

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823413003321
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Titolo	The historical evolution of earlier African American English : an empirical comparison of early sources // by Alexander Kautzsch
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York : , : Mouton de Gruyter, , 2002
ISBN	3-11-090797-6
Edizione	[Reprint 2012]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (350 p.)
Collana	Topics in English linguistics ; ; 38
Disciplina	427/.973/08996073
Soggetti	African Americans - Languages English language - United States - Foreign elements - African English language - United States - History African languages - Influence on English Black English Americanisms
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Enlargement of author's thesis (Ph. D.)--University of Regensburg, Germany.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [311]-327) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- List of abbreviations -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Data and methods -- Chapter 3. Negation patterns in Earlier AAE -- Chapter 4. The copula in Earlier AAE -- Chapter 5. Relativization in Earlier AAE -- Chapter 6. Comparison of written and spoken Earlier AAE179 -- Chapter 7. Conclusions -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Based on a 500,000 word corpus of early sources collected from ex-slave narratives, ex-slave recordings, and interviews with hoodoo priests, this book reconstructs the English spoken by African Americans between 1830 and 1920. By means of detailed quantitative analyses, three linguistic features (negation patterns, copula usage, and relative marker choice) are interpreted along the lines of temporal change, regional diversity, and variation across gender. Additionally, some 300 non-standard letters written by African Americans in the 19th century are compared to the main corpus in order to identify differences between speech and writing.

