CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

Connecting Strategies of Domination: An Epistemological Analysis of Black Vernacular and Creole Englishes

A graduate project submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

For the degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Abstract

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This project outlines how written language wields the power to express subjugated knowledge as it is defined by Toni Morrison in her work *Playing in the Dark*. Word work gives agency to margined groups whose mother tongue has been robbed from them. Together with Patricia Hill Collins’ *Black Feminist Thought* this project argues Black languages, which do not reflect the dominant force of power, are being scrutinized as illegitimate or idiomatic within the space of the internet in order to further dehumanize, fetishize and subjugate African American Vernacular English speakers. To prove this, this project will stylistically outline how once the words existing in dialect are written down in Standardized English they become proof of the enslavement of Africans by Europeans; this manifests a truth that is not in line with the dominant power structure’s
idea of manifest destiny. To understand this, we must use the concept of intersectionality to extend our understandings of archi-writing as it is defined by Jacques Derrida’s *Of Grammatology* to explain that words spoken in AAVE, once written down, expose a malleolus effervescence of homogony imbued into the dominate discourses categorization of Black languages.
Works Cited

