

African-American Vernacular English (AAVE)

(<http://www.une.edu.au/langnet/>)

(<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/socioling/pidgin.html>)

(AAVE, African-American English, Ebonics [Ebony + Phonics], Black English)

Copula Deletion (AAVE)

- *She ugly*
- *You crazy*
- *He workin'*

Copula Contraction (SE, AAVE)

- *She's ugly* < *She is ugly*
- *You're crazy* < *You are crazy*
- *He's workin'* < *He is working*

Copula Deletion in AAVE follows the Copula Contraction rules of English

- Neither Deletion nor Contraction is possible if the Copula is stressed
 - *Here I ám.* **Here I'm.* **Here I.*
 - *I wonder where he ís.* **I wonder where he's.* **I wonder where he.*
 - *Do you know what that ís?* **Do you know what that's? / that?*

Copula Deletion is possible in AAVE precisely where Contraction occurs in SE.

- This shows an intimate connection between the two varieties rather than a major structural difference.

Habitual (Invariant) *be* in AAVE

- *He be workin'* (at his job) vs. *He workin'* (at the moment)
- *That coffee be cold* (all the time) vs. *That coffee cold* (right now)
- Represents a morphological category difference between AAVE and SE
 - Note the meaning differences between *be* and deleted copula