronoun is unique and primarily found in the Black English dialect. It differs from Standard English, which should use the relative pronoun to connect the sentence, which explains the noun to another sentence. Here is some data found by the researcher related to this grammatical feature:

##### Datum 30

“So when we looked at de picture and everybody got pointed **out there** wasn't nobody left except a real dark little girl with long hair standing by Eleanor.” (Cp 2: p 9)

Janie's utterance above presents the absence of relative pronouns. As the speaker, Janie combined two statements to refer to a person or thing without a relative pronoun. Moreover, the utterance relates to Janie, who omits a relative pronoun as an object of the verb "pointed out." Besides, the relative pronoun "that" in this datum can be used as a defining clause. In Standard English, the speaker should add the relative pronoun "that" between the verb "pointed out" and the adverb "there." So, in Standard English, "*So when we looked at the picture, everybody got pointed out **that** there wasn't anybody left except a real dark little girl with long hair standing by Eleanor.*"

##### Datum 31

“You de **one started** talkin' under people's clothes. Not me.” (Cp 7: p 79)

In the datum (31) above, it can be indicated that the speaker omits the relative pronoun and make the sentence unstructured grammatically. This datum includes the relative clause, which is a relative pronoun that must connect the sentence with another sentence. In addition, this datum does not have conjunctions that are used to complement and provide additional explanations for the main sentence. In Standard English, Janie, as the speaker, omitted the relative pronoun “who” as the defining relative clause between the words “the one” and “started,” which can be used to connect the word so that it has a meaning. In this case, the datum (31) should use Standard English form to make the appropriate meaning by adding the relative pronoun *who* becomes “*You are the one **who** started talking under people's clothes. Not me.*”

### **Datum 32**

“God in heben **knows Ah** wouldn't do one thing tuh hurt nobody.” (Cp 8: p 82)

The utterance above shows the grammatical features in the absence of relative pronouns. Meanwhile, the speaker combines two statements to refer to a person with the word “I” and without a relative pronoun. This datum has similar to the datum (30). Besides, as the speaker, Janie deleted the relative pronoun “that,” which functions as an object of the verb “knows.” So, the statement can be understood in Standard English as “*God in heben knows **that** I wouldn't do one thing to hurt anybody.*”

After the researcher explained some data related to the first research problem, the researcher highlighted that the total grammatical features of black women's dialect, which differ from Standard English in this study, were 146 data. This study successfully determined eight categories of black women's grammatical



features based on Rickford's theory (1999). The use of *Ain't* has the highest frequency with a range of (29%), Multiple negations (24%), Absence of auxiliary "is" and "are" (14%), Use of Completive "done" or "be done" (10%), Use of Unstressed "been" or "bin" (9%), Absence of Relative Pronoun (6%), The Use of *y'all* (4%), and Use of Invariant "be" (3%).

According to the above analysis, the researcher can conclude that the most frequent category of grammatical features found in Hurston's novel is the use of *Ain't*. As the main character, Janie often uses the grammatical feature of *ain't* as a negative marker to replace the auxiliary verb *am not, are not, is not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not* in Standard English. Janie often uses auxiliary *ain't* in her utterances after the first person singular "I" as the subject. Therefore, the researcher can conclude that Janie, as the main character, frequently uses *Ain't* to state the negative statements primarily found in the Black English dialect.

#### **4.1.2 Vocabulary Variations Used by Black Women's Dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Novel**

In this part, the researcher presented answers to fulfill the second research problem related to the distinction of vocabulary variations used by black women's dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and in Standard English. In addition, Black English speakers have a variety of vocabulary that can distinguish from the choice of vocabulary and the literal meaning of vocabulary. Moreover, the researcher has found 32 vocabulary variations uttered by Janie as the Black English speakers in this study. Below are the data findings related to the vocabulary variation spoken by the main character.

**Datum 33**

“Ah'm tryin' to soak some uh de tiredness and de dirt *outa* mah feet.” (Cp 1: p 4)

In the above utterance, Janie meets her best friend, Pheoby, when she first comes to Eatonville. However, Janie used vocabulary variation of “outa” that is rarely used by Standard English speakers. Besides, the italic word “outa” in that utterance is the shortened phrase “out of” in Standard English. Moreover, the term “outa” symbolized the sound of the words "out of" when the speaker speaks rapidly. The researcher concluded that the vocabulary of “outa” has the same meaning as Standard English vocabulary “out of,” which means removing or going away from anything more specific. It also represents a change in the direction of movement.

**Datum 34**

“*Gal*, it's too good! you switch a mean fanny round in a kitchen.” (Cp 1: p 5)

In this datum, Janie said to Pheoby before they ate together that what her best friend served at the dinner table and in the kitchen was delicious. Meanwhile, Janie used Black English vocabulary variation of the word “gal” to refer to Pheoby, which differs from Standard English vocabulary. Other than that, the term “gal” is the abbreviation of a girl or a woman in Standard English.

**Datum 35**

“Hand me dat wash-rag on dat chair by you, honey. *Lemme* scrub mah feet.” (Cp 1: p 5)

The italic term in the above datum showed one of Janie's vocabulary. In this datum, she used the word “lemme” to ask Pheoby's permission so Janie could scrub her own feet. In Janie's utterance, the term “lemme” is the shortened

spelling “let me” in Standard English form. The term “lemme” is also called a slang term because it is often used in modern youth language, especially in Black English dialect, which only has one word, so it is easier for Janie to express her actions.

### **Datum 36**

“Ain't you never goin' tuh *gimme* dat *lil* rations you brought me? Ah ain't had a thing on mah stomach today exceptin' mah hand.” (Cp 1: p 5)

In the datum (36) above, the researcher finds out two kinds of unique vocabulary uttered by Janie. Two italic words indicated Janie's unique vocabulary when she met her friend, Pheoby. This datum may differ from the previous datum, which uses a lot of variations of Black English vocabulary in one sentence. Moreover, Janie used vocabulary variations of the words “gimme” and “Lil,” primarily found in Black English dialect and rarely used by Standard English speakers. In that utterance, the italic word “gimme” is the slang or informal pronunciation of the phrase “give me” in Standard English. Meanwhile, Janie's unique vocabulary word "Lil" means the term “little” in Standard English and generally describes something little.

### **Datum 37**

“*Looka heah*, Pheoby, is Sam waitin' on you for his supper?” (Cp 1: p 7)

In this datum (37), Janie tells Pheoby that her husband is waiting for her for dinner. Besides, Janie used Black English vocabulary to talk with her best friend, Pheoby, with the unique words “looka heah.” Moreover, the term “looka heah” is often used by American Black English speakers, or it can be called ebonics which is a term that refers to black African slaves. Meanwhile, this vocabulary differs

from Standard English speakers, who generally use the phrase “look out here” to look out or keep in watch someone or anything else that may happen.

### Datum 38

“Ah *reckon* dey never hit us ah lick amiss 'cause dem three boys and us two girls wuz pretty aggravatin'.” (Cp 2: p 8)

The italic word in the datum (38) showed Janie's vocabulary variation as the Black English speaker. In this datum, Janie used the word “reckon” to show her belief or her thought when she talks to Pheoby that Nany and Miss Washburn never hit her and her sister even though they were pretty annoying. However, the vocabulary “reckon” in Janie’s utterance has the same meaning as the informal words of “believe,” “think,” or “guess” in Standard English form. To conclude, the black women’s vocabulary of “reckon” in that utterance describes what the person thinks, guesses something, or believes that something is true.

### Datum 39

“Miss Nellie, de Mama of de *chillun* who come back home after her husband dead.” (Cp 2: p 9)

Janie tells about her story when she was little and about Miss Nellie in the above utterance. However, when Janie told Pheoby about Miss Nellie, she used a unique vocabulary of “chillun” that Standard English speakers rarely use. Besides, Janie's italic word “chillun” above describes the term “children” in Standard English vocabulary. In this datum, the researcher concluded that black women English used the vocabulary variation of “chillun,” which means “children” in Standard English vocabulary, to point out that Miss Nellie has a son or daughter after her husband dies.

#### Datum 40

“Yeah, Jody, don't *keer* whut dat multiplied *cockroach* told yuh tuh git yo' money, you got tuh die, and yuh can't live.” (Cp 8: p 86)

In the datum (40) above, the researcher finds two kinds of unique vocabulary uttered by Janie as the Black English speaker. Two italic words indicated Janie's vocabulary variation that she used when she met her friend, Pheoby. Moreover, Janie used vocabulary variations of the words “*keer*” and “*cockroach*,” which are rarely used by Standard English speakers. In that utterance, the italic word “*keer*” is the informal pronunciation of the term “care” in Standard English. The vocabulary of “care” refers to a disquieted state of mixed uncertainty, apprehension, and responsibility. Meanwhile, Janie's second unique vocabulary about the word “*cockroach*” shares the same term as “annoying human” in Standard English. Generally, the Black English vocabulary “*cockroach*” can be described as annoying humans who seem indestructible but annoying to those who can't bother themselves.

Based on the above analysis, the researcher already shows ten vocabulary variations uttered by Janie as the Black English speakers in this study. Moreover, the researcher can conclude that different vocabularies are generated as a function of each language. In addition, as a black woman, Janie uses several vocabulary variations that she knows and uses them in her sentences that are different from the Standard English vocabulary when she talks with the people she already knows before.

### **4.1.3 Socio-Cultural Background of Black English People in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Novel**

In this section, the researcher presented answers to fulfill the third research problem related to the socio-cultural background of Black English people in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel based on Rickford and Rickford's theory. In addition, the researcher found three factors that can represent the socio-cultural background of Black English people through black women's grammatical features in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* novel, which are gender, age, and linguistic environment.

#### **4.1.3.1 Gender**

At this point, gender identity is an influential factor in social background and can determine the dialect used by the speakers. Moreover, gender can affect the use of dialect because the dialect spoken by the speaker can illustrate that the speaker is classified as male or female gender. To be able to distinguish between masculine and feminine identity can be analyzed through the grammatical features in the speaker's utterances (Rickford & Rickford, 2000). According to the theory, the usual gender-differentiation pattern in grammatical patterns such as the absence of auxiliary or copula. Besides, Holmes (2013) who asserts that some linguists have pointed to the association of standard forms with the female gender because society expects women to speak more correctly and standardly than men. Below the data findings that shows a comparison between the statements used by Janie as the speaker addressed to the same gender or female gender compared to the statements used by Janie to address the male gender:

**Datum 41**

“Good Lawd, Pheoby! ain't you never goin' tuh gimme dat lil rations you brought me? Ah ain't had a thing on mah stomach today exceptin' mah hand.” (Cp 1: p 5)

Based on the utterance above, Janie used the Black English dialect when talking with Pheoby, her best friend, with several grammatical features of Black English, such as Ain't and multiple negations. The statement above used by Janie Mae Crawford indicates that gender influences Janie's utterance. From the reason above, it can be shown that Janie and Pheoby have the same gender, the female gender. So, Janie prefers to use the Black English dialect when talking with her best friend.

**Datum 42**

“You haven't been getting your right likker lately.” (Cp 19: p 176)

Unlike when Janie talks to Pheoby, Janie prefers to use the Standard English form when talking to Tea Cake, her third husband. Datum 42 shows that Janie referred to the statement when she spoke to the male gender. In the previous data, Janie prefers to use black women's grammatical features of *ain't* and multiple negations to talk with the Pheoby, as the female gender. Meanwhile, in this datum, Janie tends to use the Standard English auxiliary “haven't” to speak with her husband, Tea Cake. The datum above shows that gender influences Janie's utterance because Janie, the lower working-class black woman, tends to show her female gender using more Standard English forms of speech when talking with her husband.

**Datum 43**

“Ah wuz thinkin' real hard about us; about you and me.” (Cp 3: p 30)

This datum is similar to the datum (42) because she also used the proper grammatical structure when talking with the male gender. The utterance above used by Janie Mae Crawford indicates that she is a female gender because she has the correct grammatical constructions. In this utterance, Janie referred to the statement when she talked to her first husband, Logan Killicks. Moreover, Janie used the auxiliary “was” after the singular subject “I” to make the utterance becomes the correct grammatical structure. From the reason above, it can be shown that gender influences Janie's utterance because Janie, the lower working-class black woman, tends to show her female gender using more Standard English forms of speech when she debates with her husband.

#### **Datum 44**

“Yeah, Ah'm nearly forty and you're already fifty.” (Cp 7: p 79)

Janie used the utterance above when she debated with Joe Starks. This utterance shows that gender influences Janie's utterance because Janie, a black woman, has reached the age of forty, and she is no young girl and despised by her husband, Joe Starks. Other than that, she uses more precise speech to show her female gender and also uses the correct auxiliary “am” and “are” after the subject “I” and “you” to show her power when she debates with her husband.

#### **Datum 45**

“Who gointuh make me come out?” (Cp 17: p 151)

Unlike when Janie talks to her husband, Janie prefers to use non-standard English forms when talking to Mrs. Turner. Datum 45 above shows that Janie referred to the statement when she spoke to the female gender. Meanwhile, this



datum differs from the previous datum, which used the correct Standard English grammatical structures when talking with the male gender. Moreover, in this datum, Janie omits the auxiliary “is” after the “wh-question” that makes the utterance weird when talking with Mrs. Turner. But, it doesn’t matter if Janie omits the auxiliary “is” because Mrs. Turner still understood what Janie means. Based on this data, Janie prefers to use the Black English dialect when talking with Mrs. Turner, who has the same gender as Janie, which is the female gender.

#### 4.1.3.2 Age

In this section, age is one of the factors that can be analyzed in the social background of the speaker. Besides, the grammatical characteristic that indicate the age factor as the speaker’s social background is the use of invariant “be.” Rickford and Rickford (2000) argue that younger people use vernacular grammar more often than older speakers. In addition, knowing whether the speakers are younger people or older people can be seen from the grammatical structure used by each speaker. The following five data exemplified Janie's utterances use of the invariant "be" when she is young age (datum 46, datum 48) and when she is older age (datum 47, datum 49, datum 50). The data can see below:

##### **Datum 46**

“Ah ain't gointuh do it no mo', Nanny. Please don't make me marry Mr. Killicks.”  
(Cp 2: p 15)

Janie's utterance above indicates that Janie is a younger girl. Janie used the Black English grammatical features when she talked with Nanny, her Grand Mother. Janie's statement above referred to Nanny, who forced Janie at sixteen years old to marry Logan Killicks, one of the white people in Eatonville. Thus, the

grammatical features of the speech used by Janie above can be said to be influenced by Janie's age.

#### **Datum 47**

“Still and all Ah'd ruttier be wid Tea Cake.” (Cp 12: p 113)

Janie has the Black English grammatical feature of invariant “be” in the utterance above. She used this grammatical feature when she talked with Pheoby about marrying Tea Cake after her second husband died. The statement above indicated that Janie is a woman and got older than Tea Cake. Therefore, Janie's age can influence the grammatical features of the invariant “be” used by Janie above.

#### **Datum 48**

“Nanny, Ah just—Ah didn't mean nothin' bad.” (Cp 2: p 13)

In the above utterance, it indicates that Janie is a younger girl. Janie used the Black English grammatical features of multiple negation when she talked with Nanny, her Grand Mother. Janie's statement above referred to Nanny, who forced Janie at sixteen years old to marry Logan Killicks. Furthermore, this datum used two negations “didn't” and “nothing.” The researcher concluded that Janie lacks proper formal education which causes her to not knowing which is standard and which is not when she is the young age. Thus, the grammatical features of the speech used by Janie above can be said to be influenced by Janie's age.

#### **Datum 49**

“But de minute Ah marries 'im everybody is gointuh be makin' comparison.” (Cp 12: p 114)

Janie has the Black English grammatical feature of invariant “be” in the utterance above. She used this grammatical feature when she talked with her husband, Tea Cake. The statement above indicated that Janie is a woman and she already married with Tea Cake. Therefore, Janie's age can influence the grammatical features of the invariant “be” used by Janie above.

#### **Datum 50**

“He'll be heah wid some new medicine right away.” (Cp 19: p 183)

This datum has the same interpretation as the previous datum because after Janie got married she still used the invariant “be” when she was talking to the Tea Cake, her husband, who is getting sick. The statement above indicated that Janie is a woman and she is in the adult age. Therefore, Janie's age can influence the grammatical features of the invariant “be” used by Janie above.

#### **4.1.3.3 Linguistic Environment**

The linguistic environment is one of the factors that can represent the speaker's social background through the context of the conversation by looking at the grammatical features used by each speaker. This factor can be analyzed based on the condition of the speech, the audience, the set of locations, or the topics of the conversation. The data findings can be seen below:

#### **Datum 51**

“Yeah, Pheoby, Tea Cake is gone. And dat's de only reason you see me back here—cause Ah ain't got nothing to make me happy no more where Ah was at.” (Cp 1: p 7)

Janie used two grammatical features of Black English in the utterance above, such as the absence of relative pronouns and multiple negations. Moreover, the

African American Vernacular English utterances were spoken by Janie at once when she felt comfortable talking to her best friend, Pheoby. The statement above can change to the correct Standard English grammatical when the speaker used to speak with people she doesn't know, which becomes *"Yeah, Pheoby, Tea Cake is gone. And that's the only reason why you see me back here because I don't have anything to make me happy anymore where I was at."* Therefore, it can be said that Janie's linguistic environment influences the grammatical features in the utterances above. The researcher concluded that Janie used two types of Black English grammatical features when she felt comfortable talking to people that she knew rather than with new people.

#### **Datum 52**

"Mah name is Janie Mae Killicks since Ah got married." (Cp 4: p 29)

Furthermore, this datum differs from the previous datum (51) because Janie used the Standard English grammatical structures to her audience in this datum. Moreover, this utterance refers to Joe Starks when he first met Janie. Therefore, when Janie talks to new people, she prefers to use the Standard English grammatical structure. In this statement, Janie used the correct auxiliary "is" after the pronoun "my name" to tell the other people about Janie's name. Meanwhile, it differs when Janie talks to people she already knows before. Maybe this utterance can be changed to *"Mah name Janie Mae Killicks since Ah got married"* by omitting the auxiliary "is" as one of the Black English dialect criteria. Thus, it can be concluded that the speaker used the Standard English grammatical structure influenced by the speaker's linguistic environment, such as the audience, which is a new people.

### Datum 53

“Dis is somethin' new, doctah. Ah figgers de water is yet bad.” (Cp 19: p 176)

This datum has a similar issue to datum 53 because Janie used the Standard English grammatical structures to her audience. Besides, Janie used the correct Standard English grammatical to Doctor Simmons. Therefore, when Janie talks to the doctor, she prefers to use the Standard English grammatical structure because Janie was trying to be polite to him, who was trying to cure her husband, Tea Cake. The researcher highlighted that Janie used the correct auxiliary “is” after the pronoun “this” and after the pronoun “water.” Meanwhile, it differs when Janie talks to people she already knows before, like her husband or best friend. Maybe this utterance can be change to “*Dis somethin' new, doctah. Ah figgers dewater yet bad*” by deleting the auxiliary "is" after the pronoun "this" and “water” as one of the Black English dialect grammatical features.

### 4.2 Discussion

In this part, the researcher discusses the findings of this study to answer the research problems. The researcher focused on analyzing the dialect patterns, including grammatical features and vocabulary variations, and revealed the socio-cultural background of black women’s dialect in Hurston’s novel entitled “Their Eyes Were Watching God.” Generally, dialect is a language variety primarily spoken by a specific group of people and affected by regional origins, socioeconomic class, and distinguished by grammar, phonology, and vocabulary. Wray and Bloomer (2006) argue that dialect is related to a specific region and social background, characterized by grammar, vocabulary, and some linguist

accents. Therefore, each speaker has a distinctive feature in language use and can reveal the speaker's social background.

Furthermore, the data in this study were obtained from Janie's utterances as a black woman character in the novel entitled "Their Eyes Were Watching God" published in 1937 by Zora Neale Hurston, who uses the Southern dialect of African-American English. Moreover, the study of dialect is strongly linked to English because English is rich in dialect, particularly in the Southern dialect of African-American English or Black English dialect, which has its distinct characteristics. There are eight types of Black English dialect grammatical features, such as the absence of auxiliary "is" and "are," use of invariant "be," use of unstressed "been" or "bin," the use of *y'all*, the use of *Ain't*, multiple negations, use of completive "done" or "be done," and absence of relative pronoun, according to the theory by Rickford (1999). To sum up, the grammatical feature is related to the special or unique grammar in a particular area.

The present study found that the grammatical features of black women most commonly found in Hurston's novel is *Ain't*, which replaces the auxiliary verb am not, are not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not in Standard English based on the Rickford's theory (1999). This research seems to enrich the findings of the previous studies (Aryani, 2020; Deputatova et al., 2019; Sari, 2019; Prasetyo, 2015; Pratiwi, 2015; Nisak, 2013), which also found that *Ain't* is the grammatical features of Black English dialect with the highest frequency of usage. This study aligns with Rickford (1999) that showed the *Ain't* is the general preverbal negator usually employed by African American Vernacular English speakers in their daily conversation that differs from the Standard English form.

From the above data findings, the researcher discovered eight types of black women's grammatical features in Hurston's novel "Their Eyes Were Watching God" to answer the first research question. The first grammatical feature in this study is the absence of auxiliary "is" and "are." This feature is one of the criteria of Black English dialect that omits the auxiliary in spoken or written language when expressing actions and present tense (Rickford, 1999). In this type, the researcher found 20 utterances from Janie as the black women character in Hurston's novel. The finding of this study indicated that Janie frequently omitted the copula "are" rather than "is" when talking with other speakers and generalized to be "is" matched with plural subjects or otherwise. This data finding showed Janie's unique grammatical characteristic that differs from the Standard English form. Meanwhile, this finding also showed that Janie still lacks understanding regarding the appropriate auxiliary "is" and "are" for singular or plural subjects.

Second, the researcher found invariant "be," which is one type of black women's grammatical features. According to Rickford (1999), the use of invariant "be" can be used in sentences stating the habitual aspect, used with the auxiliary "do" in questions, or used constant "be" for the future. In this type, the researcher only found 5 of Janie's utterances which mainly indicate future events. The third grammatical feature that the researcher has found is the use of unstressed "been" or "bin." This feature includes the grammatical characteristic of the Black English dialect to show a particular aspectual function that denotes an activity that occurred in the distant past. The researcher found 13 utterances that related to this type. The researcher concluded that Janie did not understand using Standard

English grammatically because she often deleted the auxiliary “have or has” and stressed “been” individually as the auxiliary after the singular or plural noun.

In the fourth grammatical feature on the use of *Y'all*, the researcher only found six utterances from Janie’s dialect. *Y'all* use is considered a contraction of you + all in Standard English or with an apostrophe placed after the "y." In this type, Janie, as the black women character, rarely uses this type of grammatical feature to refer to the other speakers. Meanwhile, the researcher found 43 utterances in the use of *Ain't*. According to Rickford (1999), the use of *ain't* function as a negative marker. Based on this type, the researcher concluded that this type was the most frequent than the other features used by Janie to replace the auxiliary verb am not, are not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not in Standard English that occur in the first, second, and third person.

In addition, the researcher found 35 utterances used by Janie as the black women character in the type of multiple negations. In this finding, Janie often used multiple negations to negate the auxiliary verb and the indefinite pronouns in the sentence. Based on these findings, the researcher highlights that the multiple negation feature is different from Standard English which only uses one negator in a sentence. Meanwhile, the previous grammatical feature contrasts with the use of completive “done” or “be done” found by the researcher with a range of 15 utterances. Generally, this feature is intended to underline the completed nature of the activity of an action (Rickford, 1999). From those statements, it can be seen that this grammatical feature refers to an action or activity completed in the recent past. The researcher concluded that Janie rarely used this type of grammatical



feature, and she used this feature to replace the auxiliary “has, have, or had” in Standard English and refer it to the recent past action.

The last type of black women’s grammatical feature is the absence of relative pronouns. The researcher found nine utterances uttered by Janie as this type's black female character. The lack of relative pronouns results from omitting relative pronouns, including *who*, *whom*, *what*, *which*, or *that* (Rickford, 1999). In this finding, Janie frequently omits the relative pronoun of “that” when combining two statements to refer to a person or thing. Based on the result for the first research question, the researcher concluded that she found the highest frequency in the use of *Ain't* (29%), multiple negations (24%), absence of auxiliary “is” and “are” (14%), use of completive “done” or “be done” (10%), use of unstressed “been” or “bin” (9%), absence of relative pronoun (6%), the use of *y'all* (4%), and use of invariant “be” (3%).

Furthermore, the researcher has also answered the second research question related to Janie’s words, sentences, and utterances that contain vocabulary variations of black women's dialect. According to Fromkin (2010), vocabulary gives us an understanding of how people use words and create meaning. Besides, Black English speakers have a variety of vocabulary that can distinguish from the choice of vocabulary and the literal meaning of vocabulary.

In this finding, the researcher found 32 vocabulary variations used by Janie as the subject of this study related to black women’s dialect vocabulary variation. From 32 data finding in this study, Janie often used unfamiliar vocabulary when talking with the other speakers, such as the use of the terminology “*outa*,” “*lemme*,” “*gimme*,” “*chillun*,” and “*gal*,” which in Standard English is “out off,”

“let me,” “give me,” “children,” and “girl.” These results showed that Janie used a unique variation of the Black English dialect vocabulary different from Standard English but still has the same meaning. Therefore, Janie mostly used the vocabulary variation of the Black English dialect in her sentences to talk to other speakers.

After analyzing the grammatical features and vocabulary variations of black women’s dialect, the researcher found three factors representing Black English people's socio-cultural background based on Rickford and Rickford’s theory to answer the third research problem. Actually, in Rickford and Rickford's theory (2000), there should be four factors such as gender, age, social class, and linguistic environment. However, the researcher only used three factors in this study, such as gender, age, and linguistic environment, and omitted the social class factor. It is due to the social class factor in Rickford and Rickford's theory can be analyzed through the grammatical features of multiple negations and the use of Ain't.

Meanwhile, the researcher has analyzed the grammatical features of multiple negations and the use of Ain't in the first research question, showing that these features are frequently used by Black English people, especially Janie as the black women character. So the researcher can be concluded that the social class of black people in Hurston's novel develops with enslaved people or lower working-class black people. Based on the subjective view of the researcher, she chose to omit the social class factor because it was clearly illustrated in the first research question in this present study. Rickford and Rickford (2000) stated that the grammatical features could be used to analyze the speakers' socio-cultural

backgrounds. This statement can be highlighted that through black women's grammatical features, it can represent the socio-cultural background of Black English.

In this result, the researcher found that Janie Mae Crawford, the subject of this study, frequently used the grammatical features of *ain't* in her utterances and some unique vocabulary variations of Black English dialect that differs from Standard English form when talking with other speakers. Moreover, the researcher highlights that Janie's speech can represent her socio-cultural backgrounds, such as her female gender, mature woman, and the speaker's environment. Furthermore, the gender factor has the highest frequency in representing black people's socio-cultural background, which can be seen through the grammatical features used by Janie as the speaker. The researcher found 14 utterances uttered by Janie as the black women character related to this factor. The data finding in this study shows a comparison between the statements used by Janie as the speaker addressed to the same gender or female gender compared to the statements used by Janie to address the male gender.

Janie's utterances can also indicate that the female gender in black people, when talking with the male gender, tends to show her identity using more precise speech and the correct grammatical structures than Janie talks with the same gender. It relates with Triyogo and Chairunnisa (2017), who argue that the female gender has the right to be treated as equal as men, voice her thoughts, and determine her own life choices. In line with Holmes (2013) who asserts that some linguists have pointed to the association of standard forms with the female gender because society expects women to speak more correctly and standardly than men

even though they come from the same social group. This is because by using more standard forms of speech, women are more valued by society and claim more status. It means that women want to be considered equal and more valued by society, even though the male gender uses standard language and comes from the same social group. Meanwhile, it is possible that the male gender prefers to use vernacular forms rather than the standard forms because it contains masculinity and toughness connotations (Holmes, 2013). Hence, the female gender in black people tends to use more precise speech to claim that status when talking with the male gender.

Then, Janie's speech also portrayed her socio-cultural, which is her adult age. The researcher found six utterances uttered by Janie as the black women character related to this factor. In addition, Rickford and Rickford (2000) argue that younger people use vernacular grammar more often than older speakers. One of the grammatical characteristics that indicate the age factor is the use of the invariant "be." Meanwhile, the data finding in this study related to the age factor contained significant results which contrast with Rickford and Rickford's theory (2000). Besides, the data finding in this study showed that Janie frequently used the feature of invariant "be" when she is in the adult age rather than young age. The researcher's subjective evaluation related to the finding in the age factor is that when Janie was in adult age and married, she still used the invariant "be." The possible reason is that Janie lacks proper formal education which causes her to not knowing which is standard and which is not. Therefore, the theory of Rickford and Rickford (2000) is less applicable to the findings related to the age factor in this study.

In addition, other factors can represent the speaker's socio-cultural background, which is the linguistic environment factor. Based on the finding of this study, it discussed that Janie often used several grammatical features of Black English when she felt comfortable talking to people that she knew rather than with new people. These findings relate to Anggreeni, Arifin, and Setyowati (2018), who confirm that this factor is defined as the condition when the speech takes place, whether it's the audience, set of locations, or the topics. From the finding in this study, the researcher can conclude that the linguistic environment is one of the factors that can be used to represent the social background of the speaker by looking at the grammatical characteristics used by each speaker based on the familiarity of the audience and the topics they talk about.

Based on the above findings, the researcher chose only a certain factor in analyzing an utterance, since one utterance can be influenced by several factors related to the socio-cultural background. Based on the subjective view of the researcher, she chose only a certain factor in analyzing an utterance because this present study wants to analyze more deeply the representation of black women's dialect for each factor by comparing one utterance with another in accordance with the theory of Rickford and Rickford (2000).

This part includes this research's contributions to the dialect patterns of language variation, specifically in Black English dialects. This present study can help better understand the different dialect patterns, including the grammatical features and vocabulary variations of the black women's dialect compared to Standard English and reveal the socio-cultural background of black women's dialect. Besides, knowing language variation can demonstrate valuable knowledge

related to the languages and how they change (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). Therefore, the researcher hopes this present study will benefit the readers, including a greater understanding of linguistic variance, particularly in dialect patterns.

From the discussion above, the researcher concluded that Janie uses the Black English dialect as a variety of languages through the relationship between language and society. In addition, there are still many opportunities for further research, particularly those related to language variations, especially dialects. Several suggestions might be used for further studies by investigating the other dialects, such as North American and South American dialects in talk shows, films, or public speeches, to show the dominant linguistic features between North American and South American dialects.



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## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this part, the researcher presents the conclusions of this study, which are offered with suggestions for upcoming research related to this research topic.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

After reviewing and analyzing the data, the researcher seeks a brief interpretation to respond to some research problems. Based on the analysis results, the type of Black English grammatical features that Janie, as the main character, mostly did was the use of *Ain't*. In this type, Janie primarily replaces the auxiliary verb am not, are not, has not, have not, did not, will not, or had not in Standard English that occurs in the first, second, and third person. Whereas the other types of Black English grammatical features: multiple negations, absence of auxiliary “is” and “are,” use of complete “done” or “be done,” use of unstressed “been” or “bin,” absence of relative pronoun, the use of *y'all*, and the last one is the use of invariant “be.”

Meanwhile, the researcher has found 32 vocabulary variations uttered by Janie as the subject of this study. Janie often used unfamiliar vocabulary, such as the use of the terminology “*outa*,” “*lemme*,” “*gimme*,” “*chillun*,” and “*gal*,” which in Standard English is “out off,” “let me,” “give me,” “children,” and “girl.” These results showed that Janie used a unique variation of the Black English dialect vocabulary different from Standard English but still has the same meaning.

Furthermore, the researcher found three factors representing Black English people's socio-cultural background, including gender, age, and linguistic

environment. Based on the analysis results in this problem, the factor of gender has the highest frequency, the next is linguistic environment, and the last one is the age factor. The researcher can conclude that the gender factor has the highest frequency in representing the socio-cultural background of black people in Hurston's novel.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

From the results of this study, there are still many opportunities for further research, particularly those who want to investigate related to language variations, especially dialects. The researcher also suggests that upcoming researchers analyze other dialects, such as North American or South American dialects, to show the dominant linguistic features. Moreover, future research can be carried out with other forms of communication, such as talk shows, films, or public speeches. Furthermore, the researcher proposes that upcoming researchers could find out different factors related to socioeconomic backgrounds by paying attention to the dialect patterns. Last but not least, the researcher encourages that the following research should be in line with other theories and find out more about dialect patterns. Finally, the research hopes this present study can contribute knowledge to readers and hopes this research can be a good reference for linguistics learners.



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