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African-American English

By Ole Wagner

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 abstract: This essay shall introduce the reader to African-
 American English (AAE). This term is used in this text for a wide
 range of language varieties used by Black people in the United
 States of America. That means that AAE is to be regarded as a
 dialect of this ethnic group and not as an independent
 language. While most speakers of this variety (80 to 90 percent)
 use some form of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE),
 there are some areas where parts of the Black population
 speak a semi-creole, like Gullah, which is spoken in rural areas
 of South Carolina and Georgia. This text, however, will only
 deal with AAE in general, starting with the development of this
 variety. After that, the main and most wide-spread linguistic
 features will be discussed. The essay will end with the description
 of recent issues concerning AAE and Afro-American culture in
 U.S. society as...



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