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African American English and White Southern English - segregational factors in the development of a dialect

By Timm Gehrman

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 32 pages. Dimensions: 8.1in. x 5.6in. x 0.2in. Seminar paper from the year 2005 in the subject American Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1, 7, University of Wuppertal, course: African American Culture as Resistance, 14 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In 1619 the first Black People were violently taken to Virginia, United States. Many more Blacks were to follow and hence had to work as slaves on the plantations in the south, fueling the trade of an emerging economic power. Families and friends were separated and people from different regions who spoke different African dialects were grouped together. This was to make sure that no communication in their respective native languages would take place in order to prevent mutinies. Thus the Africans had to learn the language of their new surroundings, namely English. Today the English of the Blacks in America is distinguishable as African American Vernacular English (AAVE). AAVE and American White Southern English (AWSE) were very similar in colonial times, and according to Feagin¹ AWSE still has features of AAVE, such as the non-rhoticism and falsetto pitch², which is supposed to add to the apparent musicality of both AAVE and AWSE...



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