African American Vernacular English is a variety of English which is spoken by some groups of African American. One of the most popular African American singers is Nicki Minaj. The study aims to analyze the African American Vernacular English in the Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. In the data collection, the writer identified the words which may have phonological and morphological processes in lyrics of 27 Nicki Minaj’s songs. The writer found that there are some new words which contain phonological process and morphological processes. In phonological process, the writer found that Nicki Minaj often uses deletion rule (96.2%), regressive assimilation (2.5%), and insertion rule (1.3%). On the other hand, there are three morphological process in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics including alphabetic abbreviations (33.3%), blends (31.1%), clipping (15.6%), eponyms (13.3%) and variant of other words (12.5%).

**Keywords:** African American Vernacular English (AAVE); morphological processes; phonological processes

1. Introduction

One example of Non – Standard English is African American Vernacular English (AAVE). It is used by some group of people in the United State. This dialect has a number of characteristics which are not found in standard mainstream American English. AAVE is commonly used in the northern cities of the United States. The characteristic of AAVE is unique because there are many distinctive aspects. One of its most distinctive features is the complete absence of copula be in some social and linguistic context, while the speakers of Standard English use shortened or reduced forms of the verb be. AAVE speakers will say the sentence she is very nice by She very nice.

Since AAVE has many distinctive features, many scholars are interested in conducting a study on AAVE. First, a study by Adharini (2005) aimed to analyze the grammatical features of AAVE such as nonfinite verb and finite verb in Missy Elliot’s Supa Dupa Fly. Second, in a study by Marliahadi (2007), it was found that the AAVE had special features, for example, in morphology (the absence of to be such am, is, and are), in syntax (the use of ain’t replacing didn’t), and in phonology (the use of sound [n] which replaces sound [ŋ]). These AAVE features are also found in the conversation of the characters in Guess Who movie series. Third, in a study conducted by Kusuma (2007), it was found that there are many AAVE in the lyrics of 50 Cents. He found that in the lyrics of 50 Cents songs, the sound [n] replaces sound [ŋ]. Besides, Pramana (2009) analyzed the characters of AAVE utterances in Richard Wright’s Big Boy Leaves Home novel. He found the linguistics features like phonology (the use of g-dropping), morphology (multiple negation), and syntax (subject – verb agreement) level. Finally, Tejo (2011) who studied AAVE in the characters of White Chicks movie, found that there were many ain’ts and non – standard past tense forms.

According to the studies mentioned above, there are some similarities. Those studies show that AAVE features can be seen in phonology and morphology features. The most common feature is that the sound of [ŋ] at the end of the word which is replaced by [ŋ]. Other common features are multiple negation and non – standard present and past tense forms.
From the explanation of the studies above, indeed, AAVE is interesting to be researched. Not only is it found in the novel and movie, but it is also found in the music. The use of AAVE is very popular because people like listening to the lyrics of songs which are categorized as R&B, hip hop, and rap music. The features of AAVE are almost found in the Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. Nicki Minaj is an African American singer. According to an entertainment site Grape Juice news, one of the official music websites in the United States, the Nicki Minaj’s Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded album has been sold 726,875 copies in the first week and it got top ten position on Billboard. Because of her album sale and its eligibility to reach a top ten position in Billboard music, she becomes a famous African American singer.

The lyrics of Nicki Minaj’s songs are interesting. Some of her lyrics are Anyway, lil’ nigga don’t test the kid, oohh the girls, they wanna ride with us tonight and lemme hear that boy. From the short lyrics of Nicki Minaj, the writer found that there are some words that are not available in the dictionary generally such words lil’, nigga, wanna, and lemme. On those italic words, the writer found that there are some linguistic features which are not mentioned in the previous studies: Adharini (2005), Marliahadi (2007), Kusuma (2007), Pramana (2009), and Tejo (2011). Those studies do not include phonological process and a new word formation in AAVE. These differences make the writer interested and eager to conduct a study which aims to analyze the process of the phonological alternation and word formation of AAVE. Therefore, she decided to choose 27 lyrics of songs in Nicki Minaj’s 3rd album, Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded The Re-Up as her research data.

African American Vernacular English has many features that make some scholars are interested in analyzing it. The grammatical features of AAVE such as nonfinite verb and finite verb found in Missy Elliot’s Supa Dupa Fly (Adharini, 2005). Marliahadi (2007) found that the AAVE has special features, for the example in morphology (the absence of to be such am, is, and are), in syntax (the use of ain’t replaces didn’t), and in phonology (the use of sound [n] which replaces sound [ŋ]). These AAVE features are found in the conversation of the character in “Guess Who” movie series. Besides, the linguistics features like phonology (the use of g-dropping), morphology (multiple negation), and syntax (subject – verb agreement) level in the characters of AAVE utterances in Richard Wright’s Big Boy Leaves Home novel were analyzed by Pramana (2009). Finally, Tejo (2011) who studied AAVE in the characters of “White Chicks” movie, found the morphology (the use of ain’t) and syntax (non – standard past tense).

The writer analyzed the linguistic features of African American Vernacular English used in the Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. In her research, she only focused on the process of phonological alternation and word formation. The writer used the theory proposed by Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams(2011), Hannah and Davenport (2005) and Roach (1991). According to Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2011), there are several word formations.

2. Words Coinage

Word coinage is the construction and invention of new words which become part of the lexicon (Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams 2011:501). Recently the advertising industry often uses many words in English, such as Kodak, Nylon, Orlon, and Dacron. There are also some specific brand names now such as Xerox, Band – Aid, Kleenex, Jell-O, Brillo, and Vaseline used as the generic name for some different brands now. Some of these words were also formed from the existing words, for example Kleenex from the word clean and Jell-O from gel. In words asteroid, neutron, genome, krypton, brontosaurus, and vaccine were formed to describe the objects or processes arising from the scientific investigation. Those words used by sciences have given a raft of newly coined words over the age.

3. Blends

Blends are formed by combining two words, but parts of the words that are combined are deleted (Fromkin et.al 2011:502) like smog, from smoke + fog; brunch, from breakfast and lunch; motel, from motor + hotel; infomercial, from info + commercial; and uranalysis, from urine + analysis. According to Fromkin et.al (2011) podcast is a new word meaning as internet audio broadcasting and recently joined the English language as a blend of iPod and broadcast.
4. Eponyms

Eponyms are words coined from proper names and another of the many creative ways that vocabulary of language expands. Some of words which include eponyms are:

- **Sandwich** Named for the fourth Earl of Sandwich, who put his food between two slices of bread, so that he could eat while he gambled.
- **Robot** After the mechanical creatures in the Czech writer Karel Capek’s play R.U.R, the initials standing for “Rossum’s Universal Robots”.
- **Gargantuan** Named for Gargantua, the creature with a huge appetite created by Rabelais.
- **Jumbo** after an elephant brought to the United States by P.T. Barnum. (“Jumbo Olives” need not be as big as an elephant)

5. Reduced Words

Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2011) classified reduction words into clipping, acronyms, and alphabetic abbreviations.

5.1. Clipping

Clipping is the abbreviation of longer into shorter ones, such as fax for facsimile; in the British sometimes word telly refers to television, prof for professor, piano for pianoforte, and gym for gymnasiaum. They are only a few examples of such clipped forms that are used as whole words now for example ad (advertisement), bike (bicycle), math (mathematics), gas (gasoline), phone (telephone), bus (omnibus), and van (caravan) and other words dis and rad (from disrespect and radical).

5.2. Acronyms

Acronyms are words derived from the initials of several words such as Radar from “radio detecting and ranging”, laser from “light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, and RAM from “random access memory”.

5.3. Alphabetic abbreviations

Alphabetic abbreviations are acronym that the string of letters is not easily pronounced as a word. The acronym is produced by sounding out each letter, as in NFL [ɛnˈfɛl] for National Football League, UCLA [yuˈsiːle] for University of California, Los Angeles, and MRI [ɛˈmærɪ] for Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

5.4. Borrowing or loan words

Borrowing words from other languages is an important source of new words, which are called loan words. Borrowing occurs when one language adds a word or morpheme from another language to its lexicon. There are numbers of French word entering English: government, nation, attorney, lechery, religion, crown, jury, saint, virgin, chapel, prince, judge, miracle, value, royal, estate, crime, charity, pray, money, parliament, sue, court, mercy, and society.

Besides analyzing new word formation, the writer also analyzed processing phonological alternation. Fromkin, et.al (2011) stated that the process of phonological alternation deals with the rules of phonology that, some of it, consist of feature-changing rules, insertion rules, and deletion rules

6. Assimilation rules

A phonological process that changes feature values of segments to make them more similar, for example a vowel becomes [ + nasal] when it is followed by [+ nasal] consonant. There are many assimilation rules in English according to Fromkin, et.al (2011). The voiced /z/ of the English regular plural suffix is changed to [s] after a voiceless sound and to [z] after a voiced sound. These are the instances of voicing assimilation. In these cases the value of the voicing feature comes from [+ voice] to [- voice] feature of the final consonant of the stem in derivation of words cats: /kæts +z/ → [kæts]. According to Roach, there are two combinations of assimilation. They are regressive assimilation and progressive assimilation. Regressive assimilation occurs when consonant A changes to become like consonant B in some way for the example in word that person [dæt p3:s’n] the sound of [t] is voiceless under the effect of the preceding sound [p]. Progressive assimilation occurs when consonant B changes
into consonant $A$ in some way for the example words $\text{dogs}$ [də:ɡz] and $\text{runs}$ [ɹænz] the sound [s] change to become [z] because the influence of the preceding voiced consonants.

7. **Dissimilation rules**

Phonological rules that change feature values of segments to make the changes less similar. The rule applied to sequences /ʃə/ and /sə/ become [ft] and [st] for the example a fricative dissimilation rule: /ʃə/ is pronounced [t] following another fricative like in words sixth /sɪks + ə/ is pronounced [sɪkst].

8. **Feature – changing rules.**

The rule in English that aspirates voiceless stops initial of a syllable simple adds a non-distinctive feature. Fromkin, et.al (2011) stated that aspiration occurs only if the following vowel is stressed. The /p/ in word pit and repeat is an aspirated [pʰ]. Besides, the /p/ in word inspect or compass is an unaspirated [p] (Fromkin, et.al 2011:289). They also note that in intervening consonant, the aspiration is happening in words such crib [kʰɪrb], clip [kʰɪp], and quib [kʰɪwɪp]. Those all words are initiated with an aspirated [kʰ].

9. **Insertion rules**

Insertion, a manipulating entire feature matrix, is the mirror image of a deletion rule. Therefore, it is inserting some segment $A$; it would be expressed by starting with zero: $Ǿ \rightarrow A$ (Davenport and Hannah 2005: 159). According to Davenport and Hanna there is any schwa inserted by a final liquid + nasal cluster, for example in words /film/ becomes [fɪlm].

10. **Deletion rules**

Deletion is expressed in terms of a segment becoming $Ǿ$ (zero) (Davenport and Hanna 2005: 159). They also explained that a variety of English in which a word – final coronal stop is deleted in cluster such in words ‘list’ [lɪs], ‘locust’ [lʊkəs]. Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams stated that /ɡ/ is deleted when it occurs before a syllable – final nasal consonant” in such words’ sign’ [saɪn], ‘design’ [dəzain], and ‘signature’ [ˈsɪgnəʃər].

11. **Methodology**

The writer used a qualitative approach because the writer analyzed some new words formations and phonological alternations of AAVE. The qualitative research is one of the research characteristics when the researcher is interested in analyzing about the process, meaning, and understanding through word or pictures (Merriam, 1998). In addition, the main part of the qualitative approach of the material or data is formed by the coding process, interpreting the analyzed text, and attributing the meaning to its individual parts (Charmaz, 2006; Bryman,2004; Flick,1998).

In obtaining the data, there are several steps that would be taken. First, the writer took the written lyrics of each song from CD entitled Nicki Minaj’s on *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded* album. Second, she underlined words which contain AAVE phonological and morphological features that are different from Standard English. Third, she made a list of the underlined words in order to make classification the features easily. Finally, she rewrote the underlined words and put them into table.

The features would be identified by the theory of Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams, (2011), Hannah and Davenport (2005), and Roach (1991). Besides, she also used Slang American dictionary as her guidelines to organize each AAVE linguistic features found in the lyrics. The source of data in this study were 27 songs of Nicky Minaj and the data contained of AAVE linguistic features. After that, she counted the number of phonological alternation processes and words formation that are used in Nicki Minaj and its percentage for each phonological alternation processes and words formations.

12. **Discussion**

After doing the analysis, the writers found some AAVE linguistic feature. In table 1, it shows the phonological processes and word formations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AAVE Words</th>
<th>Phonological alternation process</th>
<th>Word Formation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lil’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotta</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’m</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y’all</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘em</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wanna</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gon’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gotta</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outta</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemme</td>
<td>Regressive assimilation</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gimme</td>
<td>Regressive assimilation</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonna</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tryna</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulda</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotta</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fo’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘til</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pree</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watcha</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotta</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>Blending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trippin’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doin’</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Phonological Process and Word Formation

12.1. Phonological features

In regressive assimilation section, the writer found *lemme* and *gimme*. *Lemme* [leme] is abbreviation of *let me*. It has consonant changes in place articulation where a final consonant with alveolar place of articulation is followed by an initial consonant with a place of articulation which is not alveolar. The sound [t] changes into [m] if [t] is followed by [m]. In this case [t] is the alveolar while [m] is bilabial, thus the changes is appear when the final consonant [t] of *let* changes into initial consonant [m] of *me* and also [m] is stronger influence than [t]. Therefore, *let me* becomes *lemme* [leme].

*Gimme* or *give me* is another example of regressive assimilation which also assimilates in three ways. In place of articulation, the final consonant of place articulation is labiodentals [v] and it is followed by initial consonant of bilabial [m]. The [v] changes into [m] if [t] is followed by [m]. Therefore, it becomes *gimme* [gme]. *Gimme* or *give me* has a consonant change in manner of articulation. In this case, the final consonant [v] of *give* is a fricative and the initial consonant [m] of *me* is a nasal stop.

12.2. Deletion Rules

In this rule, the writer found fifteen deletion rules of AAVE words in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. They are:

a) *Anyway, lil’ nigga don’t test the kid*
b) *I’m a* violate your asses like Chris Stokes
c) *I’m the motherfucking Queen ‘lizabeth*
d) *But y’all don’t hear me through*
e) *When they go against the kid its gon’ cost for real*
f) *Watcha* done did I need some referrals
g) *Boobs, boobs, boobs, lotta, boobs*
h) *And if she ain’t tryna give it up*
i) *I’m me top shotta’ drop the top*
j) Send ‘em up in flames like a firemen
k) But I got a real big ol’ ratchet though
l) You alone, me ah pree
m) My 10 year old plan just one year ‘til finish
n) Plus play the rent fo’ me
o) You can see what I been thinkin’

Lil’ as in point a) is formed by little which is supposed to be pronounced by [lɪtl] but the sound of [t] is deleted; therefore, it becomes [lɪl]. I’ma consists of word *I am going to*; in this case the deletion process occurs in going to [gʊʊn tuː]; thus it is only *I* ma forms in pronouncing [aɪmə] as in point b). *Elizabeth* [ˈɛlɪzəbɛθ] is pronounced *lizabth* [lɪzəbɪθ] in point c) because it omits the sound [t]. In point d) the omission occurs in words of [aʊv] from *all of you* [ɔl vɔː juː]; thus the simplified of *all of you* is *y’all* [juːl]. *Gonna* [gɑːnə] is simplified into *gon*’[gon]; in this case *gon*’ deleted *na* [nɑː] in *gonna* such in point e. *Watcha* is composed by what [wɔːt] *do* [duː] *are* [aːr], and *you* [juː] that it is simplified on *you* [juː] and *do/are* changes into *watcha* [wɔːtʃə] as in point f). Therefore, the abbreviation of *watcha* based on lyric above is *what are you done did I need some referrals*. As in point g) there is omission of of *[aʊv] and *a* [aː] in word a lot of that it becomes *lotta*. It also occurs in point h) *trying* and *to* which omission of +ing and +to; therefore it produces as *tryna* [trɪmə]. There are other simplified words which have different omission aspect with explanations above in point i). It is a *shotta* [ʃətə]. *Shotta* is an abbreviation of shot callers; it only changes word *callers* [kæləs] into [tə]. *Em* in point j), is simplified to word them [θem] which is deleted the [θ]. Ol’ [oʊl] is also from old [ɑld] and [d] is deleted as in point k). Other variation examples of deletion rule are *pree* in point l) and *till* in point m). In word pretty [ˈprɛti] reduced [ti] sound becomes *pree* [prəi] and also in word until [ˈuntɪl] which is reduced [ʌnt]; therefore the result is *till* [tɪl]. The other word, as in point n), is fo’ [fʊ] it deleted the sound [r] of for. The last is in point t) *thinkin’* which is also classified as deletion because it dropped letter –g; therefore it is only [n] segment left.

12.3. Morphological features

12.3.1. Clipping

The writer found seven words of abbreviation from longer into shorter in lyrics of this album for the example:

a) Anyway, lil’ nigga don’t test the kid
b) Send ‘em up in flames like a firemen
c) But I got a real big ol’ ratchet though
d) She gon’ probably have to pay me
e) You alone, me ah pree
f) My 10 year old plan just one year til finish
g) Plus pay the rent fo’ me

The explanation of the italic words: in point a) *lil’* is reduced by little. In this case little [lɪtl] reduced some parts of sound segment [tl] becoming *lil’* [lɪl]. It also found in word ‘em [em] in point b) which reduction of them [dem] and the part of sound segments reduced is [d]. *Gon*’ in point d) is another example of clipping words for *gonna*. *Gonna* itself consists to *going to*. *Pretty* becomes *pree* as in e). *Til*, in point f), is also reduced by *until*. The last word is *for*; it is shortened into *fo’*.

12.3.2. Blends

The writer also found fourteen blending words in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. They are:

a) Lemme hear that boy.
b) Gimme one word for ya chain?
c) What they gonna say?
d) I’m shed a tear but I really don’t care
e) I’m tryna smash
f) I made a couple stars outta basic chicks
g) They wanna ride with us tonight
h) Gotta get the key for me
i) Watcha done did I need some referrals
j) Boobs,boobs, lotta, boobs
k) But y’all don’t hear me though
l) I’m me top shotta
m) When they go against the kid it’s gon’ cost for real
n) Shoulda shoulda said I got 5 in a possible

In point a) words lemmme consists of two words; they are: let and me; point b) words gimme from also consists of two words: give and me; words gonna in point c) is other blend words which also consist of two words: going and to. Gonna can be shortened into gon’ m) which also has a similar combination with gonna. Trying and to be able simplified becomes tryna as in e). Ought and to can blend as f) outta. Wanna in point g) is also variant blending words such two examples before, want and to; it includes gotta as in point h) abbreviate of got and to. There are two combinations of words in watcha in point i). They are what are and what do you. According to lyric above as in i) the word watcha refers to what are you because there is a verb after using watcha. Point j) lotta comes from word a lot of. All of you becomes y’all as in k). Shotta as in l) is an elaboration of shot and caller which means gangster by black people. Shoulda, according to lyric above, means should have because it is followed by past participle have. Besides, the writer also found blends words which consist of four words such in point d) I’m a consists of three words: I, am, going, and to which means an activity in the future.

The frequency of AAVE phonology features and morphological features found in Nicki Minaj’s of songs will be presented in table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Phonological alternation</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Regressive Assimilation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Progressive Assimilation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Feature changing – rule</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Insertion rule</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deletion rule</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>80.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Movement (metathesis) rule</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reduplication</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Occurrence of Phonological Alternation

There are seven phonological alternations found in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. The total numbers of the AAVE words used by Nicki Minaj’s in her lyrics are 91. From table 2, we can see that AAVE words that are mostly used in Nicki Minaj are deletion rule (80.85%). The second words are mostly used in Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded album are regressive assimilation (2.12 %). Finally the smallest number is insertion rule (1.06 %).

The frequency of AAVE phonology features found in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics will be presented in table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Word formation</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Variant other word</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Blends</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Eponyms</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Clipping</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>29.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alphabetic abbreviations</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Borrowing or loan words</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Occurrence of Word Formation

There are seven phonological alternation processes found in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics. The total number of the AAVE words that are used by Nicki Minaj’s in her lyrics is 79. From table 3, we can see that AAVE words that are mostly used in Nicki Minaj are deletion rule (96.2%). The second phonological processes that are mostly used in Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded album are regressive assimilation (2.5 %). Finally,
the smallest number is insertion rule (1.3%). For the progressive assimilation, feature changing – rule, movement (metathesis) rule, and reduplication are not available in Nicki Minaj’s lyrics of songs.

13. Conclusion

African American Vernacular English is an interesting topic to discuss because it is one kind of English varieties differing from Standard English and it is only spoken by certain ethnic, black people. After analyzing the data, the writer could conclude several points. First, the phonological features which are found in Nicky Minaj’s lyrics are progressive assimilation, insertion rules, deletion rules. Second, the morphological features which are found in Nicky Minaj’s lyrics are blend, reduced word in terms of clipping. Third, for the phonological features and morphological features which are frequently found, in phonological feature, Nicki Minaj mostly uses deletion and in morphological feature, she almost uses blending formation.

Finally, the writer hopes that this study will be useful for the readers who like to listen to the songs which are sung by black American singers, to improve new knowledge and vocabulary. The readers may have knowledge that varieties of English can be found in the lyrics of song. The writer expects that this study may give some contributions for other students who are interested in doing linguistic research, not only who want to analyze AAVE, but also who want to analyze other variety languages.

14. References


Scheibman, Joanne. (200a). *I dunno but…..a usage-based account of the phonological reduction of don’t in conversation*, 5, 90-573.


