

ABSTRACT

African American Vernacular English is different from Standard English. It has its own linguistic features. People who have no linguistic knowledge will be difficult to understand non-standard language. Richard Wright uses AAVE in his writing. The characters in the story represent the life of African American. The African American characters in the story use AAVE in communication. The writer conducts a research of the use of AAVE linguistic features. The writer chooses Richard Wright's *Big Boy Leaves Home* because the writer is interested in analyzing the linguistic features of African American utterances which describe African American Vernacular English. The writer uses John R Rickford's theory of AAVE. The writer finds that most AAVE linguistic features in the theory are used in the utterances. There are also additional features that are found in the utterances. The variety of language which is used in the story of Richard Wright's "Big Boy Leaves Home" belongs to vernacular language. Richard Wright is successful representing African American community by using African American Vernacular English in the utterances.

Keyword: African American Vernacular English, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax