

Extra Credit Homework Assignment—African American English

Consult pp 412-17 in the text for background information on African American English (AAE). Note in particular the phonological and syntactic differences between Standard American English (SAE) and AAE.

1. In each of the following AAE sentences, identify the phonological or syntactic rule(s) in operation, and provide the SAE equivalent for each sentence.

Example—"Hep me out." Rule: // deletion Equivalent: "Help me out."

Hint: In one sentence, two rules are at work.

- a. He just think he tough.
- b. They were just walking aroun.
- c. Meet me in the bafroom.

2. Give the AAE equivalent of the following SAE sentences, and indicate which of the rules given in the text you applied to get the AAE version.

Example—"I don't know anybody." Rule: double negatives Equivalent: "I don't know nobody."

Hint: In one sentence, two rules are at work.

- d. Daddy says, "What are you doin'?"
- e. You and Tasha are always late for class.
- f. Nia got an "A" on the test.

3. In AAE, 'bin' ('been') and 'BIN' (stressed 'been) mean different things.

AAE	SAE equivalent
He bin runnin'.	He has been running.
He BIN runnin'.	???

Consider the following evidence for BIN:

A: That's a nice shirt. Is it new?
B: No, I BIN havin' it. My mom bought me this last year.

A: Did you talk to the DJ yet?
B: Yeah, I BIN called him. I booked him last month.

A: You remember me? My name Theresa.
B: I BIN knew that. You Jamal's girlfriend.

A: When your birthday?
B: My birthday BIN passed. It was in March.

g. What does 'BIN' (or stressed 'been') mean in AAE? Be as specific as possible (i.e. your answer may be longer than one word) and EXPLAIN your answer. What EVIDENCE lead you to this conclusion? Note: The answer to this question is not in the text. If you wish, you may search the Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (accessible from the Penn: Library: Databases page) for more information.