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To What Extent has African American Vernacular English Been Regarded as a Separate

It has been a matter of harsh debate for several decades whether the African American Vernacular is a separate language or merely an input version of standard English. On one side of the argument, the evolution of Ebonics has gathered a multitude of scholars to stand at its side and defend its right to be a separate language apart from Standard English. On the other side, there are those that argue that AAVE (African American Vernacular English) is Standard English with mistakes and were referred to as a "Black speech". In 1996, the Oakland School Board recognized AAVE as the primary language of the majority of the African American Students. This caused an uproar and put the stance of the AAVE under the question and its validity as a separate language. Judging by the historical context and the development of AAVE, to what extent has African American Vernacular been regarded as a separate language, mostly in its phonetics and structure throughout its history and where does it stand in modern society?



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