

## African American English

The modern English has many varieties like

British English

American English

Australian English and

African American English

African American English (AAE) is also called as Black English or Ebonics.

Ebony(black) + Phonics(sounds) = Ebonics

AAE is used by many African Americans in different regions of America.

The AAE speakers are not bothered about the discrimination. Instead they have the covert prestige of their social dialect especially in popular music (Pop Music). In that field, even the non- African Americans also use AAE.

### Vernacular Language

**Vernacular** is a general expression for a kind of social dialect. It is spoken by a lower-status group. It is considered as non-standard as it has certain differences from Standard language.

AAE is also called as African American Vernacular English (AAVE). It also shares features with Asian American English.

### The Sounds of Vernacular (AAVE)

AAVE speakers omit the final consonant sound of the consonant cluster.

e.g.

left hand – lef han

Sometimes, this omission leads to confusions like

**I passed the exam** becomes **I pass the exam.**

**Iced tea** becomes **ice tea**

Initial dental consonants th and dh are pronounced like t and d.

Think – tink

The – da

The vowel sounds in my and ride are pronounced as long vowels

My – mah

Ride – rahd

### **The Grammar of a Vernacular**

The grammar of the vernacular is **illogical and sloppy**.

AAVE speakers use double negative like

I ain't tell nobody.

Standard English considers this as illogical.

AAVE speaker forget to use auxiliary verbs in present tense formations.

She fallin now.

You crazy.

Standard English considers this as sloppy.

### **Conclusion**

The social factors as well as cultural factors determine the linguistic features of a regional and social dialects of a language.