

## **The Developed Relations between Social Class and Language in United Kingdom and United State of America**

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### **Abstract**

*There has been an arising issue related to the correlation between language and social among social communities in United Kingdom and America. Both of the social communities usually employ different language varieties which are in accordance to the position of social class. In England, the higher social community tends to use Received Pronunciation while the lower social community tends to use estuary accent. On the other hand, in America, the higher social community tends to use Standard English while the lower social community tends to use African American English. The present study primarily focuses on the relationship between language and social class in United Kingdom and America in which the association of the language and social class is described qualitatively through reviewing any literatures related to the aforementioned issue. After examining the data, it is showed that, nowadays, even though Received Pronunciation is considered as the standard English in United Kingdom, the speakers of the language are only 3%. Furthermore, the Estuary accent is now used by the broadcasting station even though in the past they only used the Received Pronunciation. In addition, African American Language, which is considered as the language of lower social class, in the present day is also used by white people as upper class in America*

*Keywords : language varieties, social class, sociolinguistic*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In a particular society, language has an important position as a culture that includes aspects of norms, lifestyles, and habits of a society. The indivisible language and cultural relationships give rise to a variety of language styles as a hallmark of the society. According to Pangaribuan (2010), a group of individuals who cooperate each other is usually called as a society. The cooperative relationship carried out by each member of the society creates a situation in which the language is used as a means of communication. The use of language variety is not only influenced by the norm but also the social class within the society. A social class of a person is determined by the power, social role, occupation, and income as well (Pangaribuan, 2010).

Varieties of accents arise due to the inextricable relationship between social class and language performed by each member of a certain community within a particular social class even though, basically, they have the same dialect. In English speaking societies, there are also varieties of accents within a social community that has the same dialects, such as the English accent employed by Queen Elizabeth which is different to the English accent possessed by taxi drivers in London (Thomas & Wareing, 2004) due to several differences in terms of social status. The presumption that the accent used by the upper class is better than the lower class refers to the term of *Received Pronunciation*.

The term of Received Pronunciation refers to the similar English pronunciation possessed by various English countries. The accent used by the Royal Family members and BBC Broadcasting in United Kingdom is referred to as standard English pronunciation. Furthermore, the differences in language varieties between upper and lower social classes are often pointed out by several writers, such as Shakespeare and Charles Dickens within their novels. As in Hamlet's novel, the nobility speaks standardized, poetic and formal speech, while the lower classes speak more non-standard speech. In a nutshell, by interpreting the works of the aforementioned English writers, the existence of interrelations between language and social class can be revealed.

The present article primarily discusses the differences of English language varieties between the upper and lower classes in United Kingdom and America. Moreover, the discussion includes the pronunciation of the words, as well as the use of different vocabularies.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 The Theory of Labov

In 1966, William Labov conducted a study related to the varieties of language use in New York entitled "The Social Stratification of English in New York City". The study was conducted by interviewing 340 peoples of New York who were chosen randomly. The results of this study provided a new insight on the theory of the relationship between the social community and social class.

The classification proposed by Labov suggests that the social class level can be divided into 5 classes, namely upper class, upper middle class, middle class lower, working class and lower class. In addition, the results of the present research showed that the variety of language used arises due to the influence of the social environment. For instance, the use of a

third-person singular (he, she, it) with the suffix of *-s*. Labov discovered that the incidence of *s*-ending recitations in succession indicates a high social class, while the absence of suffix *-s* denotes a lower social class. The absence of suffix *-s* is considered as the non-standard speech in English. Therefore, it can be concluded that the standard speech of English may likely to be appeared and employed by the community of higher social class rather than the lower one (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

Above all, the results also indicated the differences in pronouncing the consonant of /n/, such as in *reading* and *eating*. The working class social community is likely to pronounce the consonant suffix of /n/ shorter than the usual and standard pronunciation. Also, it was also discovered that the worker and lower classes accustomed not to pronounce the consonant of /h/ while, in fact, English pronunciation by negating the consonant of /h/ is considered as the non-standard speech form. With the presence of the Labov's results of the study, there has been a theory stating that different language variations appear with due regard to certain social class environments, age and gender (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

## **2.2 The Theory of Bernstein**

Bernstein presents a theory of detailed and limited codes (Block, 2014). The use of formal language variation, which is complex, is usually called as detailed code. The instance of the detailed code includes standard and formal speech in English, which is usually spoken by the middle class community.

On the other hand, the use of non-standard language variation, which is simpler, is usually called as the limited codes. The use of *slang* refers to an example of the limited code usage. Related to the limited code, Bernstein puts a statement that the limited code is usually applied by the working and lower classes. In addition, the theory of Bernstein believes that to predict an intellectual level of an individual is derived from the individual's speech. As a consequence, a theory pertinent to the detailed and limited codes arises stating that the detailed code is used more frequently by the middle class society with high intellectuals, while the limited code is use more frequently by the worker class society (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

The Bernstein's theory had a tremendous impact on the level of society that led to the assumption that the workers were people with low intellectuals who were deemed incapable of working with the middle class in the field of education. This assumption produces a negative influence for the offspring of the working class, especially African-American descent. Many societies generalize that the African-American people have a lower intellectual level compared to the white people (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

## **2.3 The Theory of Sapir-Whorf**

Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf put forward the theory of linguistic relativity. Both are the linguistic experts declaring that the language varieties used by different mother tongue cause several differences in terms of cognitive differences and individual behavior of a person in seeing the world. The mother language owned by each individual acts as a *barrier* for the individual to see the world. Because of the appearance of the barrier, an individual tends to classify and conceptualize various natural phenomena due

to his or her mother tongue (Sumarsono, 2002). An example of *language barriers* that is a child who has Indonesian as his mother tongue. In Indonesian, he learns the word 'rice' which means 'nasi' in Indonesian or 'food that consists of small white grains'. However, when the child learns English, it is likely that the child is questioning the difference of the English terms for 'beras' and 'nasi' which actually both means 'rice' in English. The emergence of such questions as a mother language of the child affects the cognitive and behavior developments of the child in seeing various kinds of issues in the world.

Benjamin Lee Whorf gives another example which is related to the grammatical differences possessed by the Indians in America that would influence their views on the world (Sumarsono, 2002). It shows that the cognitive and behavioral developments of the individual are influenced by the mother tongue acting as a barrier for each individual.

The theory of linguistic relativity gives the notion that there is a possible emergence of a superior language used among the society of the upper class and the primitive language used by the lower middle class. The linguistic expert, William Whitney, argues that primitive languages should have been omitted and that people should not use them. In addition, he stated that the society should learn the superior languages as mother tongue so that their cognitive and behavior development are able to progress better compared to those who have the primitive language as the mother tongue (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

## 2.4 The Theory of Trudgill

Peter Trudgill is an English sociolinguist who, in 1970, conducted a study to examine a hypothesis related to the social class having a great position in an English social community in Norway. A total of 60 representatives attained from four different areas in Norway participated and tested using an instrument called as the "Social Index Scale" (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

A total amount of 60 participants were assessed using the instrument which referred to 6 criteria that is, education, employment, income, residence area, type of residence and parents' occupation. Then, the 60 participants were also divided into 5 social class that is *upper working class*, *middle working class*, *lower working class*, *lower middle class* and *middle middle class*.

The procedure carried out by Trudgill was based on 4 styles of speech, namely 1) Word list style (2) Reading passage style, in which the participants were asked to read a poem, 3) Formal style, in which the participants were asked to answer some questions, 4) Casual style, in which the participants were asked to tell jokes (Thomas & Wareing, 2004).

According to the results of this study, it was discovered that there were some differences in English pronunciation uttered by the participants. The difference was seen in the expression of words ending *-ing*, such as in the words of *swimming* and *running*. The participants from high social class participants uttered the right pronunciation of *-ing* words, while the participants from low social class uttered the words ending *-ing* with the pronunciation of *-n*. To summarize, it was concluded that the social community from higher social class may likely to pronounce the standard pronunciation of words. On the other hand, the pronunciation of non-standard words is usually employed by the social community from lower social class (Thomas & Shan Wareing, 2004).

### 3. RESEARCH METHODS

At 1707, the social class in United Kingdom was divided into ten social classes which is illustrated in Figure 1.

No	Class
1	Royal
2	Aristocracy
3	Baronet
4	Knight
5	Professionals and businessman
6	Gentry
7	Cleargy
8	Yeoman
9	Husbandman
10	Cottagers

Figure 1. Social Class in UK at 1707

However, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the classification of social class in United Kingdom was decreasing into six social classes which were in accordance with the occupation.

Social class	Occupation
1	Professionals and senior managers
2	Associate professionals and junior managers
3	Intermediate occupations
4	Self-employed non-professionals
5	Other supervisors, craft jobs
6	Routine jobs
7	Elementary jobs
8	Unemployed

Figure 2. Social Class in UK in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Continued to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the new social class was introduced by Mike Savage which was defined by economic, cultural and social capital aspects shaping the new seven social classes.

Class	Description
<b>Elite</b>	The most honoured people in Britain society that comes with wealthiest. This people went to the luxuries school and enjoy their life such as listening classical music and seeing opera
<b>Established middle class</b>	This class have high class but not the same as elite. They are also wealthiest.
<b>Technical middle class</b>	This new class lives in high economic capital but less socially they prefer communicate using social media.
<b>New affluent workers</b>	This people have middle economic allowance. They well known with social community and come from employed class background.

<b>Traditional working class</b>	These people don't like with the new culture and prefer to have their own house. This group have old average age
<b>Emergent service worker</b>	This group consist of young people with high social life and culture but their financial quite low.
<b>Precariat</b>	This group is the underprivileged among the other groups. They live in unsteady financial and have less interest to cultural community.

Figure 3. Social Class in UK in the 21<sup>th</sup> century

The class limitation from the 20<sup>st</sup> century was different to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, a further research showed that education level and the schools as well as campuses determined the level of social class. Most of the members of "Elite" class was graduated students from well-known university such as Oxford University, Cambridge University, and King's Collage University of London.

On the contrary, the social class in United State of America was determined on occupation and race. The higher social referred to the "White People" who had professional occupations, such as executive directors, doctors, professors, editors. On the other hand, the lower social class referred to "Black People" or the immigrants coming to the United State of America as a slave.

The theory of Trudgill, who conducted a study about social class having a great position in an English social community in Norway, showed that some English utterances had difference expression of words ending with *-ing*. The people from higher class pronounce the word ending with *-ing* with the English standard pronunciation while the lower class pronounce the *-n* instead of *-ing*.

Labov who examined a study about varieties of language in New York, provided a result about relationship theory between social community and social class. The result of the research discovered that the incidence of *s*-ending recitations in succession indicates a high social class, while the absence of suffix *-s* denotes a lower social class.

The Bernstein's theory came with a great impact to the society level which assumed that workers who had low intellectuals were incapable of working with the middle class in the field of education. This theory created a negative impression to the African-American descent because many societies generalized the African-American people with lower intelligence compared to white people.

Shapir-Whorf hypothesis came with the theory of linguistic relativity stated every culture analyzed the world with different ways according to their cultures. Moreover, Shapir-Whorf declared that the language varieties used by different mother tongues caused several differences in terms of cognitive and individual behavior of a person in seeing the world. The discussion area in the research article is based on the review of the theories about social class and language variation explained about.

## 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 The Relationship between Language and Social Class in United Kingdom

The position of social class in Europe began to change about 200 years ago, which was originally based on heredity but, at the present, is more based on class factors. The present

change has affected the use of language in the social community. The differences in rank society do not have an important role in the community of language. Through the social network, people learn how to speak in society. On the other hand, the rank status is determined by the legacy of the family in which the people from that background cannot change their status of language in the society.

While the rank status is determined by the family legacy, the class society faces a different case. A lot of people show their effort to change their social status through the changed of the class hierarchy. As a part of their changed to the higher class hierarchy, their language do the same case since a particular sociolect used in the language varieties is employed by particular class hierarchy status as well.

The social stratification within a social class creates a situation in which each individual and social community has to be classified into a certain social status. The present situation somehow causes the existence of several groups in the community who consider themselves as a better community compared to other groups. In general, the social class among various communities in United Kingdom is divided into 3 classes namely, *upper class*, *middle class* and *lower class*.

The classification of groups or individuals in the social class was generally adjusted based on the level of education, employment, economy, and family finance. However, in 1997, a study related to social class discovered that the location of a residence is one of many factors of an individual to be included into a particular social class (Thomas & Wareing, 2004). The present theory arose due to the fact that people living in particular locations of residence in London had an opportunity in continuing to higher educational level. In addition, by knowing the location of residence of a person, a chance for the person to be known to have better occupation or salary compared to other people were also be able to be discovered. Consequently, the location of the residence was included into several aspects that fall within the classification of social class.

Even though the classification of social class was claimed often to be seen from the level of education, family financial, economy and location of residence, yet there were still some classes determining the social class only based on the factor of occupation. In 1997, there had been a classification of social class appeared that only depended on the aspect of occupation as the determinant. The categorization of social classes based on the occupation was explained as follows:

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<b>Social Class</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
<b>Social Class 1</b>	<b><i>Professionals and senior managers</i></b> <i>doctors, lawyers, teachers, fund managers, executive directors, professors, editors, managers (with more than twenty-five staff under them), top civil servants.</i>
<b>Social Class 2</b>	<b><i>Associate professionals and junior managers</i></b> <i>nurses, social workers, estate agents, lab technicians, supervisors, managers with fewer than twenty-five staff under them, journalists, entertainers, actors.</i>

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<b>Social Class 3</b>	<b>Intermediate occupations</b> sales managers, secretaries, nursery nurses, computer operators, stage hands.
<b>Social Class 4</b>	<b>Self-employed non-professionals</b> driving instructors, builders.
<b>Social Class 5</b>	<b>Other supervisors, craft jobs</b> charge hands, plumbers, telephone fitters.
<b>Social Class 6</b>	<b>Routine jobs</b> truck drivers, assembly line workers.
<b>Social Class 7</b>	<b>Elementary jobs</b> labourers, waiters, cleaners.
<b>Social Class 8</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>

Source : Linda Thomas & Shan Wareing, 2004

According to Mike Savage in his book titled “*Social Class in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*”, it is stated that there is a new classification of class social in United Kingdom after conducting survey with 160,000.00 people. The new social classes are divided into seven classes, namely *elite*, *established middle class*, *technical middle class*, *new affluent worker*, *traditional working*, *emergent service workers* and *precariat*.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Elite</b>	The most honoured people in Britain society that comes with wealthiest. This people went to the luxuries school and enjoy their life such as listening classical music and seeing opera.
<b>Established middle class</b>	This class have high class but not the same as elite. They are also wealthiest.
<b>Technical middle class</b>	This new class lives in high economic capital but less socially they prefer communicate using social media.
<b>New affluent workers</b>	This people have middle economic allowance. They well known with social community and come from employed class background.
<b>Traditional working class</b>	These people don't like with the new culture and prefer to have their own house. This group have old average age
<b>Emergent service worker</b>	This group consist of young people with high social life and culture but their financial quite low.
<b>Precariat</b>	This group is the underprivileged among the other groups. They live in unsteady financial and have less interest to cultural community.

Source telegraph.uk

The speech uttered by the upper class society usually leads to formal and standard English. On the other hand, the lower class society uses non-standard speech of English. For instance, in uttering a statement of “*He is a man who likes his tea*”, the upper class tends to utter the statement based on the standard pronunciation or slightly changed to “*He is a man that likes his tea*”. However, people from the lower class tends to utter the statement in various pronunciation, such as “*He is a man as likes his tea*”, or “*He is a man of likes his tea*” (Thomas & Wareing, 2004 )



In terms of pronunciation in English, there are also various differences discovered between the upper and lower classes' utterances. The upper social class is more inclined to the standard English pronunciation, while the lower class tends to pronounce the sound of /th/ to /f/, such as in the word /think/ that sounds like /fing/, and the word /teeth/ that sounds like /teef/. In addition, sometimes, people from the lower class pronounce the sound of /th/ to /v/, such as in the word /that/ that sounds like /vat/, and the word /worthy/ that sounds like /worvy/.

The vocabulary aspect also becomes a part of differences between the upper and lower classes. There are several vocabularies in English showing the social status of an individual, which is usually called as *deadly sins* (Fox, 2004). The word 'pardon' in English social community is usually considered as the lower term compared to the *swearing words*. Thus, the use of 'pardon' tends to lead to the vocabulary used by the circle of the lower class. On the other hand, the upper class people prefer to use the word 'sorry' or 'what' rather than the word 'pardon'.

One of the vocabulary which is also a part of the deadly sins is the word of 'toilet'. The upper class society tends to use terms such as 'lavatory room' rather than 'toilet'. Meanwhile, the lower class society prefers to use words such as *bathroom, powder room, gents, ladies, privy* and *dunny* (Thomas & Wareing, 2004). Another vocabulary that is also included in the deadly sins is the word 'serviette' which is often used among the people of lower class. On the other hand, the upper class society tends to use the word of 'napkin' instead of 'serviette'.

The use of the word 'dinner' intended for lunch and the use of the word 'tea' for dinner tends to be used by the lower class society. On the contrary, the use of word 'lunch' intended for lunch and the use of the word 'tea' for tea serving activity tends to be used by the typical English nobility which is usually done at 4 pm with a complement such as cakes or sandwiches. Also, the word of 'sofa' is usually spoken by the upper class society, while the word of 'couch' or 'settee' is usually spoken by the lower class society.

The word of 'lounge' is also included in the deadly sins. The lower class society tends to use the word of 'lounge' and 'living room' as well. On the other hand, the word of 'sitting room' or 'drawing room' are usually uttered by the upper class society. The last vocabulary included in the list of deadly sins is the word 'sweet' used by the lower class society, while the upper class society tends to use the word of 'pudding' referring to the dessert. (Fox, 2004).

Upper Class	Lower Class
Sorry, What	Pardon
Lavatory room	Bathroom, powder room, gents, ladies, privy, dunny
Napkin	Serviette
Lunch	Dinner
Dinner	Tea
Afternoon tea	Supper
Sofa	Settee, couch
Sitting room, drawing room	Living room, lounge
Pudding	Dessert, sweet, afters

Some accents which are highly used by the lower class society is divided into 2 groups, namely the London's Cockney accent in East London and the Scouse accent used by Liverpool community in Merseyside area. The example from the scouse accent that is the present community often replaces the sound of 'CK' and 'K' to 'G', such as in the statement of 'can of coke' that sounds like 'gan of goge'. Furthermore, the examples of the London's Cockney accent is the sound of 'H' at the beginning of a word which is often eliminated, such as in the word of 'hello' that sounds like 'ello', as well as the sound of 'TH' which is replaced with 'V' such as in the word of 'bother' that sounds like 'bover'.

#### **4.2 The Relationship between Language and Social Class in America**

American English is a general term referring to the English language used in the United States. The English language used by the upper class is known as the English standard. Standard English languages are often used in official institutions in the United States, such as in legal institutions, government and education. Due to the influence of the standard English used in the Official Institution, the standard English language is considered to be the language for the upper classes.

On the other hand, languages that are often associated as languages of the lower class are the variations of African American English. AAE language itself is a language of creations among immigrants who come to America to work as slaves. African American English is created because immigrants do not have the same language as a communication means. Some scholars argue that the structure of African American English variety does not match the structure of standard English in America.

The African American English is widely used in western coastal areas such as California and San Francisco. Due to the existence of the standard English Language, it creates such a situation in which individuals who use African American English are not accepted by the social community. The minor classes who use African American English as the language of communication do not have the same opportunities as the upper class society who uses standard English in the areas of social, economics and politics.

The African American English is the variation of language spoken by the generation of African American in US. This language variety has a rule system combining sounds from words to words become phrases and sentences. In addition, the African American English also has a lot of names such as Black English, Negro Dialect, African American Language, and Black street speech. There are some hypotheses proposed related to the origin of African American English, which are:

1. Substratist view: the structures of AAE has distinct similarity with the language used by west African that comes to USA as a slave.
2. Creolist view: AAE has some features to creoles likes Jamaican and Gullah. African American English is a language that comes from pidgin to creole as a developed language within the African American social community.
3. Anglicist or dialectologist view: the development of AAE has similarities with English varieties which makes AAE is more related to English than to West African Languages.

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4. Founder principle view: AAE has impacted by the language of the founders colonial who come to US and inherit it to their children.
5. Settler principle view: in the seventeenth century, the AAE is formed by the African slaves, not by the European and African community.

The compound word from the African American English comes from the speaker uttering that language (black, African American). The term of African American English indicates a system of linguistic as a means of communication among some African American societies in some regionals of USA. Even though the contribution of AAE in English language varieties is well known, the AAE system has also some differences to the language system of English. The distinctive language system comes from the cultural relationship between dialects and languages (Finnegan & Rickford, 2004).

Below are the examples of some words from African American English that part of speech of the word is explained, even though there is no enough explanation about how to locate those words and phrase in the sentence

Word	Part of speech	Explanation	Sentences
Ashy	Adjective	Skin showing of dry	This lotion seems good for ashy skin.
Get over	Verb	Take advantage of	The pupils tried to get over on the teacher
Saditty	Adjective	Conceited	Having confidence is one thing but he is downright saditty
Call-self	Verb	The look from people that not seems have standards	He call himself driving

(Finnegan & Rickford,2004)

A linguist, Henry Widdonson (1994, in Robitaille, 2013) stated that the higher status of standard English has a remarkable position in American society. Thus, the use of standard English in American’s institution is acceptable. The status of *Standard English* as the acceptable language and formal speech in the US, creates an issue within the community declaring that the use of *African American English* is considered as an indication of lower social class.

The distinctive features between Standard English and African American English is described at the table below:

Contents	<i>Standard English</i>	<i>Black English</i>
<i>Habitual use of /be/</i>	<i>He works on Tuesdays</i>	<i>He be working Tuesday</i>
<i>Absence of the copular /is/ and /are/</i>	<i>She is my sister. They are on the computer</i>	<i>She my sister. They on the computer</i>
<i>Absence of third person singular, which extends to subject/verb agreement</i>	<i>She writes poetry</i>	<i>She write poetry</i>
<i>Absence of possessives or the use of possessive inflections for absolute</i>	<i>This is mine</i>	<i>This is mines.</i>

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<i>possessives</i>		
<i>High deletion of /ed/ for regular past tenses</i>	<i>He walked home</i>	<i>He walk home.</i>
<i>Altered syntax in questions and /ing/ is shortened to /in/ almost 100% of the time</i>	<i>Why aren't they growing?</i>	<i>Why they ain't growin'?</i>

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A linguist from United State, Steward, found various lexicons uttered by black people such as 'goeber' and 'juxe'. Also, Moddy, named the terminology from African American English that have same words but different meaning, such as the word 'kitchen' which refers to the part of a room in the house for cooking and baking. However, the word 'kitchen' in African American English means the hair that is difficult to uncurl and is located in the neck under the hairline.

Related to the pronunciation, Professor Wolfram declared some words from African American English missing the sound of /t/ in the last sound in several words, such as 'list' (lis), 'missed' (mis), 'left' (lef), and 'act' (aek). Also, the sounds of /p, k, d/ is missing in several words, such as 'desk' (des), 'find' (fain), and 'cold' (koul). In addition, some speakers of AAE pronounce the sounds of /t, d, f, v/ in the sound of /th/, such as *these* (dese), *with* (wit/wif), *birthday* (birfday), *bath* (baf), and *smooth* (smoov). To sum up, some illustrations from the sounds pattern of AAE suggests that it affects not only the individual consonants, but also the individual syllables, phrases, words and sentences. Therefore, the social community in America who utter the speech of African American is often considered as the "sounding black" people.

### 4.3 The Development of Relations between Social Class and Language in United Kingdom and America

Differences in the use of words and speeches in English are sometimes associated with their relationship to the social class. These differences include different structure of grammar, expression and vocabulary as well. In the speaking community in United Kingdom, the language known as the standard English is called *Received Pronunciation* which is known to be standard and official. In other words, RP is the standard English used in United Kingdom. The term of standard language is usually used to define a variety of language which is more acceptable compared to the other languages.

The origin of RP itself was found in the 16th century in which it was actually the accent of the educated people in London and its surroundings. Therefore, RP is often associated as a superior and acceptable accent in United Kingdom. Furthermore, the RP accent widely spread in almost all areas in the UK through the public schools. Along with its spreading usage, RP started to be employed by the army, social workers and people in church in communicating to each other so that RP had gained itself a respectable position within the social community (Hinton, 2015). Before the term of "Received Pronunciation" appears, it has been described as "British Common", "Educational Southern British English" and "BBC Pronunciation or Accent" (Roach, 2004).

Recently, some researchers discovered a change in Received Pronunciation phonological sound, from traditional Received Pronunciation to modern Received Pronunciation. Related to the traditional Received Pronunciation, Upton stated the sound of the words 'trap' was changed from /traep/ to /trap/ in modern RP. However, but it seemed that the changed from traditional RP to modern RP only happened in Northern English area.

Hannisdal conducted a study with 30 British newsreaders to find out the changes in Received Pronunciation, such as in the words of 'poor, sure' / pɔːr /, /sɔːr/, 'tune, endure' /tʃun/, /ɪndʒʊə/ (Hinton, 2015). In addition, Hinton suggested that there is a variation in accent of individuals. It happens because there are two distinct meanings of a word which create a situation of a person to jump from one meaning to another one. Also, the changed of the word itself did not happen because of the effect of new trend among the speakers but because of the maturity that happened to them.

The accent used by the upper class is known as Posh. The choice of vocabulary from Posh accent is very different from the other accents in English. For instance, the word "Pip Pip" means 'goodbye', "Poopcock" means 'nonsense', "Spiffing" means 'excellent', and 'Beastly' means 'very unpleasant'.

The language variety used by working, lower middle, and middle classes is known as *Estuary English*. The *Estuary English* is widely used in the southern part of England. Furthermore, *Estuary English* is considered more formal than Cockney and Scoush accents which are usually used by the lower class. Also, *Estuary English* has gained a position as a language barrier between Cockney and Received Pronunciation.

The distinctive features between Estuary and Received Pronunciation in place of articulation are shown in the table below:

Place of articulation	Received Pronunciation	Estuary
<b>Glottal stop /t/</b>	The speakers produce the glottal stop is noticeable. Such as word "football"	An alveolar stop is not accompanying and only appear in the last syllables. Such as (foot, what). Sometimes appear before vowels but with a weak sound (Water)
<b>Dark /l/</b>	In Received Pronunciation (l) shows off in the end of syllable with dark (l) and sound (h). it is appear likes soft and muffled sound ( Ball), //bɔːl/ and 'feel' /fi:l/.	In estuary accent dark (l) does not appear yet replaced with /w/ sound such as (ball), /bɔːw/ and feel, /fi:w/.
<b>Intrusive /r/</b>	In received Pronunciation there are not an /r/ sound yet placing a pause.	In estuary accent might making all word and join two words together with intrusive /r/
<b>Dropping of /h/</b>	In received Pronunciation there are not missing an /h/ even in words such as 'her', 'have'.	The speaker of estuary may missing the sound /h/ especially if it shows in the middle of sentence likes "where's he gone"

As the time goes, the use of estuary accent has changed too. In the past, the estuary is usually used only by the middle class society. However, nowadays, radio station and

television in United Kingdom begin to use it, even though, in the past, they only used the Received Pronunciation. Moreover, estuary, cockney and scouse accents have more speakers than Received Pronunciation that only has a few speakers in United Kingdom even though it has a role as a standard English.

Currently, in the US, the use of African American English is not only spoken by the lower class society but also by the white people who are often associated as upper class. With the AAE, the variety of English in America is growing along with rich vocabulary arise. Cultural differences, traditions and religions become the factors of the variation of language. For instance, the vocabulary of *break*, *ragtime*, *woogie*, and terms that are formed from the culture of jazz music such as *rock and roll* and *hard rock*. Some cultures and features of black culture do also appear in some movies such as *Bulworth* that is used as an image of black males such as rhyming, cool talk body language and the style of clothing. The discussion area in the research article is based on the review of the theories about social class and language variation explained about.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The choice of language variation in a community can be classified into a certain social class in the society. In the USA and United Kingdom, the use and choice of language variation depend on some social classes of each individualist. In United Kingdom, there are 8 classification of social class, which are *professionals and senior managers*, *associate professionals and junior managers*, *intermediate occupations*, *self-employed non-professionals*, *other supervisors and craft jobs*, *routine jobs*, *elementary jobs*, and *unemployed*. The higher status in the United Kingdom tends to use varieties of languages includes vocabulary, pronunciation and sentence's tenses on Standard English, as called Received Pronunciation. Whereas, the lower class usually uses varieties of languages which is different to standard English.

In the United States of America, the choice of language variation is determined into certain class social of an individual. As seen on type of occupation, there are 7 classification of social class in USA namely *major professionals*, *lesser professionals*, *semi-professionals*, *technicians*, *skilled workers*, *semi-skilled workers*, and *unskilled workers*. Also, the higher status in USA tends to choose English variations, such as vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar based on standard English called American English. On the contrary, the lower class tends to use African American English, which is considered as non-standard English in America, as a language of communication.

Even though there are various differences in using language variation by upper class and lower class in the United States of America and United Kingdom, yet the language variation in both countries have been developed. The use of English language variation is no longer depending on class social but on social's relationship. For instance, estuary accent is, at the present, used in radio station and television which is in the past only they only used Received Pronunciation. In addition, nowadays, African American English in America is used not only by black people or lower class but also by white people as refer to upper class.

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