



# Training for new annotators

Reanimating African American Oral Histories

NEH funded project

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023



# Features of African American Language

Adapted from a presentation by Alexis Davis



# What is African American Language?

**African American  
Language (AAL): A  
language variety spoken  
by African Americans  
(not all)**



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## **Some facts about AAL:**

Other names: AAE, AAVE, Black English, Ebonics

(Somewhat) mutually intelligible with American English

Has its own grammatical structure/is not broken or “only slang”



# NLP and African American Language (AAL)

- ▶ Potential issues in NLP
  - ▶ Models are trained on databases/corpora that do not contain adequate data from AAL



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- Morphosyntactic features of AAL are the focus of this project (phonetic features not as much)



# NLP and African American Language (AAL)

- Potential issues in NLP
  - Models are trained on databases/corpora that do not contain adequate data from AAL
  - Annotators and/or linguists may also have biases that are then 'baked' into NLP tools
- Morphosyntactic features of AAL are the focus of this project (phonetic features not as much)
- Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) systems also struggle with recognizing AAL
  - Lack of representative AAL samples can present issues for speakers



# Some tips for transcription

- Pay attention to intonation/pitch of statements if 'stuck' on hearing certain features (e.g. *remote past bin*)



# Some tips for transcription

- Pay attention to intonation/pitch of statements if 'stuck' on hearing certain features (e.g. *remote past bin*)
- Transcription of AAL does not require grammatical correction



## *Lexical items in African American Language*

Lexical item	Meaning
Aight	All right
Hisself	Variant of himself
Murk	Variant of murder
Bih	Variant of bitch



# Person and number agreement

**Description:** In AAL, verbs conjugated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person (he/she/it, etc.) do not reflect the -s morpheme found in American English.

**Examples:**




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Examples: 

"...a person **do** something, they almost able to catch them."



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## Examples:

"She **play** too much."

"It **don't** look funny to you?"

"I want that one, and he **want** this one."

"When that beat **drop**, you already know."





# Person and number agreement

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Do NOT correct this:

"She **play** too much."

"It **don't** look funny to you?"

"I want that one, and he **want** this one."

"When that beat **drop**, you already know."

To this:

*plays too much*

*it doesn't look funny..*

*he wants this one*

*when that beat drops..*



# Person and number agreement

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	“we <b>was</b> instructed how to be a gentleman”	we were <i>instructed...</i>
	“I always believed we <b>was</b> the most alike out of all the kids.”	...we were <i>the most alike...</i>



# Null Copula

Description: In AAL, there may be no copular verb like 'is/are.'	Do <u>NOT</u> correct this:	To this:
	"Some of them Ø big and some of them Ø small."	<i>Some of them were big and some of them were small</i>
	"Bruce Ø eating, ain't he?"	<i>Bruce is eating, ain't he?</i>



# Perfect *done*

**Description:** In AAL, *done* is similar to the “have x” construction in American English—it signals that an event has concluded/is complete.

**Examples:**




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## **Examples:**

“I **done** told you to leave my flowers alone.”

“Yes, we **done** ran all our errands and yours too.”

“If she **done** left the house already, that’s not my problem.”

“Oh, you **done** did it now.”



# Perfect *done*

Description: In AAL, *done* is similar to the “have x” construction in American English—it signals that an event has concluded/is complete.

Do NOT correct this:

To this:

“I **done** told you to leave my flowers alone.”

*I already told you to..*

“Yes, we **done** ran all our errands and yours too.”

*Yes, we ran.. / Yes, we did run..*

“If she **done** left the house already, that's not my problem.”

*If she left..*

“Oh, you **done** did it now.”

*Oh, you really did it now*



# Habitual *be*

**Description:** In AAL, *be* is used to indicate a habitual occurrence or state.

**Examples:**


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Examples:



"...because it's in always the paper, always **be** in the paper."





# Habitual *be*

Description: In AAL, *be* is used to indicate a habitual occurrence or state.

## Examples:

"He **be** blowing my phone up every day."

"I **be** chill 'til my boss shows up."

"It's fine; we **don't be** waiting too long."

"You **do be** acting up sometimes."

# Multiple negators

Description: In AAL, double (and triple) negators can be used within phrases to emphasize negation.

## Examples:

"I **ain't never** had **nobody** do me like that."

"...they **don't** wanna pay the employee **nothing**."

She **ain't never** asked her **nothing**.

We **don't** be bothering **nobody** up at the school.





# Multiple negators



Description: In AAL, double (and triple) negators can be used within phrases to emphasis negation.

Do NOT correct this:

To this:

"I **ain't never** had **nobody** do me like that."

*I have never had anyone..*

"...they **don't** wanna pay the employee **nothing**."

*They don't wanna pay the employee anything..*

"She **ain't never** asked her **nothing**."


*She never asked her anything..*

"We **don't** be bothering **nobody** up at the school."

*We don't bother anyone at the school..*



# Remote past *bin*



**Description:** In AAL, *bin* (*been* orthographically) is “used to indicate that the time period referred to is longer than normal [...] or used to affirm that a state has indeed held for a [long time].” (Green, 2002)

**Examples:**


# Remote past *bin*

**Description:** In AAL, *bin* (been orthographically) is “used to indicate that the time period referred to is longer than normal [...] or used to affirm that a state has indeed held for a [long time].” (Green, 2002)

**Examples:**



“He been ask[ed] about me...”

Original transcription → “He been asking about me”



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## Examples:

“I **been** cleaned up the kitchen.”

“We **been** left her lil’ baby shower.”

“Ty **been** changed his pronouns.”

“And if not for my job, I would’ve **been** moved to New York.”



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Do NOT correct this:

“I **been** cleaned up the kitchen!”

“We **been** left her lil’ baby shower.”

“Ty **been** changed his pronouns.”

“And if not for my job, I would’ve **been** moved to New York.”

To this:

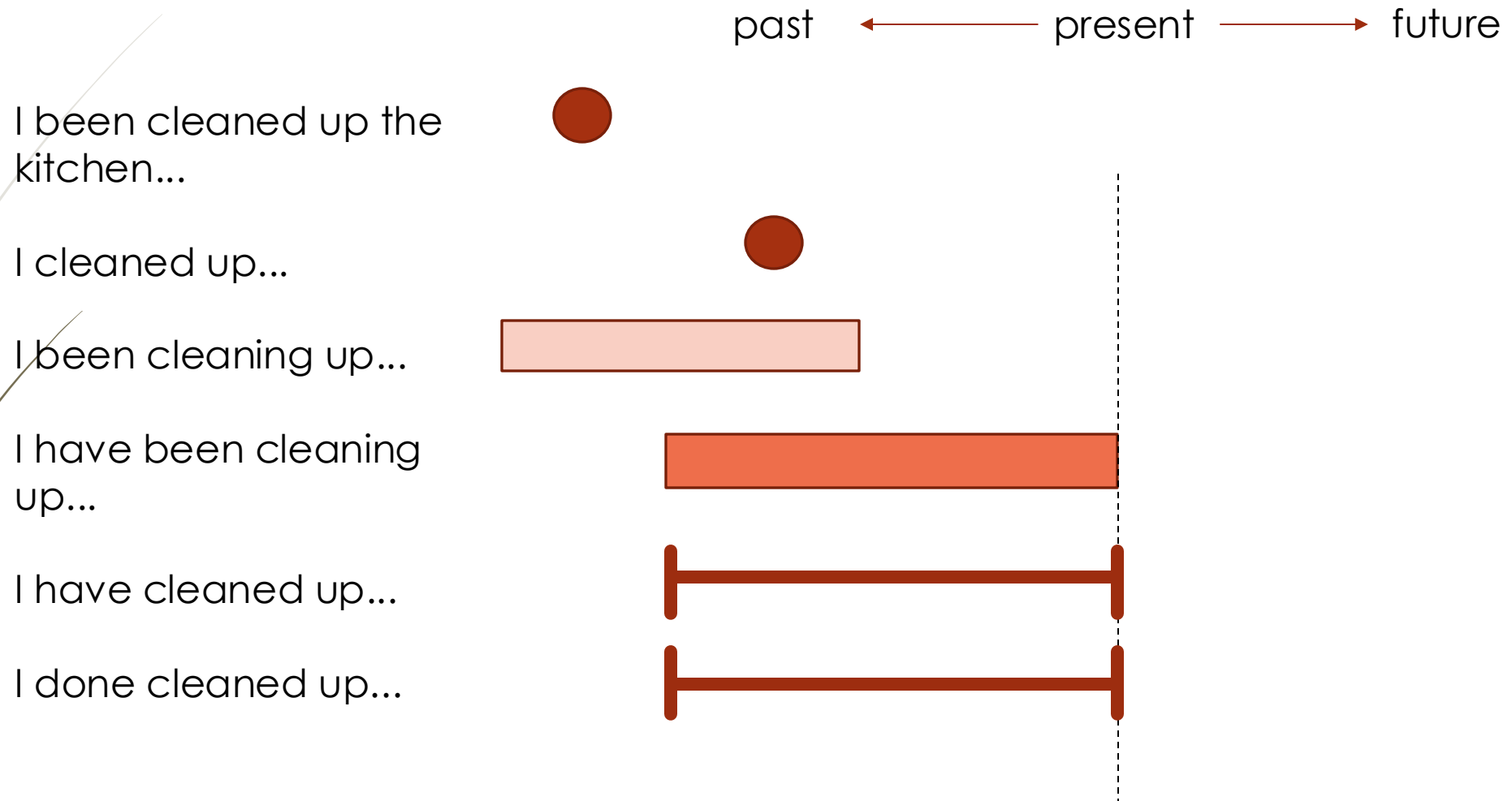
*I already cleaned up..*

*We have left..*

*Ty changed his pronouns.*

*I would’ve moved..*

# Remote past *BIN* as tense (not aspect)







# Existential *it/dey*

**Description:** In AAL, *it/dey* can be used similarly to “there are/there is” constructions in American English.

**Examples:**


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Examples:



“I asked a question because **it was** four of us there...”



# Existential *it/dey*

Description: In AAL, *it/dey* can be used similarly to “there are/there is” constructions in American English.

## Examples:

“**It’s** a river up past the house.”

“**Dey got** some good sales at Publix.”

“**It was** a big bear that started chasing me.”

“**Dey some** real snakes at my old school.”



# Existential *it/dey*

Description: In AAL, *it/dey* can be used similarly to “there are/there is” constructions in American English.

Do NOT correct this:

To this:

“**It’s** a river up past the house.”

*There is a river..*

“**Dey got** some good sales at Publix.”

*There are some...*

“**It was** a big bear that started chasing me.”

*There was..*

“**Dey some** real snakes at my old school.”

*There are some real snakes..*



# Existential it/dey

- some forms:
  - it/dey is
  - it/dey are
  - it/dey got
  - it/dey have



# Examples

Identifying the features

# Identify the features



➡ "...they **don't** wanna pay the employee **nothing.**"

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



➡ “I asked a question because **there were** four of us there...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1*			



# Identify the features



➡ "...a person **do** something, they **are** almost able to catch them."

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1*	1					



# Training session I

Identifying the features

(some examples may not have any features)

# Identify the features



➡ “She the one taught me about the purpose of reading.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



- “Our teachers was allowed to handle the kids.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



- ➡ “And he’s going to say ‘Hold now; I’m already going be paying taxes’...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1*						

# Identify the features



➡ “... and I’ve been here for 21 years.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “These group had the spy glasses and they be sharing information.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
						1

# Identify the features



➡ “It's two of us there.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			



# Identify the features



➡ “He didn't want nobody to disturb him.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



- “... but the point was we had just left a place where people done shot up the dormitory, we done lost two students and they spraying water...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1				1,1		

# Identify the features



- “She’s been over a hundred years old. She been a hundred and one.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
					1,1	

# Identify the features



➡ “And they had one doctor there...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

# Identify the features



➡ “This next generation just hear about it.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



➡ “They think we are back in the 1800s down here.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “Wasn’t no sawmill in Ellzey, but it was one in Sumner...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1	1			

# Identify the features



- “Consolidated was playing Jasper and me and Hughes was officiating that game.

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					



# Identify the features



➡ “If she hit a man you dead.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



- “There’s a large part on the delta in there this month. Right now I have about three or four pages in there.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1,1*			

# Identify the features



- ➡ “So I didn’t get a chance to really get involved with my people as much.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “But nobody figured nothing would happen.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



- “We thought that we didn’t have to worry about wanting for nothing.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



➡ “But not everyone want it.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



- ➡ “Like I told you earlier about the, if a company wants to come here...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1*					

# Identify the features



➡ "... she do better than me."

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					



# Identify the features



➡ “Never sit down and talk about nothing.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



➡ “They all white.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



➡ “I don’t wanna work I done work thirty years”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
				1		

# Identify the features



➡ “He got all your mail, and wasn’t nobody there but him”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



- ➡ “I believe that we would be doing the things God wanted us to do...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1*					1*

# Identify the features



➡ “It's like we missing the mark somewhere.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



➡ “It's no bonding.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

# Identify the features



- “So everything that I’ve done in my lifetime, I’ve enjoyed it immensely.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>





# Training session II

Identifying the features

# Identify the features



- “I didn’t know nobody but the kids from High Springs”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “Because she had done schooled us before we left home”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “I mean in other words, that is what they are saying...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- ➡ "... we are in receivership, conservative here. He is running the school..."

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “He been asking about me, but I was in Cleveland, Mississippi to a women’s convention...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “She'll be a doctor in pharmacy next year because she doing internship now.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “They was telling me I should get in the game”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>



# Identify the features



- “Then they had a big motel there right across the road”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “I wasn’t going to eat nobody else’s cooking.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “So you know some weeks be good, some weeks be bad.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “I can’t tell you the name, but it’s where the parade come by...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “it's a lot of concerns that I have.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➤ “But I done forgot the name of the program”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “I didn't never come on to the class reunions...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “don't touch him or don't say anything to him because you stirring up [inaudible 14:19] mess.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>



# Identify the features



- "... I was old then. I didn't have the energy or the strength, and I'm going like I'm tire, I'm 70 years old. I don't want to do this anymore.

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “We was at his house all the time.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “They had a big commissary there”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “I don’t think the student is being held accountable at home to do what they are suppose to be doing. ”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➤ “They was really involved in their sports and after the game the fellows on the team...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➤ “I'd rather not have nothing if I got to have that”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “But I was just elated the way them boys was playing because I hadn't seen them play in a while and the progress they had made since I left.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➤ “...and you get your school, don’t nobody want to lose they school.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>



# Identify the features



➡ "... what you doing over here?"

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “They had a walkway all the way around there.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “That’s how my family were not surprised when I went to go to for journalism at age 70.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “And they had a big quarters there.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “it look like the younger generation getting away from that now.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “I said, Lord, I done been through so much”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>



# Review for session II

Answers

# Identify the features



- “I didn’t know nobody but the kids from High Springs”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				



# Identify the features



- ➡ “Because she had done schooled us before we left home”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
				1		

# Identify the features



➡ “I mean in other words, that is what they are saying...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1*, 1*						

# Identify the features



- ➡ “... we are in receivership, conservative here. He is running the school...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



- “He been asking about me, but I was in Cleveland, Mississippi to a women’s convention...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
					1*	

# Identify the features



- “She'll be a doctor in pharmacy next year because she doing internship now.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



➡ “They was telling me I should get in the game”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



- “Then they had a big motel there right across the road”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

# Identify the features



- “I wasn’t going to eat nobody else’s cooking.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				



# Identify the features



- “So you know some weeks be good, some weeks be bad.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
						1,1

# Identify the features



- “I can’t tell you the name, but it’s where the parade come by...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



➡ "...it's a lot of concerns that I have."

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

# Identify the features



➤ “But I done forgot the name of the program”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
				1		

# Identify the features



➡ “I didn't never come on to the class reunions...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

# Identify the features



- “don't touch him or don't say anything to him because you stirring up [inaudible 14:19] mess.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

# Identify the features



- ➡ "... I was old then. I didn't have the energy or the strength, and I'm going like I'm tire, I'm 70 years old. I don't want to do this anymore.

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>

# Identify the features



➡ “We was at his house all the time.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					



# Identify the features



➡ “They had a big commissary there”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

# Identify the features



- “I don’t think the student is being held accountable at home to do what they are suppose to be doing. ”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1*						

# Identify the features



➤ “They was really involved in their sports and after the game the fellows on the team...”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



➤ “I'd rather not have nothing if I got to have that”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

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- ➡ “But I was just elated the way them boys was playing because I hadn't seen them play in a while and the progress they had made since I left.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
	1					

# Identify the features



➤ “...and you get your school, don’t nobody want to lose they school.”

Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
		1				

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Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1						

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Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			



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# Identify the features



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Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
			1			

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Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
1	1					

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Null copula	person/num. agreement	Multiple negators	Existential <i>it/dey</i>	Perfect <i>dən</i>	Remote past <i>BIN</i>	Habitual <i>be</i>
				1		

\*note, not remote past *BIN* here