

**PHONOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS PRODUCED  
BY AFRO-AMERICAN: A MULTICASE STUDY OF AFRO-AMERICAN  
POPULAR MOVIES**

**THESIS**

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**ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT  
HUMANITIES AND CULTURE FACULTY  
THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALANG**

**2008**

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2008**

**THESIS**

Presented to  
The State Islamic University of Malang  
in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
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By:  
Rizaldy Irfan Nuzwary  
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**ENGLISH LETTERS AND LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT  
HUMANITIES AND CULTURE FACULTY  
THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALANG  
2008**

## STATEMENT OF THE AUTHENTICITY

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Malang, 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2008

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This is to certify that the *Sarjana's* thesis on the title *Phonological Characteristics Produced by Afro-American: A Multicase Study of Afro-American Popular Movies* by Rizaldy Irfan Nuzwary has been approved by the Thesis Advisor

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# MOTTO

If you never let go of your dream, you will  
never disappear...

## *Dedication*

I dedicate this thesis to:

- \* ) My Beloved father Drs. Noorhudha Muchsin. BE, MM and my beloved mother Dewi Soraya N.H. my thankfulness for your endless affection and support.
- \* ) My Lovely brother Azka Fardani Ibady and my lovely sister Vierdha Nahdiaty Zuraidha.
- \* ) My Advisor Mrs. Galuh Nur Rohmah, M.Pd, M.Ed
- \* ) The Shining Light of My Life Amirotul Adzkiya', your presence is such an oasis for me. I present this thesis for you, I hope that you can learn much and do better. Thanks for always being there for me, Just keep our "vow" and convince yourself that I will "come" only for you. I love you so much...!
- \* ) All of My Friends in PKLI Balai Bahasa Jawa Timur, Buduran, Sidoarjo 2007. I am so proud to have such hilarious, truthful, fastidious, and crazy friends like you. Big thanks for all the advice and being more than true friends of me. I'll be miss you all guys...
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- \* ) Advanced Debating Community (ADC) UIN Malang.
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First of all, my gratefulness goes to my parents Drs. Noorhudha Muchsin, BE, MM and Dewi Soraya N.H, the rector of the State Islamic University of Malang, Prof. Dr. H. Imam Suprayogo, the dean of Humanities and Culture Faculty, Drs. H. Dimjati Ahmadin, M.Pd and the head of English Letters and Language Department, Dra. Hj. Syafiyah, MA, who has permitted me conducting this thesis. My sincere gratefulness goes to my advisor, Galuh Nur Rohmah, M.Pd, M.Ed who has patiently and conscientiously guided and helped me to accomplish this thesis. I really proud to become your student. I am indebted to your kindness to guide my thesis, so that, I can finish my study sooner and I will not forget for suggestion that you gave to me “If you can change, make it different”.

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Malang, 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2008

The Researcher

Rizaldy Irfan Nuzwary

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## ABSTRACT

Nuzwary, Rizaldy Irfan. 2008. *Phonological Characteristics Produced by Afro-American: A Multicase Study of Afro-American Popular Movies*. Thesis. English Letters and Language Department, the State Islamic University of Malang. Advisor: Galuh Nur Rohmah, M.Pd, M.Ed

Key words: Phonological Characteristics, Afro-American, Afro-American movies.

Since no humans speak alike, language that is produced always varies. This is because of the characteristics of language which are dynamic and varied. In relation to the language variation, it is very interesting to observe and analyze the way of Afro-American delivering their speech. The researcher finds that Afro-American has unique phonological characteristics. The problems that have to solve are: (1) what are the types of phonological characteristics of English words produced by Afro-American's oral language in Afro-American movies? and (2) How is the phonetics transcription of Afro-American's oral language in Afro-American movies?

To answer the problems, the researcher adopts a various theoretical perspectives on the field of the phonology, especially in the area of segmental sound which consist of vowel, consonants, diphthong, and the knowledge about the organ of speech of human and the sounds which are produced. Methodologically, the researcher applies a multicase study as his research design. The data are gathered by skimming and reading processes to find the phonological characteristics in the scripts of Afro-American movies.

The findings show that there are fourteen types of phonological characteristics which are already found in this research. They are: the deletion of diphthong /ai/, the change of interdental sound /θ/ to the stop sound, the omission of /r/ sound, the vocalization of /l/ sound, the shifting of the nasal sound /ŋ/ to the other nasal sound /n/, the change of one of interdental sound /θ/ to the alveolar stop sound /t/, stopping the interdental voiceless fricative sound near the nasal consonant, the deletion of final consonant, the deletion of second consonant in final consonant position, the substitution of the prefix sound /str/ to /skr/, the deletion of reduplicated consonant, labialization of the interdental fricative sound, the deletion of /l/ sound before labial, and final consonant or obstruent are devoiced.

The phonological characteristics which are found in Afro-American are only produced between their own communities. This characteristics also show that the variation that exist in the English language of Afro-American has become an identity since white people are marginalized the black people or Afro-American. Thus, they make language as one of the media to express themselves from the social segregation that they suffered.

It is suggested that this research will be more interesting for the next researchers to explore more on the suprasegmental sounds that contain: stress, pitch, tone, intonation etc because this research also related to the suprasegmental sounds as a part of phonological study.

It is also suggested for the next researchers to have more patience to conduct the research about phonological characteristics, because it needs back and forth process to collect and analyze the data of the research that related with the sounds transcription. The next researchers have to concern more in the sounds that uttered by the object of the research in order to get complete analysis of the phonological characteristics that has been researched.

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, and operational definition of the key terms are discussed.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

According to one of the theories in sociolinguistics which discusses about the variation of language, every society or speech communities has their own way of language speaking. It happens because of the nature of language itself that has several characteristics, such as language is dynamic and varied. The holy Qur'an mentioned in Surah Ar-Ruum verse 22<sup>1</sup>:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَأَخْتَلَفُ الْأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَالْوَلَوَانِكُمْ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ  
لَآيَاتٍ لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

*Means and of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the difference of your languages and colors. Lo! herein indeed are portents for men of knowledge<sup>2</sup>.*

This quranic verses shows to us how God creates human with various languages. Therefore, it gives the truthful reason that strengthens the existence of the language characteristics above.

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<sup>1</sup> . Qur'an digital in word, Taufiq product, Inc, Get Al-Qur'an in M-S Word ver 0.0.1

<sup>2</sup> . The Qur'an translation of Marmaduke Pickthall taken from Pickthall/pickhtallquran.pdf, accessed on March 5, 2008.



Language is the human's treasure which has a close relationship to all of the action that have been done by human. There are no activities that do not use language<sup>3</sup>. This tight connection between language and human make language changes and not static. Language changes could be happened in all linguistics sectors including the grammatical rules, word choices, the pronunciation of words etc. Consequently, language is something dynamic.

On the other hand, language that we use in everyday living is always varied from one to another. No one speaks the same way all the time<sup>4</sup>. This statement is true by the nature since the language society usually consist of many kinds of people which coming from different social status and different cultural background. Thus, the language used to speak is more varied. Concerning to this variation, there is one term we have to know. It is called "Dialect". Dialect means a kind of language variation that used by certain groups of society in certain places or time<sup>5</sup>. In American English, there are many dialects such as Yorkshire dialect, New York dialect etc. However, there is a unique dialect namely "Black English" or Afro-American English<sup>6</sup> which becomes the object of this study. It is very fascinating to discuss about the language that is spoken by Afro-American because their dialect is not merely different but it is considered as a social dialects because the emergence of the

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<sup>3</sup>. The statement of Kridalaksana in Abdul Chaer, *Linguistik Umum* (Jakarta, 2003), page. 33

<sup>4</sup>. Ronald Wardaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (UK, 1986), page. 5

<sup>5</sup>. Ronald Wardaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (UK, 1986), page. 46

<sup>6</sup>. Afro-American English is actually a group of dialects which has similar name with African American vernacular English (AAVE), Ebonics and Black English (BE)

dialects is the result of the historical discrimination that has created social isolation among them. Therefore, this dialect symbolizes their ethnic identity. From this fact, it is clearly shows that language and the social changes is a unity.

The language changing is closely related to the context of the social changes<sup>7</sup>. In contrast, the social changes has also implicated to the language changes. As a consequence, language is not only a utility to express the human's mind but also to create and to decide the social reality because language and its change revealed about the speakers condition. This is actually becomes the main point of the occurrence of Afro-American English.

As we know, ethnic variation can be seen especially in USA, most of Afro-American who lives in New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit and Seattle has similar way of speaking<sup>8</sup>. This is because the result of the Black's migration and it also become a reflection of long-standing segregation which now slowly change.

Afro-American English has something unique which is quite different from the standard English that become the issue of the research problem. For this reason, the researcher starts his language investigation which focused on phonological characteristics of Afro-American's oral language. Afro-American English have such different characteristics of phonology<sup>9</sup>. As an example words like *thing* and *this* maybe pronounced as /*ting*/ and /*dis*/, *bath* may sound like /*baff*/, *brother* may sound like /*braver*/. The other example like *test*, *desk* and *end* pronounced without

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<sup>7</sup>. Mudjia Rahardjo, *Relung-relung Bahasa* (Malang, 2002), page. 49

<sup>8</sup>. James M.Mcperson., *Blacks In America (Bibliographical Essays)* (New York, 1972), page. 49

<sup>9</sup>. Ronald Wardaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (UK, 1986), page. 323

their final consonants. The word "cold" may show loss of the final *d*, so it pronounced /kowl/ or even loss both of *l* and *d*, then it said /kow/. The words 'why' pronounced /wa:/ and many more.

Considering to the problems above, the researcher wants to strengthen the importance of this research, which discuss about one of the variant of American dialects. Perhaps all of us have known about the uniqueness of Afro-American oral language but still in partial understanding or not in systematic way. By this research, the researcher explores more about phonological characteristics of Afro-American oral language. The researcher find out how are the processes that make Afro-American has different phonological characteristics. Therefore, it is expected that this study could become an additional knowledge to the reader who wants to learn about phonological characteristics of Afro-American English.

In addition, in order to get the data of this research of course it is impossible for the researcher to meet and converse directly to Afro-American. Thus, the researcher analyzed Afro-American popular movies which contain a lot of Afro-American English words and utterances that can be analyzed deeply through the subject of phonology.

Moreover, many students in English Letters and Language Department of UIN Malang have researched the branches of linguistics. Especially, in the area of sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, discourse analysis, morphology, syntax, semantics etc but the researcher still found a small amount of researches about phonology

particularly in the study of phonological characteristics of certain language and its study of speech sounds. There are two researches about phonology which found by the researcher. First is the research of Wahida Yunita Irani (2006) which has a title “phonological processes found in Bend it like Beckham the movie”. This research is conducted to find what kind of phonological processes that comes out in that movie. This study mostly concern about phonemics. While the second research is done by Sudarmanto (2007) with the title “a comparative study between suprasegmental features of the speech produced by the students of English language and letters department of UIN Malang and those produced by the speakers in NST TOEFL”. This research is focusing on the comparison of suprasegmental features which consist of pitch, stress, tone and juncture.

Based on the researches above, of course it has different discussion although in similar field of phonology. The research that carry out by the researcher mainly talk about phonological characteristics of certain variant of language, in this case is Afro-American English language.

In short, the researcher has explained that the reasons why the researcher is interested in researching phonological characteristics that produced by Afro-American, firstly to find out phonological characteristics of Afro-American English, secondly this research is conducted to give more systematic knowledge on phonological characteristics in Afro-American oral language. Finally, most of the students in UIN Malang still have a little interest to study about phonology. Therefore, the researcher decides to do the research in the field of phonology.

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

1. What are the types of phonological characteristics of English words produced by Afro-American's oral language in Afro-American movies?
2. How is the phonetics transcription of Afro-American's oral language in Afro-American movies?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. This research is intended to produce a descriptive knowledge about phonological characteristics of Afro-American in Afro-American movies.
2. This research is also intended to identify the types of phonological characteristics and its phonetics transcription that produced by Afro-American in Afro-American movies.

## **1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This research is focused on phonological characteristics produced by Afro-American. It uses Afro-American movies entitled: Barbershop, Barbershop 2 and 50 Cent: (get rich or die tryin') as the data of this research. These movies tell about the daily life of Afro-American played by the real actors and actresses coming from Afro-American society who lived in various states of USA. The movies become the best Afro-American movies since they present the theme about the reflection of Afro-American lives. Even, the barbershop movies series has turned out to be the best

Afro-American movies in 2006 based on the LA week newspaper in USA<sup>10</sup> while get rich or die tryin' the movie is categorized as the best Afro-American movies in 2005 which tell about the life of Afro-American drug sellers and users in the city of Brooklyn, New York<sup>11</sup>. Furthermore, because of Afro-American is a variant of American English language, this research used "Trager and Smith" phonetics transcription in transcribing the sound of phonological characteristics of Afro-American because it is representing the American pronunciation. Then, the researcher also faces the limitation of this research since the research data is a movie or it is included to the audiovisual materials data, the limitations are<sup>12</sup>:

1. The data may be difficult to interpret.
2. The data may not be accessible publicly or privately.
3. The presence of an observer may be disruptive and affect the responses.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research is conducted to meet two functions, theoretical and practical functions. Theoretically, the research has aimed to enrich the understanding about phonology. Particularly, this study is beneficial for those who want to learn deeply about phonological characteristics found in Afro-American. In this case, the object is from the oral conversation of Afro-American movies. Therefore, through this

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<sup>10</sup> . The movie information is taken from [www.Barbershopthemovie.com](http://www.Barbershopthemovie.com) , accessed on March 5, 2008

<sup>11</sup> . The movie information is taken from [www.GetrichorDieTryin'themovie.com](http://www.GetrichorDieTryin'themovie.com), accessed on March 6, 2008

<sup>12</sup> . John W Cresswell, Research Design: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (USA: California, 1994), page. 151

research, we recognize the phonological characteristics of Afro- American as stated in the problem statements above.

Practically, this study also has an intention to make a systematic learning of Afro-American English language because the researcher thinks that knowledge about phonological characteristics in this kind of language variant not arranged systematically. Thus by conducting this research, it is expected that we have more systematic knowledge on phonological characteristics produced by Afro-American in Afro-American movies.

In addition, since the object of the research is Afro-American that has different culture with us, this research then is designed to strengthen our cultural understanding.

## **1.6 Operational Definition of the Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms used in this research and to make similar understanding between the researcher and the reader, the researcher defines the key terms as follows:

1. Phonological characteristics: the phonological characteristics of certain language that makes difference with other languages. For example: the phonological characteristics of German Uvular /r/ in the modern standard Germany, the phonological characteristics of Afro-American English, such as: some words are

pronounced without their final consonant, the words that end with /y/ often pronounced /a:/ etc.

2. Afro-American English language: the speech of Afro-American known as “social dialects” and has certain phonological characteristics.

3. Afro-American movies: Movies which are played, by the actors and the actresses that mostly come from the blacks who live in USA.

4. Phonology: The study of speech sounds that happen in human language.

5. Phonetics: The study of human speech sound focuses on how the sound is produced, spelled, and how they use it in daily conversation.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Phonology

The study of phonology is widely studied by many linguist and they have various definition of phonology. Based on Finch said that phonology is the study which has a purpose to explain how the sounds are formed and what kinds of principal symbols of International phonetics alphabets are<sup>13</sup>. Fromkin, Blair, and Collins mentioned that phonology is the representation of the sounds and sound patterns in a speaker's grammar or the study of the sound pattern in certain language or in human language as general<sup>14</sup>. Still from Fromkin, Rodman, Hultin, and Logan explained that phonology is the study that discusses the speech sounds form systems and patterns in human language<sup>15</sup>. While Chaer stated that phonology is a branch of linguistics field that studies, analyzes and discusses about the sequence of language sounds<sup>16</sup>. Wahyuni also defined that phonology is a linguistics field which discusses about the language sound and it analyzes about the function, attitude, and the

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<sup>13</sup>. Geoffrey Finch, *How to Study Linguistics* (UK, 1998), page. 48

<sup>14</sup>. Victoria Fromkin, David Blair and Collins, *An Introduction to Language* (Australia, 1999), page. 247

<sup>15</sup>. Victoria Fromkin, Robert rodman , Neil Hultin and Henry Logan, *An Introduction to Language- 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian.ed.* (Harcourt Brace, 1997), page. 195

<sup>16</sup>. Abdul Chaer, *Linguistik Umum* (Jakarta, 2003), page. 102

organization of sound as the element of linguistics<sup>17</sup>. Boey stated that phonology is the study of the speech sounds as they occur in certain language<sup>18</sup>.

From all the statement which delivered by the linguists, of course they almost have similar definition about what phonology is and even some linguists have a blurred definition between phonology and phonetics. That is why, the researcher defines phonology based on some points which already stated then he tries to make a clearer definition about phonetics because this study also have a correlation with phonetics itself. The researcher concludes that phonology is the study of speech sound that happens in human language. Phonology consists of two disciplines that are phonetics and phonemics<sup>19</sup>.

## **2.2 Phonetics**

Many linguists have a variant of definition about phonetics as Chaer said that phonetics is the branch of phonology which study the sound without concerning whether the sound itself has a function as a meaning distinction or not<sup>20</sup>. While Fromkin, Blair, and Collins drew that phonetics is the study of speech sounds to decide what an individual sounds is and how each sound differs from all others<sup>21</sup>. Fromkin, Rodman, Hultin, and Logan also stated that phonetics is the study of speech

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<sup>17</sup>. Sri Wahyuni, Fonologi (Malang, 2001), page. 14

<sup>18</sup>. Liem Kiat Boey, An Introduction to Linguistics for the Language Teacher (Singapore, 1975), page. 28

<sup>19</sup>. Abdul Chaer, Linguistik Umum (Jakarta,2003), page. 102

<sup>20</sup>. Abdul Chaer, Linguistik Umum (Jakarta,2003), page. 102

<sup>21</sup>. Victoria Fromkin, David Blair and Collins, An Introduction to Language (Australia, 1999), page. 205

sound that occur in all human language to represent the meaning<sup>22</sup>. Rusmaji concluded that phonetics is the study of sound that has a meaning used by all human language<sup>23</sup> and Widdowson said that phonetics is the study of how sounds of speech are actually made<sup>24</sup>. Boey mentioned that phonetics is the science which analyzes and records sound and the element of speech that contribute in connecting the sentences<sup>25</sup>. Wahyuni told that specifically, phonetics is the study of language which investigate and analyze the sound of utterance that used in verbal communication<sup>26</sup>.

Based on the various statements from the linguists about phonetics, eventually, the researcher concluded that phonetics is the study of human speech sound, which focuses on how the sound is produced, spelled, and how they use it in daily conversation. This study of course different from the other discipline of phonology that is phonemics. In phonemics, it studies the language sound which concerns with the phoneme as the smallest meaningful units of language or phonemics studies about language sounds that concerns with the function of the sound as a meaning distinction.

According to the process of how the language occurred, phonetics is divided into three parts: acoustic phonetics, auditory phonetics and articulatory phonetics. Rusmaji defined that acoustic phonetics is a branch of phonetics that investigate the

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<sup>22</sup> . Victoria Fromkin, Robert rodman , Neil Hultin and Henry Logan, An Introduction to Language- 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian.ed. (Harcourt Brace, 1997), page. 159

<sup>23</sup> . Oscar Rusmaji, Aspek-aspek Linguistik (Malang, 1995), page. 25

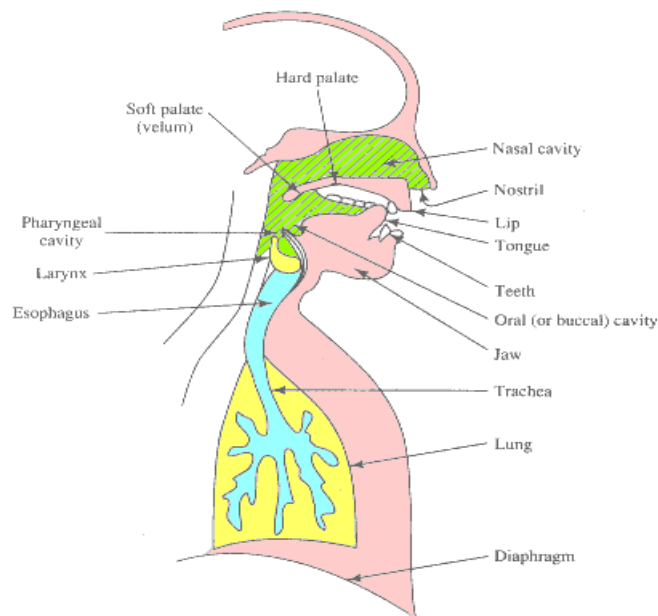
<sup>24</sup> . H.G Widdowson, Linguistics (UK, 1996), page. 42

<sup>25</sup> . Liem Kiat Boey, An Introduction to Linguistics for the Language Teacher (Singapore, 1975), page.

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<sup>26</sup> . Sri Wahyuni, Fonologi (Malang, 2001), page. 14

physical characteristics of speech sound or it is an interdisciplinary study between Linguistics and Physics<sup>27</sup>. While auditory phonetics is a branch of phonetics which investigate the process of sound that accepted by our auditory sets and articulatory phonetics is dealing with how the sounds is produced by the human's organ of speech<sup>28</sup>. Therefore, it discusses the process of the production of sound, since we breathe from the lungs and the lungs produce the air that passes smoothly through the throat and mouth without making any noise. When we speak, various things could be happen to this air. See the picture below<sup>29</sup>:



**Schematic view of human speech production mechanism.**

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<sup>27</sup>. Oscar Rusmaji, *Aspek-aspek Linguistik* (Malang, 1995), page. 27

<sup>28</sup>. Oscar Rusmaji, *Aspek-aspek Linguistik* (Malang, 1995), page. 27

<sup>29</sup>. The picture of the organ of speech is taken from the website: [www.Google.co.id/organofspeech](http://www.Google.co.id/organofspeech), accessed on March 5, 2008

Here, the process of making the speech sounds is begin when the air is pumping out from the lungs through the trachea. Then the air are keep flowing to the larynx . In the larynx, lies vocal cords which resembles as two lips. The cords can widely or half open or totally close the air that passes. When the cords is close and the air is force to come out between them, the cords will vibrate and producing the sound. On the contrary, when the cords is open and the air passes with no obstruction, it will produce no sound or we just breathing the air<sup>30</sup>. Next, the air continuously streaming until it reaches to the nasal and oral cavity.

### **2.3 Points of articulation and Manner of articulation**

Usually in the speaking condition, human use their articulators to modify the flow of the air in order to produce the sound. The articulators are various movable organs that can modulate the glottal tone or produce secondary noises by their motion in relation to fixed points of articulation<sup>31</sup>. Principally, the articulators are lower lip, the tongue, the velum and the uvula (or small appendage at the end of the velum)<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>30</sup> . Daniel Jones, *The Pronunciation of English* (UK, 1956), page. 8

<sup>31</sup> . W. Nelson Francis&Raven I, Mcdavid, JR, *The Structure of American English* (California), page. 68-69

<sup>32</sup> . W. Nelson Francis&Raven I, Mcdavid, JR, *The Structure of American English* (California), page. 69

Based on that reasons, this phonetics explores more about the place of articulation and the manner of articulation that interfere the production of human's speech sound. This is strongly related to this research that also observed about the pronunciation of Afro-American. Here are the lists of place of articulation according to the various locations<sup>33</sup>:

1. Bilabials: articulated by the upper and lower lips,

Ex: The production of the English sound [p],[b],[m].

2. Labiodentals: articulated by the lower lips and the upper teeth,

Ex: The English sound [f], [v].

3. Interdentals: articulated by inserting the tip of the tongue between the upper and lower teeth, Ex: The English sound [θ], [ð].

4. Alveolars: articulated by the front of the tongue to the Alveolar ridge.

Ex: The English sound [t], [n], [z],[s],[d],[l],[r].

5. Velars: articulated by the back of the tongue to the velum or the soft palate,

Ex: The English sound [k], [g], and [ŋ].

6. Palatals: articulated by the front of the tongue that is raised to the hard palate,

Ex: The English sound [ʃ],[ʒ],[tʃ],[dʒ].

7. Glottal: articulated by flowing the air through the glottis/ vocal folds,

Ex: The English [h].

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<sup>33</sup> . Taken from Victoria Fromkin, Rodman Robert, Hyams Nina, An Introduction to Language (Massachusetts, USA, 2003), page. 24

When we produced speech sounds, the airflow is interfered with the articulators in the lower part of the mouth that moving towards the points of articulation in the upper part of the mouth. The resulting sound called manner of articulation of English consonant<sup>34</sup>:

1. Voiced and voiceless sounds: If the vocal cords are together, the air stream forces its way through and causes them to vibrate, it is called voiced sound, for example: the English [b], [d], [g], and [z]. If the vocal cords do not vibrate because the air flows freely through the glottis, then it is called voiceless sound. Example: the English [p], [t],[k] and [s].

2. Nasal and oral sounds: the sounds that is produced with raising the velum or the soft palate with blocking the air, so it flows through the nose and when the velum is not raised, the air flows through both the nose and the mouth. For example: [b] is distinguished from [m] because it is an oral sound while [m] is nasal sound.

3. Stops: the sounds that is stopped completely in the oral cavity for a short period of time, it is also called plosive because the air is compressed generally by action of the lungs and on release of the closure itself that suddenly making an explosive sound or plosion, example: the English sound [p], [b], [m], [t], and [d].

4. Fricative: the sound that is produced by the airflow that so severely obstructed and causes a friction. Example: the English sound [v], [ʃ], [s], and [z].

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<sup>34</sup> . Roach, Peter& Widdowson, H.G (Ed), Phonetics (UK, 2001), Chapter Phonetics and Phonology

5. Liquids: the sound that is produced because of the articulation obstructs the air stream on the middle part of the mouth and let the air stream passing through the each side of the tongue, example: the English sound [l].
6. Affricates: the sound that is produced by a stop closure that followed by gradual release of the closure. Phonetically, an affricate is a combination of stop and fricative, example: the English sound [tʃ] and [dʒ].
7. Glides: the sound that is produced with no or just little obstruction of the air stream inside the mouth. In articulating glide, the tongue moves rapidly in gliding position. Glides are sometimes called semivowels, example: the English sound [w] and [j] in the sound of you [ju] and woo [wu].
8. Thrill: the sound that is produced because of the active articulator or the tongue make a continuous contact with the passive articulator respectively, example: the English sound [r].



In analyzing the phonological characteristics of Afro-American English language, the researcher gives the discussion about segmental sound which consists of vowel, consonants and diphthong because the research has a close connection with it.

#### **2.4 The Classification of English Vowels**

Vowels are a kind of voiced sound that formed because of the air which passing through the pharynx and mouth without any obstruction<sup>35</sup>. The quality of vowels is depending upon the position of the tongue and the lips because those articulators have a great role in producing the vowels itself. As a result, the production of most vowels are caused by the tongue that raised to the palate and most vowels are classified based on the part of the tongue. The classification is<sup>36</sup>:

1. Front vowels: vowels that produced by raising the front tongue to the hard palate. It is shown in the English sound [i], [e], [E], [a].
2. Back vowels: vowels that produced by raising the back of the tongue to the soft palate. It can be seen in the English sound [u], [o], [ɔ].
3. Central vowels: vowels which have the intermediate position between front and back vowels, Example: the English sound [ə], [ɔ], and [ɪ] or schwa.

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<sup>35</sup> . Daniel Jones, *An Outline of English Phonetics* (UK, 1983), page. 23

<sup>36</sup> . Daniel Jones, *An Outline of English Phonetics* (UK, 1983), page. 23

The quality of vowels is also depending on the position of the lips. The lips produced the vowels sound as neutral or natural position<sup>37</sup>. The classification of the vowels based on the lip position is:

1. Rounded vowels: vowels that produced with rounding the lips as it occurs in the sound [u], [o] and [U].
2. Unrounded vowels: vowels that produced with the lips that shapes spread or neutral. This is same as the smiling lips. It can be seen in the English sound [i] and [a].

Moreover, some linguists consider that the existence of tension in the tongue become the important factor of the production of vowels. Therefore, they called this vowels as “tense vowels”<sup>38</sup>. As an example the difference in the words *lip* [i] and *leap* [i:]. The sound [i:] in the word *leap* has a greater tense of articulation than the sound [i] in *lip*. It is also happen when we say [u] in *foot* that have less tense of articulation than [u:] in *boot*. We can test it by placing the finger in the outside of the throat about a half part of chin and larynx. When we pronounce the vowel [i] in *lip* there is something loose, but when we pronounce the vowel [i:] in *leap*, it feels that the outer part of the throat become tenser and rather bit pushed forward.

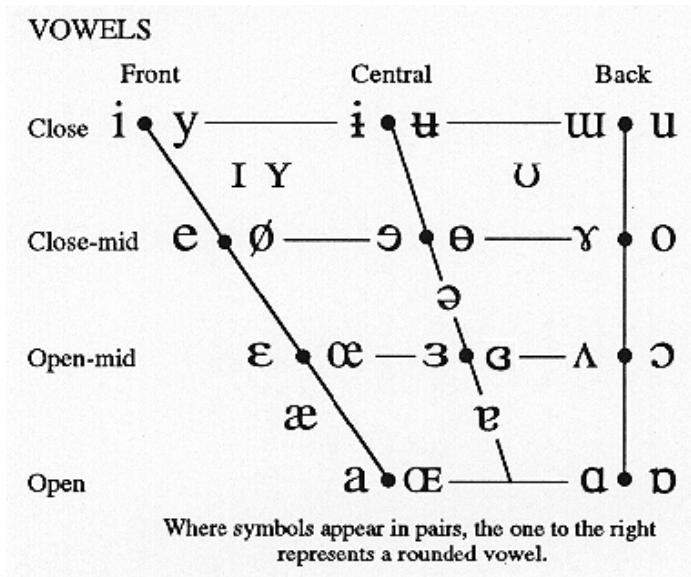
To give more clearance about the knowledge of vowels, see the vowel chart below<sup>39</sup>.

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<sup>37</sup>. Daniel Jones, *The Pronunciation of English* (UK, 1983), page. 16

<sup>38</sup>. Daniel Jones, *The Pronunciation of English* (UK, 1983), page. 16

<sup>39</sup>. The picture is taken from the website [www.Google.co.id/Linguistics001.lecture9-pronunciationofEnglish2008](http://www.Google.co.id/Linguistics001.lecture9-pronunciationofEnglish2008). Accessed on March 6, 2008



## 2.5 The Classification of English Consonant

Consonants are produced by some obstructions or closures in the vocal tract that obstruct the air stream from the lungs. Most consonants are actually well defined in the classification based on the place of articulation and the manner of the articulation that had already explained before<sup>40</sup>.

## 2.6 Diphthong

Diphthong is a combination of two sounds, the sound will be considered as a diphthong because of the tongue position when producing the sound is not the same<sup>41</sup>, for example: the words bite [bajt] is the vowel sound [a] followed by [j] so it result the diphthong [aj], Boy is the vowel sound [O] and [j] so it result the diphthong [Oj].

<sup>40</sup> . Daniel Jones, An Outline of English Phonetics, (UK, 1983), page.42

<sup>41</sup> . Abdul Chaer, Linguistik Umum, (Jakarta, 2003), page. 115

According to its position, diphthong is divided into two parts that are called rising and falling diphthong<sup>42</sup>. Rising diphthong is consisting of a preliminary on glide followed by a syllabic vowel, it is call rising because the intensity of stress increases as the syllables goes on. For example [reɪ] from e to ɪ, rye from [a] to [i]. Then, falling diphthong consisting of the syllabic vowel followed by an of glide. It calls falling because the intensity of the syllables decreases. Example: poor [pʊɪ] and bear [bɛɪ].

## **2.7 The Nature of Afro-American English**

Most people especially in USA try to differentiate between the black race and white race. They make a labeling from the color of their skin but the problem is the people who have a white skin or they considered as white people do a personal biases which has a bad interpretation towards black people<sup>43</sup>. They have a very bad assumption and stereotype to the black people.

Actually, it is happened since long ago when western colonized the Africa and they made the Black society as their slave<sup>44</sup>. Becoming the slave, black people can get many benefits because the blacks could learn the superior ways of white or western people including the value of live, knowledge and culture because in the previous

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<sup>42</sup> . W. Nelson Francis & Raven I, McDavid, JR, The Structure of American English (California), page. 106-107

<sup>43</sup> . James M. McPerson., Blacks In America (Bibliographical Essays) (New York, 1972), page. 19

<sup>44</sup> . James M. McPerson., Blacks In America (Bibliographical Essays) (New York, 1972), page. 23

generation of western history, the western people described the Africa as the dark continent that full of savage life, barbarous culture and backward civilization<sup>45</sup>.

Without becoming a slave, they will remain left behind. Consequently, the Black people suffered a social marginalization. They do not have any space at all to move because white people always considered them as a lower class people with its negative environment and lives. Even they do not have any opportunities to express themselves. This condition forces the black people to make their own communities which getting away from the white people's life. They have to live in certain area or suburban that caused poverty, social deviation and isolation from the American life which is dominated by the white or western people<sup>46</sup>. Although they live in such condition, they keep struggling to survive and trying to introduce that blacks still have a positive culture that can be shown to the society. One of the examples is Afro-American English language. Recently, many English American are mixed up with Afro-American which are known has a special characteristics because their language at first is only for their own society. One of the characteristics of this language is it has different phonological system. There are several characteristics of Afro-American English language<sup>47</sup>:

1. A consonant cluster simplification: this is a characteristics of Afro-American English language that simplifies the consonant clusters, particularly at the end of

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<sup>45</sup> . James M.Mcperson., Blacks In America (Bibliographical Essays) (New York,1972), page. 23

<sup>46</sup> . James M.Mcperson., Blacks In America (Bibliographical Essays) (New York, 1972), page. 396-397

<sup>47</sup> . Taken From Victoria Fromkin, Rodman Robert, Nina Hyams, An Introduction to Language. (Massachusets, USA, 2003), page. 460

words and when one of the two consonants in an alveolar /t/, /d/, /s/, /z/. The result is the omission of the past tense morpheme, so the words *meant* and *mend* are both pronounced as *men*. The words *passed* pronounced like *pass*. This is not showing that they have ignored the grammar but it shows that they have their own grammar.

2. Neutralization of [I] and [E] before nasals. This characteristic is presented by the lack of distinction between [I] and [E] before nasal consonants, then, the pronunciation the words *pin* and *pen* or between [I] and [E] is slightly similar.

## 2.8 The Phonetics Transcriptions

Regarding that Afro-American speech is a variant of American English, the researcher used TRAGER-SMITH Transcription to transcribe the sounds that occur because this transcription is representing American pronunciation<sup>48</sup>. The transcription drawn as following:

### Key Words Vowels:      TRAGER-SMITH Transcription:

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| 1). Beat   | 1). iy- biyt   |
| 2). Bit    | 2). i – bit    |
| 3). Bet    | 3). e – bet    |
| 4). Bat    | 4). æ -bæt     |
| 5). Bard   | 5). a- bard    |
| 6). Nought | 6). O- nOt     |
| 7). Not    | 7). a - nat    |
| 8). Good   | 8). u - gud    |
| 9). Boot   | 9). uw- buwt   |
| 10). Bird  | 10). er - berd |

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<sup>48</sup>. Liem Kiat Boey, *An Introduction to Linguistics for The Language Teacher* (Singapore, 1975), 1<sup>st</sup> page

- 11). Above
- 12). Date
- 13). Go
- 14). Tie
- 15). Cow
- 16). Boy
- 17). Here
- 18). There
- 19). Poor
- 20). More

- 11). | - |b|v
- 12). ey- deyt
- 13). ow- gow
- 14). ay- tay
- 15). aw- kaw
- 16). Oy- bOy
- 17). ir- hir
- 18). er- ɛere
- 19). or- por
- 20). Or- mOr

**Consonant:**

- 21). Pat
- 22). Bat
- 23). Tame
- 24). Dame
- 25). Cot
- 26). Got
- 27). Fast
- 28). Vast
- 29). Thank
- 30). Than
- 31). Sue
- 32). Zoo
- 33). Shin
- 34). Vision
- 35). Hot
- 36). Choke
- 37). Joke
- 38). Met
- 39). Net
- 40). Sing
- 41). Light
- 42). Right
- 43). Wet
- 44). Yet

- 21).p- p-æt
- 22).b- bæt
- 23).t - teym
- 24).d- deym
- 25).k- kat
- 26).g- gat
- 27).xʌ xʌæt
- 28).v- væt
- 29).\* - \*æGk
- 30).θ θæn
- 31).s- suw
- 32).z- zuw
- 33).ʃ sʃin
- 34).z zʃuw
- 35).h - hat
- 36).c cʃowk
- 37).j jʃowk
- 38).m- met
- 39).N- net
- 40).G- siG
- 41).l- layt
- 42).r - rayt
- 43).w - wet
- 44).y - yet

## 2.9 Previous Studies

The research about Afro-American English language has widely analyzed. *Darin Howe from University of Calgary* scrutinizes his research, which has the title “*Negation in African American vernacular English*”. The research was held to analyze two obvious structures in the AAVE negation pattern system in the day to day conversation: the use of ain’t for be+not, have+not, and do+not, negative concord to indefinites and to verbs, both within and between clauses, negative postponing and negative inversion. Next is the research of *Rebecca Treiman from Washington University in St. Louis* that titled “*Spelling and Dialect: Comparison between speakers of AAVE and white speakers*”. The research was intended to find the difference in spelling and dialect of African American speakers and white speaker especially for those from AAVE whom often devoiced the final sound /d/ but it pronounced more like /t/ than /d/.



Whilst there are many researches about phonological characteristics which have already conducted by many linguists, some of them are: *Nicholas Fowler* has the research that titled “*The Phonetics and The Phonological Characteristics of German Uvular /r/*”. It intends to study about the description of /r/ phoneme as it is exist in contemporary modern standard German, includes its environment that affects the distribution. It also aims to give a detail analysis of dialectal variation that happen in the modern standard of German language through the phonetics and the phonological characteristics. The other researcher, *Kikuo Maekawa* named her language observation “*Phonetic and Phonological Characteristics of Paralinguistics Information in Spoken Japanese*”. This research is crack down on the phonological features in the study of paralinguistics information that is essential for the cavernous understanding of various aspect of speech in Japanese speech. It consists of the analysis of its duration, vowel, pitch and voice quality.

Based on the researches that have already been presented, it is very clear that most of the previous researches almost related to the language observation that the researcher is doing now. The researches above are very helpful in developing the study of phonological characteristics of Afro-American English. The research carries out to find the characteristics in segmental area of phonology, for example: vowel, consonant, diphthongs etc. Hence, the researcher decides to do the research entitled “**Phonological Characteristics Produced by Afro-American: A Multicase Study of Afro-American Popular Movies**”.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter presents the research method used in this research including research design, data and data sources, data collection, research instrument, credibility and dependability, and data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research analyzes about phonological characteristics and its type found in Afro-American English language. It is categorized as case study because the research consists of the detail analysis of an individual or certain unit of society in certain times<sup>49</sup>. Afro-American is certain language societies whose have special way in

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<sup>49</sup>. Mudjia Rahardjo, Pengantar Penelitian Bahasa (Malang, 2002), page. 76

delivering their speech. Besides, case study has two kinds of research design. First is a single case study and multicase study<sup>50</sup>. A single case study is the research which only need one case to take a result of analysis from the phenomena that is happened while multicase study is the research which need more than one case or multi experiment in order to take the conclusion of the phenomena that is happened<sup>51</sup>.

This research is included to multicase study since it consists of more than one movie to be analyzed or it can be said that as more than one case. Multicase study has to follow the logic of the research that is called “the logic of replica”<sup>52</sup>. This logic has an intention to find similar result which is predicted in each case.

For that reason, the researcher finds the phonological characteristics of Afro-American through analyzing three Afro-American movies. Moreover, multicase study has its own advantage that presents the stronger result of analysis than a single case study but the use of multicase study needs more reference and extra time of the researcher himself. Therefore, based on the reason above, this research is called case study which is categorized into multicase study.

This research uses descriptive data analysis method since it has purpose to give analysis of phonological characteristics found in the oral conversation of Afro-American in Afro-American movies. The research also uses qualitative approach because its intention is to give a systematic data analysis. The reason of course in line with the qualitative researcher’s goal that wants to organize a large quantity of

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<sup>50</sup> . Robert.K.Yin, *Studi Kasus* (translated by M. Jauzi Mudzakir) (Jakarta, 2008), page. 46

<sup>51</sup> . Robert.K.Yin, *Studi Kasus* (translated by M. Jauzi Mudzakir) (Jakarta, 2008), page. 47

<sup>52</sup> . Robert.K.Yin, *Studi Kasus* (translated by M. Jauzi Mudzakir) (Jakarta, 2008), page. 56

specific details of data into a coherent picture, model, or set of interlocked concepts<sup>53</sup>. As the data of this research is the movie scripts or text and qualitative data are in form of text, written words, phrases or symbols describing or representing people, actions and event social life<sup>54</sup>, this research is considered as qualitative research.

### **3.2 Data and Data Source**

The main data sources of this research are in the form of the movie scripts of Afro-American movies and the compact disc (CD). The data of this research are the utterances from the movies which include phonological characteristics of the English words of Afro-American.

### **3.3 Data Collection**

Generally, the credibility of qualitative research is relying on the use of a number procedures to gather a wide variety of data<sup>55</sup>. This research is considered as a text research. The researcher collects the movie scripts of Afro-American movies.

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<sup>53</sup>. Sakban Rosidi, *Analysis of Qualitative Data* (Malang, 2008), page. 419

<sup>54</sup>. Sakban Rosidi, *Analysis of Qualitative Data* (Malang, 2008), page. 417

<sup>55</sup>. Susan Stainback and William Stainback, *Understanding and Conducting Qualitative Research* (Iowa-USA, 1988), page. 52

Hence, it can be said that the type of data collection is included into audio materials which consists of photograph, video tapes, art objects, computer software and films.<sup>56</sup>

The technique of data collecting of the text research is called reading processes<sup>57</sup>. The researcher uses skimming and scanning reading process. Skimming is a reading process by taking the words from the movie scripts that contains phonological characteristics as general while scanning is a reading process in detail to classify the words that contains phonological characteristics before it is included to the groups. The researcher also records the data that he collects through field notes. Field notes are a written record of what the researcher has seen and heard in the field and his or her own feelings, reactions, and thought<sup>58</sup>.

In addition, the researcher gives a keywords or phrases to the notes as reminders to the researcher and as a way to record field notes. Therefore, it helps the researcher to keep track of the development of the research. The data of this research is taken from the character's conversation of Afro-American movies. Furthermore, the data of this language research gathered as follows:

First, the researcher browsed the movies of Afro-American from the website ([www.Google.co.id/AfricanAmericanmovies](http://www.Google.co.id/AfricanAmericanmovies)) to find the movies which had a theme about the life of Afro-American; second, the researcher collected the movies from the movie rental; third, the researcher found the movie scripts from the website

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<sup>56</sup> . John W. Creswell, *Research Design: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches* (California, 1994), page. 151

<sup>57</sup> . Sakban Rosidi, *Panduan Penulisan Skripsi, laporan penelitian dan artikel ilmiah*. STIBA Malang (Malang, 2003), page.19

<sup>58</sup> . Taylor, S. & Bogdan, R , *Introduction to Qualitative Research methods* (New york, 1984), page 53

([www.Google.com/Simplyscriptsreadscriptsonline](http://www.Google.com/Simplyscriptsreadscriptsonline)); fourth, the researcher tried to find out the words or sentences, by watching the movies and read the movie scripts. Last, the researcher wrote in field notes and he gave a key words or phrases to the utterances which indicated phonological characteristics.

### **3.4 Research Instrument**

The researcher himself becomes the main instrument who spends most of his time to watch, finds out and analyzes the conversation of Afro-American movies that contains phonological characteristics. The researcher also uses field notes as the instrument of his research to record the data. Field notes include the description of people, events and conversations as well as the observer's actions and feelings. In short, field notes represent an attempt to record on paper that can possibly be recalled<sup>59</sup>. The researcher uses a kind of field notes called Abbreviated Note<sup>60</sup> that is recorded in the field as the guidelines for recording the notes. It is usually recorded at the time of the observation, interview or other encounter. The notes are taken in order

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<sup>59</sup>. Taylor, S & Bogdan, R, Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (New York, 1984), page. 53

<sup>60</sup>. Susan Stainback and William Stainback , Understanding and Conducting Qualitative Research (Iowa-USA, 1988), page. 62

to avoid of being intrusive and allow the researcher to participate in, observe, and or listen to what is happening and said. Actually, the purpose of the abbreviated notes is to remind the researcher of the settings and the sequence of events that occurred<sup>61</sup>.

### **3.5 Credibility and Dependability**

In turn to increase the credibility and dependability of the research data, the researcher gives the data collection that is truly credible and dependable by showing detail information of how the data is collected. So it increases the trustworthiness of the data which are gathered by the researcher.

### **3.6 Data Analysis**

Data analysis means a search for patterns in data-recurrent, behavior, objects, or a body of knowledge<sup>62</sup>. In data analysis involves examining, sorting, categorizing,

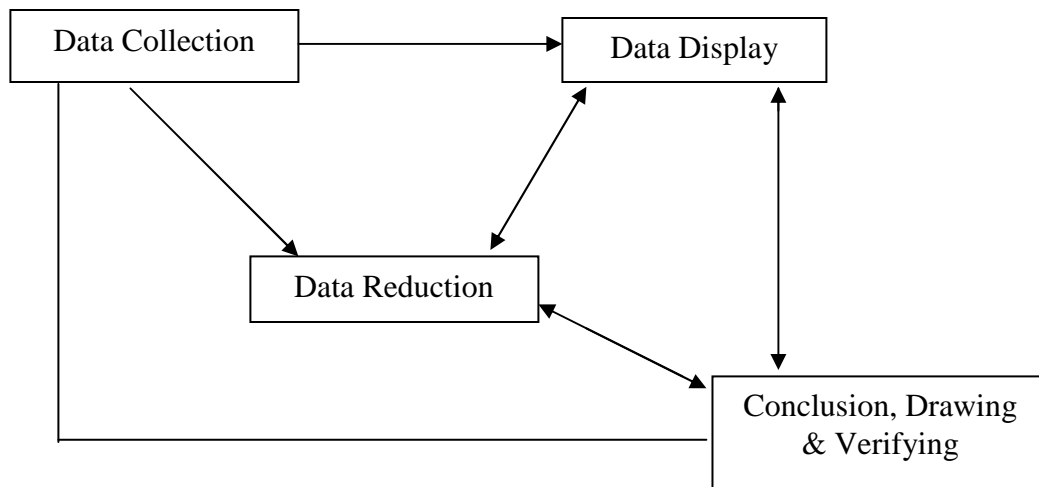
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<sup>61</sup> . Susan Stainback and William Stainback , Understanding and Conducting Qualitative Research (Iowa-USA, 1988), page. 63

<sup>62</sup> . Sakban Rosidi, Analysis of Qualitative Data (Malang, 2008), page. 426

evaluating, comparing, synthesizing, and contemplating the coded data as well as reviewing the raw and recorded data<sup>63</sup>.

The researcher used the Interactive model analysis of qualitative research<sup>64</sup> since the data were analyzed by identifying the words or sentences that contained phonological characteristics of Afro-American. At this point, the conceptualization, categorization and description of the data could be developed based on the event found during the research. As a result, the process of collecting and analyzing the data were done simultaneously, as the following chart in the next page:



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<sup>63</sup>. Sakban Rosidi, *Analysis of Qualitative Data* (Malang, 2008), page. 426

<sup>64</sup>. Mathew B Miles and A. Michael Huberman, *Qualitative Data Analysis* (Thousand Oaks London, 1994), page 12



The picture above shows the process of analyzing the data. As it is explained before that the researcher can collect the data of the research which is in the form of the utterances of Afro-American in Afro-American movies, together with doing comparison and analysis among the data that contains phonological characteristics. Afterwards, the researcher sorted the data which were not needed, then the data were classified into the groups. Next, the researcher gave the coloring to the words that contained phonological characteristics in order to make an easier understanding towards the characteristics itself. Lastly, the data were ready to be displayed before the researcher took a conclusion, drawing and verifying the research that already done. It can be seen that the process of analyzing the data of this method is connected each other. Hence, there is a back and forth processes during analyzing the data

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings of the research and discussion of the findings. It contains any detailed information and analysis of how the researcher examines, sorts, categorizes, and evaluates the research data, that show the way to the understanding on the phenomenon of phonological characteristics of Afro-American.

#### 4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

##### 4.1.1 The Deletion of Diphthong /ai/<sup>65</sup>

One of phonological characteristics of Afro-American is deleted the diphthong /ai/. The characteristic is shown from the dialogue transcript of the movie of Afro-American below.

1. *It's the goddamn Fourth of July. Can't a black man have a goddamn Fourth of July, too? (Barbershop 2 script page 2).*
2. *Plus, I'm trying to be at peace with myself. (Barbershop 2 script page 9).*
3. *Not the second, 'cause I'm not the bad guy here. Am I the bad guy here? (Barbershop 2 script page 14).*
4. *Why did Jesus weep? (Barbershop 2 script page 17).*
5. *So if I had to say, I would deny Quality Land Development's proposal to tear up in 79th&exchange. (Barbershop 2 script page 110).*
6. *Where your skills at? This ain't the time. (Barbershop 2 script page 87).*
7. *Levar Cahill: And just to make sure y'all don't forget that, I'm appointin' someone to remind y'all. (50 cent script page 32).*
8. *No, I didn't hear it? Are you trying to call me a liar? (Barbershop 2 script page 12).*
9. *You ain't supposed to air our dirty laundry like that? We on TV. (Barbershop 2 script page 87).*
10. *Marcus: Growin' up in the hood it's a constant battle to get nice things. (50 cent script page 13).*
11. *Marcus: Way I saw it, If I didn't have to hide my shit, this never woulda happened. (50 cent script page 25).*
12. *DJ: Y'all ready for some free-style? (Barbershop 2 script page 42).*

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<sup>65</sup> . Name of the field note that been used by the researcher to classify the phonological characteristics of Afro-American in his research. It is already discussed in chapter III (research method).

13. *The future behind us baby! That is our future behind us.*  
*(Barbershop script page 3).*
14. *Did you? Inquiring minds wants to know.* (Barbershop script page 27).

It can be seen from the dialogue above that the words which is considered as a diphthong /ai/ is deleted to the vowel /a/. As a result, the first element of word /a/ is typically lengthened and the second element of diphthong /ai/ is deleted. We can see it in the word *july* /jɛwɫai/ that is pronounced /jɛwɫa:/. The other words *my* /mai/ is pronounced /ma:/, *nice* /nais/ is pronounced /na:s/, *like* /laik/ is pronounced /la:k/ and *guy* /gai/ is pronounced /ga:/. Furthermore, this characteristic is frequently occurred in open syllable such as the word *why* /wai/ is pronounced /wa:/ and the word *deny* /diɛnai/ is pronounced /diɛna:/. Here, the diphthong /ai/ is functioned as open syllable which is pronounced without any obstruction. Therefore, the diphthong /ai/ is deleted.

This characteristic is also occurred before nasals sound and voiced obstruent, for example, the word *time* /taim/ is pronounced /ta:m/, *remind* /riɛmaind/ is pronounced /riɛma:nd/, *behind* /biɛhaɪnd/ is pronounced /biɛha:nd/ and *mind* /maɪnd/ is pronounced /ma:nd/. The deletion of diphthong /ai/ is happened before the nasal sound /m/ and /n/ in the words which is already presented. For the voiced obstruent, this characteristic is happened before the voiced obstruent, for instance, the word *liar* /ɛlai|r/ is pronounced /la:/, *hide* /haɪd/ is pronounced /ha:d/, and *style* /stai/l/ is pronounced /sta:l/. In this case, the diphthong /ai/ that is followed by voiced obstruent /r/, /d/, and /l/ in the words liar, hide, and style.

#### **4.1.2 The Change of Interdental sound /v/ to Stop sound.**

Afro-American tends to change the sound /ð/ to the stop sound in the conversation of Afro-American movies. This becomes the special characteristic of Afro-American speech. The dialogues of Afro-American movies below shows how they change those sounds.

1. Get over *there!* (Barbershop 2 script page 1).
2. For *they* have half black brothers and sisters till somethin' goes sour. (Barbershop 2 script page 4).
3. Hold on *there* Terri. (Barbershop 2 script page 5).
4. R. Kelly on tape *with* grown women. (Barbershop 2 script page 6).
5. K-Rod called and book after *that*. (Barbershop 2 script page 7).
6. I heard they was gonna move a subway over *there* (Barbershop 2 script 10).
7. I can't believe *this*. (Barbershop 2 script page 22).
8. You *the* man your shop is legendary. (Barbershop 2 script page 23).
9. Keryl: C'mon, lemme get *that* shit. (Barbershop 2 script page 1).
10. Marcus: I guess I liked that better *than* the truth. (50 cent script page 5).
11. Topcat: Hey lil' homey, who you got *there*. (50 cent script page 7).
12. Grandma: And when you go get yourself in jail, *then* what? (50 cent script page 9).
13. Marcus: You wanna make friends, givin' somethin' *they* want works a whole lot better. (50 cent script page 15)
14. Topcat: We go back to Brewer, I'ma give you five of *these*. (50 cent script page 17).

It can be analyzed that the interdental words *there* /ðwɜːrtʃiəpær/ change to /d-ær/, *they* /ðey/ to /dey/, *this* /ðis/ to /dis/, *that* /ðæt/ to /dæt/, *the* /ð|/ to /d|/, *then* /ðen/ to /den/, *these* /ðiz/ to /diz/ and *with* /wið/ becomes /wit/. This phonological characteristic replaces the interdental sound that is articulated by inserting the tip of the tongue between upper and lower teeth to turn into the stop sound /d/ that is produced by compressing the air in the oral cavity that caused the closure of the air and the release of the closure itself suddenly making an explosive sound or explosion inside the mouth. For the word *with* /wið/, the interdental sound /ð/ is changed into the stop sound /t/. Therefore, it is pronounced /wit/. Moreover, this characteristic changes the sound which

is voiced become voiceless sound and it can be happened everywhere according to the sound's position, whether in front, middle or back of the words. As the example, the word **with** in the movie script of *barbershop 2* page 4, the interdental sound /wɪθ/ is considered as a voiced sound changed to the voiceless sound /t/. Thus, it is pronounced /wɪt/ and the characteristic is occurred in the end or back of the word.

#### 4.1.3 The Omission of /r/ Sound

Afro-American has their own rule that always deletes the sound of /r/, the dialogues from the movie script of Afro-American movies shows how they run this rule.

1. *Hank, you seen a thief around here? No, no, not around here. (Barbershop 2 script page 3).*
2. *No, me, either. (Barbershop 2 script page 3).*
3. *For they half-black brothers and sisters till somethin' goes sour. (Barbershop 2 script page 4).*
4. *You just be happy gettin' that bad boy out of park. (Barbershop 2 script page 9).*
5. *You know, this is gonna be yours one day... all of this. (Barbershop 2 script page 14).*
6. *With an ugly, fat white girl with low self-esteem, lock the door. (Barbershop 2 script page 21).*
7. *I heard they got fish in the floor, swimming. (Barbershop 2 script page 29).*
8. *What kind of man treat a little girl that way. (Barbershop 2 script page 56).*
9. *Is you living in the dark ages or something. (Barbershop 2 script page 58).*
10. *Long as they ain't buildin' liquor stores and titty bars, I'm cool with it. (Barbershop 2 script page 11).*
11. *Marcus: Well, I was born in hell and I'll tell you fuckin' thing. (50 cent script page 1).*
12. *Katrina: It hurts! Ohhh! Motherfucker!! (50 cent script page 4).*
13. *Marcus: I guess I liked that better than the truth, which was probably that he was some no account nigger from the hood. (50 cent script page 5).*
14. *Topcat: Tell you what else. He got the paper, that same fiend gonna come back in two hours buy another. (50 cent script page 17).*
15. *I'm about to be Rookie of the year up here. (Barbershop 2 script page 30).*

Based on the dialogues shown above, Afro-American deletes the sound /r/ everywhere the sound is located, consequently, the meaning of the words that conversed

are ambiguous, for example, when they pronounce **either** /<sup>h</sup>i<sup>h</sup>|r/ becomes /i<sup>h</sup>|/, **here** /hir/ becomes /hi/ and **sour** /sawr/ becomes /saw/. Additionally, the sound /r/ is deleted if it contains back vowel or mid back vowel and also front vowel. For instance, the word **park** /park/ that has front vowel /a/ before the /r/ sound, then it is deleted becomes /pak/. The other examples such as **yours** /yurZ/, the sound /r/ is deleted because it contains mid back vowel /u/, the word **door** /dowr/, the sound /r/ is omitted because it has front vowel /o/, the word **liquor** /<sup>h</sup>lik|r/ that has mid back vowel /i/, the word **year** /yir/ that include mid back vowel /i/, the word **born** /bOrn/ that include the front vowel /O/, the word **hurt** /h|rt/ that has the front vowel /i/, the word **hour** /awr/ with the mid back vowel /u/, the word **floor** /flowr/ that has the mid back vowel /o/ and the word **nigger** /<sup>h</sup>ni<sup>h</sup>|r/ that contains back vowel /i/. All of the /r/ sound in those words is deleted, therefore, the word **yours** is pronounced /yuz/, **door** is pronounced /dow/, **liquor** is pronounced /lik|/, **year** is pronounced /yi/, **born** is pronounced /bOn/, **hurt** is pronounced /h|t/, **hour** is pronounced /aw/, **floor** is pronounced /flow/ and **nigger** is pronounced /ni<sup>h</sup>|/.

#### 4.1.4 The Vocalization of /l/ Sound

Afro-American also has similar rule with the previous characteristic that is the omission of “r” sound. The symptom is almost alike and it can be shown from the dialogues from Afro-American movies below.

1. *The next time you want to **call** yourself sleeping around behind somebody's back.. (Barbershop 2 script page 11).*
2. *After Calvin and I stopped dating, he started thinkin' **small**. (Barbershop 2 script page 16).*
3. ***Y'all** see Calvin baby boy? Hey, Coley. (Barbershop 2 script page 16).*
4. *I don't know about that. Dan Quayle couldn't **spell** "potato." (Barbershop 2 script page 21).*
5. *Let me **tell** you all somethin'. That's not a real barbershop. (Barbershop 2 script page 29).*
6. *A **real** barbershop got real people, real conversation. (Barbershop 2 script page 30).*
7. *Man, the **smell** that come out of there, it's so bad, sometimes I have to set myself outside. (Barbershop 2 script page 34).*
8. *Eddie, you can't talk about **people** just 'cause they biracial. (Barbershop 2 script page 4).*
9. *Me and you cool, all right? Yeah, we **cool**. (Barbershop 2 script page 61).*
10. *What happened between me and Terri was **foul**. (Barbershop 2 script page 90).*
11. *Marcus: Turned out temptation got the best of him and he fucked it **all** up, had to stay there forever. (50 cent script page 1).*
12. *Topcat: **Tell** you what...nah, forget it. (50 cent script page 16).*
13. *Keryl: **Call** a fuckin' ambulance. (50 cent script page 48).*
14. *Tyrell: **Pull** me out the car like that? (50 cent script page 49).*
15. *Marcus: It's **cool**, yo. You take this gat, you walk up real slow, keep it at your side. (50 cent script page 50).*

This rule is identically pronounced by Afro-American that vocalized the syllabic sound /l/ and produced it as a back vowels usually back rounded [u] and [ɯ], high back unrounded [w] and sometimes [ɨ]. So it can create an unclear pronunciation, there is some notes here that after back vowels, the vocalized of the sound /l/ here combines with the vowels, as in the words “**call**” becomes “caw” or “**cool**” becomes “ku”. For having more deeper understanding of this characteristic, take a look on the examples of the pronunciation of the words **call** /kOl/ is pronounced /kOw/, **small** /smOl/ is pronounced /smOw/, **you all** /yuw Ol/ is pronounced /yuw Ow /, **spell** /spel/ is pronounced /speu/, **tell** /tel/ is pronounced /teu/, **real** /rie|l/ is pronounced /rie|/, **smell** /smel/ is pronounced /smeu/, **people** /p̩piep|l/ is pronounced /p̩piep|/, **cool** /ku:l/ is pronounced

/ku:/, **fool** /fu:l/ is pronounced /fu:/, **pull** /pul/ is pronounced /pu/ and **foul** /fa♦l/ is pronounced /fa♦/.

#### 4.1.5 The Shifting of the Nasal Sound /G/ to the other Nasal Sound /n/

This characteristic is quiet often occurred in the words which end with the sound /G/ and it is shifted become the sound /n/. The dialogues were taken from Afro-American movies show how this characteristic is frequently used by the speakers of Afro-American.

1. *Don't be eyeballin' me. You ain't hard. I'm just playin'.* (Barbershop 2 script page 51).
2. *Saddam, Osama, all of them livin' in a big old beach house.* (Barbershop 2 script page 51).
3. *They just freakin' 'em. Freakin' em all, boy.* (Barbershop 2 script page 51).
4. *Where you goin'.* (Barbershop 2 script page 54).
5. *There's people over in Ethiopia starvin', and you sittin' over here complainin'.* (Barbershop 2 script page 55).
6. *What you be doin' sweepin' up the shop with it.* (Barbershop 2 script page 59).
7. *It's killin' me, man. I just gotta know for myself.* (Barbershop 2 script page 67).
8. *Condoleeza. With all that White House money she makin', You'd think she could afford herself a makeover.* (Barbershop 2 script page 76).
9. *Marcus: And the only way he could get out was by not lookin' back when he left.* (50 cent script page 1).
10. *Guard:....I'm starvin' in.* (50 cent script page 2).
11. *Slim:...pickin' my pocket.* (50 cent script page 7).
12. *Katrina: I'm droppin' him off, I'll be back later.* (50 cent script page 7).
13. *Marcus: Why was you fightin' with that man.* (50 cent script page 8).
14. *Katrina: I ain't goin' to jail, will you sweatin'...(50 cent script page 9).*

Start from the first example when the speaker of Afro-American shifted the words eyeballing /ai bOliG/ to /ai bOlin/. The other words that has equal characteristic are living /liviG/ becomes /livin/, freaking /frikiG/ becomes /frikin/, going /goiG/ becomes /goin/, starving /starviG/ becomes /starvin/, sitting /sitiG/ becomes /sitin/, complaining /k|mpl|iniG/ becomes /k|mpl|inin/, doing /duwiG/ becomes /duwin/.



making /meykiG/ becomes /meykin/, looking /lukiG/ is pronounced /lukin/, picking /pikiG/ is pronounced /pikin/, dropping /drapiG/ is pronounced /drapin/, fighting /faitiG/ is pronounced /faitin/ and sweating /swetiG/ is pronounced /swetin/. It is clearly seen that this characteristic is often occurred in the end of nasal sound /G/.

#### 4.1.6 The Change of one of Interdental Sound /ɱ/ to the Alveolar Stop Sound /t/

Afro-American is also changed in pronouncing the interdental sound /ɱ/ to the alveolar stop sound /t/. Afro-American Movies script below gives the examples of how this phonological characteristic take place.

1. *I'm **through**, is what I am. (Barbershop 2 script page 65).*
2. ***Thought** I'd add a little style to the place. (Barbershop 2 script page 77).*
3. *You done worked and lived around here for what? **Thirty five** years. (Barbershop 2 script page 100).*
4. *I had a cockroach in my house so big, I **thought** it was shaq. (Barbershop 2 script page 100).*
5. *I like the whole massage **thing**. (Barbershop 2 script page 29).*
6. ***Thug** love! Thug love! (Barbershop 2 script page 87).*
7. *I got grandmas gone wild. You ever seen wrinkles in a **thong**. (Barbershop 2 script page 6).*

From the dialogues above, a symptom can be found. Afro-American change the interdental sound which is articulated by inserting the tip of the tongue between upper and lower lips to the alveolar stop sound which is articulated by raising the front of the tongue to the alveolar ridge then it is followed by the stopping air in the oral cavity that makes an explosive sound as it is occurred in this phonological characteristic.

For that reason, it can be analyzed that they are pronounced /tru:/ for the word **through** /ɱru:/, /tO:t/ for **thought** /ɱO:t/, /ɰt|rti fa:v/ for **thirty five** /ɱ|rti faiv/, /tiG/ for **thing** /ɱiG/, /tag/ for **thug** /ɱag/, and /tOG/ for **thong** /ɱOG/.

#### 4.1.7 Stopping the Interdental Voiceless Fricative Sound Near the Nasal Consonant.

Afro-American often stops the interdental fricative sounds which is voiceless and it is located near the nasal sound. These dialogues below were taken from the movies of Afro-American show the characteristic.

1. *He half Cherokee or something. Don't put him in with us. (Barbershop 2 page 6).*
2. *I ain't bringin' you back nothin'. (Barbershop 2 script page 15).*
3. *I can get anything you need. (Barbershop 2 script page 75).*
4. *Marcus: I had had it all and lost everything. (50 cent script page 57 ).*
5. *Katrina: Who, Slim? He was tryin' to take somethin' belonged to me baby. (50 cent script page 8).*
6. *Katrina: Don't you know I'd never let nothin' happen to you? Look at me baby. I will always protect you. (50 cent script page 8).*
7. *Topcat: Educate thyselg, your mama'd be proud. So you need anything? (50 cent script page 14).*

This characteristic occurs because Afro-American speaker replaced the interdental sound /θ/ with the sound /ð/ contiguous to nasal consonant. As the example, the word *something* /θsəmθiG/ is pronounced /samtɪn/. Here, the stopping of the interdental sound /θ/ in the word *something* is occurred before the nasal consonant /n/. The other words have identical symptom as well such as *nothing* /θnəθiG/ is pronounced /nəðni/, *everything* /θevriθiG/ is pronounced /evriðni/, and *anything* /eniθiG/ is pronounced /eniðni/.

#### 4.1.8 The Deletion of Final Consonant.

The speaker of Afro-American tends to delete single consonant in the final position of syllable. They delete the final consonant before the vowel sound. The change can be seen from these following script.

1. *Now, I know you ain't payin' that nappy negro no heed.* (Barbershop 2 script page 6).
2. *Five minutes. We in, we out.* (Barbershop 2 script page 67).
3. *You can play ball up in here, man.* (Barbershop 2 script page 68).
4. *I just want him to have everything I never had.* (Barbershop 2 script page 73).
5. *He only won cause she helped him.* (Barbershop 2 script page 74).
6. *Gina, do I look like beyonce? Just like her.* (Barbershop 2 script page 76).
7. *Use your head. What? Use your head.* (Barbershop 2 script page 20).
8. *Ain't never seen nothing like that in your life. Yeah, that's good.* (Barbershop 2 script page 33).
9. *What's going on? No. what?* (Barbershop 2 script page 66).
10. *Well, Mr. Brown, as you know, there is a lot of change..* (Barbershop 2 script page 83).
11. *Good morning there, youngblood.* (Barbershop 2 script page 100).
12. *Marcus: I guess I liked that better than the truth, which was probably that he was some no account nigga from the hood.* (50 cent script page 5).
13. *Cameron: Hold up, I gotta get my coat.* (50 cent script page 44).
14. *Tyrell: Pull me out the car like that?* (50 cent script page 44).
15. *Marcus: I guess there's no such thing as a good time to be goin' to jail.* (50 cent script page 44).

Based on the examples above, the characteristic is occurred when the voiced obstruent or the final consonants are deleted but the length of the preceding vowel is maintained. Thus, the word **heed** /hi:d/ is pronounced /hi/, **five** /faiv/ is pronounced /fai/, **had** /hæd/ is pronounced /hæ/, **her** /h|r/ is pronounced /h|:/, **head** /hed/ is pronounced /he/, **good** /gud/ is pronounced /gu:/, **what** /wOt/ is pronounced /wO/, **lot** /lat/ is pronounced /la:/, **blood** /blad/ is pronounced /bla:/, **hood** /hud/ is pronounced /hu:/, **coat** /kowt/ is pronounced /kow/, **car** /kar/ is pronounced /ka:/ and **out** pronounced /awt/ is pronounced /aw/.

Additionally, when final nasals in the final consonant position are deleted, the nasality are still maintained on the preceding vowels. As the example, the word **man** /mæn/ is pronounced /mæ/, at this point, the final nasal /n/ which has a function as the final consonant is deleted but the nasality of the word **man** is maintained on the preceding vowel /æ/. It is also happened in the other word like **won** /wOn/ that is pronounced /wO/.

#### 4.1.9 The Deletion of Second Consonant in the Final Consonant Position

Deleting the second consonant in final consonant position becomes one of the phonological characteristic that is relatively occurred in Afro-American movie's conversation. They delete the words which contains two consonant that located in the final position of the words itself. Afro-American movie script below shows this characteristic.

1. *I might be a little hungry, but get your **hands** up!*  
(*Barbershop 2 script page 2*).
2. *Sure. We're just finishing up our **last** customer.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 3*).
3. *The **next** time you want to call yourself..* (*Barbershop 2 script page 11*).
4. *I need my **rent** money.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 13*).
5. *The bank **want** they money on the first.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 15*).
6. *She ain't weavin' it up like **most** of y'all in here.* (*Barbershop 2 page 16*).
7. *Jesus **wept**.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 17*).
8. *'Cause they wouldn't let him put jelly on his biscuit before he **left**.*  
(*Barbershop 2 script page 18*).
9. *You must be a lot like me. You lactose **intolerant**.*  
(*Barbershop 2 script page 33*).
10. *Write a report and have it on my **desk** by the end of the month.*  
(*Barbershop 2 script page 43*).
11. *You can't rush the **best**, Jimmy.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 86*).
12. *I **own** Calvin's Barbershop over on 79th.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 108*).
13. *Marcus: I'll **paint** that store..* (*50 cent script page 2*).
14. *Marcus: But much as I liked rappin' it was **sort** of just a hobby.*  
(*50 cent script page 20*).
15. *Marcus: But as they say, no **risk**, no reward.* (*50 cent script page 21*).

From the words in the dialogues above, the deletion of the second consonant is happened in the final position, for example, the word **hand** /hænd/ is pronounced /hæn/, **last** /læst/ is pronounced /læs/, **next** /nekst/ is pronounced /neks/, **rest** /rent/ is pronounced /ren/, **want** /wɒnt/ is pronounced /wɒn/, **most** /mɔʊst/ is pronounced /mɔʊs/, **wept** /wept/ is pronounced /wep/, **left** /left/ is pronounced /lef/, **must** /mast/ is pronounced /mas/, **desk** /desk/ is pronounced /des/, **best** /best/ is pronounced /bes/ and **own** /ɔʊn/ is pronounced /ɔʊ/. Moreover, both consonants that are deleted must share voicing. As the example, in the word **hand** /hænd/ is pronounced /hæn/, this word includes two consonant /n/ and /d/ that are considered as voiced sound, therefore it is deleted.

#### **4.1.10 The Substitution of the Prefix Sound /str/ to /skr/**

One of the uniqueness that found in phonological characteristics of Afro-American is substituting the sound /k/ for /t/ in the first prefix sound /str/. This characteristic is also frequently found in the conversation of Afro-American movies. The dialogues of Afro-American movies below shows how they substitute this prefix sound.

1. *If they build a titty bar across the **street**, I ain't never goin' home. (Barbershop 2 script page 11).*
2. *Nappy Necks, whatever they want to call theyselves across the **street**. (Barbershop 2 script page 46).*

3. *You know what I mean? Damn **straight**.* (Barbershop 2 script page 47).
4. *Topcat: Trina works the south side of Brewer and you stay cross the **street**.* (50 cent script page 7).
5. *Marcus: **Strategize** my dick you dumb ass nigga.* (50 cent script page 30).
6. *Marcus: You too bro, don't be a **stranger**, call a nigga.* (50 cent script page 45).
7. *Stay **strong**, brother!* (50 cent script page 6).

This characteristic is happened in the words which contains the sound of /str/, whether in front, middle or back of the sentence. See the example of the words above that already transcribed to give more understanding towards this kind of phonological characteristics. The word **street** /strit/ is pronounced /skrit/, **straight** /streyt/ is pronounced /skreyt/, **strategizing** /ʒ<strat | jiz/ is pronounced /ʒ<skrat | jiz/, **stranger** /streynj | r/ is pronounced /skreynj | r/, and **strong** /strOG/ is pronounced /skrOG/.

#### 4.1.11 The Deletion of Reduplicated Consonant

Another characteristic of Afro-American English is the deletion of the consonant that is reduplicated. This characteristic is found in some words which have reduplicated consonant. The following dialogues of Afro-American movies show how the change in this phonological characteristic.

1. *I might be a **little** hungry, but get your hands up!* (Barbershop 2 script page 2).
2. *One thing you're gonna **constantly** have to deal with in your life.* (Barbershop 2 script page 14).

3. *Don't let that fool you, cause the nicer they dress, usually the **broker** they are. (Barbershop 2 script page 14).*
4. *'Cause they **didn't** let him eat his biscuit. (Barbershop 2 script page 17).*
5. *You know what? He **probably** was mad. (Barbershop 2 script page 18).*
6. *Listen, I'm not lactose **intolerant**. (Barbershop 2 script page 33).*
7. *Downright **flatulent**. (Barbershop 2 script page 34).*
8. *The key to **enlightenment** is to work through your anger. (Barbershop 2 script page 40).*
9. *I don't. This faithful **constituent** is in need of counsel... (Barbershop 2 script page 41).*

Based on the dialogues above, the words that are deleted usually consist of the consonant words. As the examples, /dd/, /tt/, and /bb/ in the word **little** /lit|l/ is pronounced /li|l/, **constantly** /ɔ̃kanst|ntli/ which contain the reduplicated consonant of /t/ is deleted then it is pronounced /kanst|nli/, **broker** /ɔ̃browk|r/ that has the reduplicated consonant /r/ is omitted and it is pronounced /browk|/. The other words also have similar characteristics such as **didn't** /didnt/ that has reduplicated consonant /d/ is pronounced /dint/, **probably** /prababli/ with the reduplicated consonant /b/ is pronounced /prabli/. **Intolerant** /intal|r|nt/ which include the reduplicated consonant /t/ is pronounced /intal|r|n/, **enlightenment** /enɔ̃lait|nm|nt/ which consist of the consonant /t/ is pronounced /enɔ̃lait|nm|n/ and **constituent** /k|nsticɔ̃u|nt/ that contain the reduplicated consonant /t/ is pronounced /k|nsticɔ̃u|n/.

#### 4.1.12 Labialization of the Interdental Fricative Sound.

Afro-American has another phonological characteristics which is replaced the interdental fricative with the labiodental fricative sound. Here, the interdental fricative sound is represented by the sound /θ/ and the labiodental fricative sound is represented by the sound /f/. The dialogue of the Afro-American's movie script below gives the examples about this characteristic.

1. *That crime took planning, not only planning, it took **math**.*  
(*Barbershop 2 page 5*).
2. *And this. Watch your **mouth** girl.* (*Barbershop 2 script page 15*).
3. *With them funky ass voting **booth**, you can go ahead.*  
(*Barbershop 2 script page 45*).
4. *Can you bring back some **toothpicks**?* (*Barbershop 2 page 54*).
5. *You wouldn't look like shamu of the **south** side.* (*Barbershop 2 page 56*).
6. *This is about personal enhancement, personal **growth**.*  
(*Barbershop 2 page 75*).
7. ***Both** my babies.* (*Barbershop 2 page 5*).
8. *The **mathematics** is correct, right* (*Barbershop script page 17*).
9. *Those machine are **worth** more than the money in them.*  
(*Barbershop page 44*).
10. *Marcus: I guess I liked that better than the **truth**, which was probably that he was some no account nigga from the hood.* (*50 cent script page 5*).
11. *Marcus: Happy **birthday**, dawg.* (*50 cent script page 41*).

The interdental fricative sound articulated by inserting the tip of the tongue between the upper and lower lips and the sound that produced are severely obstructed and causes a friction then it is replaced with the labiodental sound which is articulated by the lower lips and the upper teeth. The characteristic can be analyzed in the words from the dialogue above such as **booth** /buw<sup>ʔ</sup>/ is pronounced /buwf/, **math** /mæ<sup>\*</sup>/ is pronounced /mæf/ and **mouth** /maw<sup>\*</sup>/ is pronounced /mawf/. This characteristic is also happened before the vowels sound. As the example, the word **growth** /grow<sup>\*</sup>/ is pronounced /growf/, hence, the replacing sound between interdental fricative and labiodental fricative is happened before the vowel sound /w/, the word **mouth** /maw<sup>\*</sup>/ is pronounced /mawf/.



It is occurred before the vowel sound /u/ and so the other examples like **tooth** /tuw<sup>h</sup>/ is pronounced /tuwf/ that is occurred before the vowel sound /u/, **south** /saw<sup>h</sup>/ is pronounced /sawf/ that is occurred before the vowel sound /u/, **booth** /bow<sup>h</sup>/ is pronounced /bowf/ that is occurred before the vowel sound /o/, **mathematics** /<sup>h</sup>mæ<sup>h</sup>|<sup>h</sup>mætiks/ is pronounced /<sup>h</sup>mæf|mætiks/ that is occurred before the vowel sound /æ/.

The other example is like **worth** /w|r<sup>h</sup>/ is pronounced /w|rf/ which is replaced before the consonant /r/, and **birthday** /b|r<sup>h</sup>dey/ is pronounced /b|rfdey/ that is replaced before the consonant /r/

#### 4.1.13 The Deletion of /l/ Sound before Labial

Other uniqueness of Afro-American is deleting the sound /l/ before the labial sound. The dialogues from Afro-American below leads to this phonological characteristic.

1. *With an ugly, fat white girl with low **self** esteem, lock the door.* (Barbershop 2 page 21).
2. *Look man, all that's fine. I'm Tryin' to **help** you.* (Barbershop 2 script page 35).
3. *Marcus: Excuse me; can I get some **help**.* (50 cent script page 38).
4. *How you gonna talk about size when you one Reese's piece away from Jenny Craig **yourself**.* (Barbershop 2 script page 59).

From the examples of the words in the dialogues above, the deletion of the sound /l/ come after the vowel sound and before the labial sound in the same syllable. Therefore, the word **self** /self/ is pronounced /sef/. Here, the deletion of the sound /l/ is occurred after the vowel sound /e/ and before the labial sound /f/. The other words **help** /help/ which is pronounced /hep/, the deletion of the sound /l/ come after the vowel sound /e/ and before the labial sound /p/. **Yourself** /yurself/ that is pronounced /yu:sef/ and the deletion of the sound /l/ is occurred after the vowel sound /e/ and before the labial sound /f/.

#### 4.1.14 Devoicing the Final Consonant or Obstruent

Devoicing the final consonant sound or obstruent becomes the last phonological characteristics of Afro-American. This movie's script dialogues of Afro-American movies show the characteristic.

1. *I **said** play like you cuttin' it. (Barbershop 2 script page 3).*
2. *I was **mad** when I found out dude was black. (Barbershop 2 script page 5).*
3. *You know, this is gonna be **yours** one day...all of this. (Barbershop 2 script page 14).*
4. *Cause he was **said**. (Barbershop 2 script page 17).*
5. *If I **had** to choose me a white boy to sleep with, I'd have to say Mini-me. (Barbershop 2 script page 34).*
6. *it's so **bad**, sometimes I have to set myself outside. (Barbershop 2 script page 34).*
7. *No, no he ain't **dead**. No, he ain't dead. (Barbershop2 script page 51).*

8. *Come on. We're about to get **paid**, baby (Barbershop script page 2).*
9. *That's why your **nose** so big. You too damn nosy. (Barbershop script page 7).*
10. *Why don't you look under the **bed**? (Barbershop script page 7).*
11. *Marcus: **Had** to stay there forever. (50 cent script page 1).*
12. *Marcus: It didn't really matter anyway with my moms around, I didn't need no **dad**. (50 cent script page 5).*

From the dialogues above, it can be analyzed that the syllable in final obstruent are devoiced and the length of preceding vowels are maintained. As the example, in the word **said** /seyd/ is pronounced /sey:t/. Here, the final consonant or obstruent /d/ of the word **said** is devoiced into the sound /t/ then the length of preceding vowel /e/ is maintained. The other examples like **mad** /mæd/ that is pronounced /mæ:t/, the final consonant or obstruent of the word **mad** /d/ is devoiced into the /t/ sound and the length of the vowel /æ/ that follow is also maintained. The next examples in the dialogues have a similar characteristic such as the word **sad**, **bad**, **had**, **dad** and **need**, the sound /d/ is devoiced into the sound /t/ and length of preceding vowel /æ/ is maintained.

For the word **dead** /ded/, the final consonant or obstruent /d/ is devoiced into the sound /t/ and the length of the vowel /e/ that precede is maintained. Thus, it is pronounced /de:t/. The next word **paid** /peyd/ is pronounced /pey:t/ because the final consonant /d/ is devoiced into sound /t/ and the preceding vowel /e/ is maintained. The word **nose** /nowz/ is pronounced /now:s/ because the final consonant /z/ is devoiced to the sound /s/ and the preceding vowel /o/ is also maintained. The word **bed** /bed/ is pronounced /be:t/ because the final consonant /d/ is devoiced the sound /t/ and the preceding vowel /e/ that followed is maintained.

## **4.2 Discussion**

This research fully discusses about the phonological characteristics of Afro-American in the Afro-American movies. The problems that have to answer then are: what are the type of the phonological characteristics of Afro-American and how is the phonetics transcription toward this characteristics. To answer the problems of the first question, it needs the theories about the study of human speech sound or phonology especially in the area of segmental sound which consists of: vowel, consonants, diphthong and the knowledge about the organ of speech includes the place of articulation and the manner of articulation. This theory gives significant improvement to sharpen the analysis of this research, since the research only analyzes in the area of segmental sound.

Methodologically, this research used an interactive model analysis in analyzing the data of the research. This research presents back and forth process which really appropriate with the research that is categorized as a qualitative research as well.

The research has the result in finding the phonological characteristics of Afro-American. There are fourteen types of phonological characteristics which already found in this research. They are: the deletion of diphthong /ai/ which deletes the diphthong /ai/ then changes it to the simple vowel /a/, the change of interdental sound /θ/ to the stop sound which replace the sound of the word that contain the interdental sound /θ/ to the stop sound, the omission of /r/ sound that delete the sound /r/ in the final position of the word, the vocalization of /l/ sound which delete the syllabic /l/ and produce it as a back vowels, the shifting of the nasal sound /ŋ/ to the other nasal sound /n/ which shift the nasal sound /ŋ/ as the final position in the word to the other nasal sound /n/, the change of one of interdental sound /θ/ to the alveolar stop sound /t/ which change the interdental sound /θ/ to the alveolar stop /t/, stopping the interdental voiceless fricative sound near the nasal consonant that replace the interdental sound /θ/ with the sound /t/ next to nasal consonant, the deletion of final consonant that delete a single consonant in a syllable final position, the deletion of second consonant in final consonant position that delete the sound of the words that contain two consonant located in final position of the words itself, the substitution of prefix sound /str/ to /skr/ that substitute the sound of /k/ for /t/ in the prefix sound /str/, the deletion of reduplicated consonant which delete the consonant that are reduplicated, labialization of the interdental fricative sound which replace the sound of the words contain the interdental fricative sound /θ/ to the labiodental fricative sound /f/, the deletion of /l/ sound before labial which delete the

sound /l/ before the labial sound, and final consonant or obstruent are devoiced which produce the consonant sound or obstruent become devoiced sound.

To answer the second question of the problem statement and to analyze the phonological characteristics above, of course it needs the phonetics transcription in transcribing the sounds which include phonological characteristics. By giving the phonetics transcription, it helps the researcher to find the characteristics that mostly related to the sound's change in the words itself. For that reason, the researcher used the phonetics transcription during the research. Finally, this research is really important in developing the research about the variant of language since Afro-American is a kind of variant of American English language and it also giving the broader perspectives to the knowledge about human speech sounds.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter, the researcher presents the main conclusion including several points of what the researcher has got in his findings and learnt from writing this thesis also suggestion for improvement and further research.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Based on the research findings and the discussion in this research, the conclusion is drawn as follows:

This thesis offers and explains the types of phonological characteristics that is produced by Afro-American in the conversation of Afro-American movies. There are fourteen types of phonological characteristics of Afro-American in Afro-American movies which have already been categorized based on the segmental sound that involved<sup>66</sup>. The characteristic involving diphthong: the deletion of diphthong /ai/, the characteristics involving interdental: the change of interdental sound /θ/ to the stop sound, the change of one of interdental sound /ð/ to the alveolar stop sound /t/, stopping the interdental voiceless fricative sound near the nasal consonant, labialization of the interdental fricative sound, Next, the characteristic involving liquid (lateral) sound: the vocalization of /l/ sound, the deletion of /l/ sound before labial, the characteristics involving final consonant: the deletion of second consonant in final consonant position, the omission of /r/ sound, final consonant or obstruent are devoiced, the deletion of final consonant. The characteristic involving nasal consonant: the shifting of the nasal sound /ŋ/ to the other nasal sound /n/, the characteristic involving consonant: the deletion of

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<sup>66</sup>. See the table of classification of Afro-American phonological characteristics in the appendixes for further understanding.

reduplicated consonant, the characteristics involving the prefix sound: the substitution of prefix sound /str/ to /skr/.

The researcher also concerns of how Afro-American uses this phonological characteristics to their own community. This characteristics show their feeling about social disintegration that they suffered. It was proven that, Afro-American has a miserable history against white people which discriminate them as a lower class society with its negative environment and life. They have to get away from the life of white people and make their own community. Although they also have to live in the suburban which caused them social deviation and isolation, Afro-American are trying to survive. Thus, they make language as one of the media to express themselves.

Many things are able to learn through this thesis. It has given the researcher a magnificent opportunity to deeply analyze one of the variant of English language that is produced by Afro-American which make the researcher knows well that every group or society has its own way of speaks. This characteristics also illustrate that identity shows who we are, Afro-American English language become the identity for the existence of Afro-American in the American's life nowadays. The researcher also had the chance to learn more about phonology which focuses on the segmental sounds that are produced in the organ of speech. The researcher also learn about how to pronounce the English word as good as its native speaker which is very useful to apply it in the real English conversation, especially, when the researcher or other people whom interested to this study having a communication with Afro-American.



## 5.2 Suggestions

This research only discusses about what the types of phonological characteristics of Afro-American based on the segmental sounds are. Nevertheless, it will be more interesting for the next researchers to explore more on the suprasegmental sounds that contain: stress, pitch, tone, intonation etc because this research also relates to the suprasegmental sounds as a part of phonological study.

It is suggested for the next researchers to have more patient and carefulness to conduct the research about phonological characteristics because it needs back and forth processes to gather and analyze the data of the research that dealing with the sounds transcription. The next researchers have to concern more in the sounds which are uttered by the object of the research in order to get complete analysis of the phonological characteristics that has been researched.

It is also suggested for the next researchers to explore more on phonological characteristics of the other variant of language, for example, Jamaican English language, Scotland's English language, Australian English language and etc. that can be found in other movies, with the purpose of enriching the knowledge about phonological characteristics of other variant of languages.

In short, learning about the knowledge of the human speech language can remind human beings to understand deeply about producing the right word used in daily conversation.

As The holy Qur'an mentioned in Surah Ibrahim verse 24<sup>67</sup>:

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ ضَرَبَ اللَّهُ مَثَلًا كَلِمَةً طَيِّبَةً كَشَجَرَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ أَصْلُهَا ثَابِتٌ وَفَرْعُهَا فِي السَّمَاءِ

السَّمَاءِ

*Means Seest thou not how Allah coineth a similitude: A goodly saying, as a goodly tree, its root set firm, its branches reaching into heaven<sup>68</sup>.*

A goodly saying here means, the human beings have to produce a good sentence or word used in the communication. This is showed in the research that is already conducted. This research, hopefully, can add the knowledge about the speech of Afro-American as a variant of English language that is purely talked about how they speak. Therefore, the human can have a broader understanding that eventually leads them to produce a good language in their lives.

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<sup>67</sup> . Qur'an digital in word, Taufiq product, Inc, Get Al-Qur'an in M-S Word ver 0.0.1

<sup>68</sup> . The Qur'an translation of Marmaduke Pickthall taken from Pickthall/pickhtallquran.pdf, accessed on March 5, 2008.

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# APPENDICES

**Table 1. The Characteristics Involving Diphthong**

Deletion of Diphthong	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
July	/jʌwlaɪ/ → /jʌwla:/
my	/maɪ/ → /ma:/
remained	/rɪəʊnɪd/ → /rɪmaɪnd/
time	/taɪm/ → /ta:m/
nice	/naɪs/ → /na:s/

**Table 2. The Characteristics Involving Interdental**

The Change of Interdental sound stop sound	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
They	/θeɪ/ → /deɪ/
This	/θɪs/ → /dɪs/
The	/θ / → /d /
With	/wɪθ/ → /wɪt/
There	/θæ/ → /dæ/

The Change of Interdental sound to the Alveolar stop sound	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Through	/*ruw/ → /truw/
Thought	/*O:t/ → /tO:t/
Three	/*ri/ → /tri/
Think	/*iG/ → /tiG/
Thug	/*ag/ → /tag/

Stopping Interdental Fricative sound	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
something	/səmθɪŋ/ → /səmtn/
Nothing	/nəθɪŋ/ → /natn/
everything	/evrɪθɪŋ/ → /evrɪtn/
anything	/eniθɪŋ/ → /enitn/

Labialization of Interdental Fricative	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Booth	/buwθ/ → /buwɸ/
Tooth	/tuwθ/ → /tuwɸ/
Growth	/grɔwθ/ → /grɔwɸ/
Both	/bɔwθ/ → /bɔwɸ/

**Table 3. The Characteristics Involving Liquid(Lateral) sound**

Vocalization of /l/	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Spell	/spel/→/speu/
Tell	/tel/→/speu/
Real	/ri l/ →/ri  /
Smell	/smel/→/smeu/

Deletion of /l/ before Labial	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Help	/help/→/hep/
Self	/self/→/sef/
Yourself	/yursel/→/yursef/

**Table 4. The Characteristics Involving Final Consonant**

Deletion of second consonant in final consonant position	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Hand	/hænd/→/hæn/
Last	/læst/→/læs/
Rent	/rent/→/ren/
Want	/wɒnt/→/wɒn/

Omission of /r/	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Girl	/g rl/→/g l/
Dark	/dark/→/dak/
Here	/hir/→/hi/
Floor	/flɔr/→/flɔw/

Devoicing of final consonant or obstruent	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Bad	/bæd/→/bæ:t/
Paid	/peyd/→/pey:t/
Had	/hæd/→/hæ:t/
Mad	/mæd/→/mæ:t/



Deletion of final consonant	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Man	/mæn/→/mæ/
What	/wOt/→/wO/
Her	/h r/→/h /
Head	/hed/→/he/

**Table 5. The Characteristic Involving Nasal Consonant**

Shifting of the nasal sound to the other nasal sound	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Saying	/seiŋ/→ /sein/
planning	/plæniŋ/→ /plænin/
Tripping	/trippiŋ/→ /trippin/
Fronting	/frantiŋ/→ /frantin/

**Table 6. The Characteristic Involving Consonant**

Deletion of reduplicated consonant	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Little	/lit l/→ /li l/
didn't	/did nt/ → /dient/
probably	/prab blie/→ /prable/
Intolerant	/inɔ̃tal r nt/→ /intal r nt/

**Table 7. The Characteristic Involving the Prefix sound /str/**

Substitution of the prefix sound /str/ to /skr/	
Words	Phonological Characteristics
Street	/strit/→ /skrit/
Strong	/strOG/→ /skrOG/
Straight	/streyt/→ /skreyt/
stranger	/streynj r/→ /skreynj r/