

Sojourner Truth, a former northern slave named Isabella, is an iconic figure in the past and present society. Her claim to fame was not her struggle and life's story of oppression but her dignified speech given to the Women's Right Convention at Akron, Ohio. Her impressive choice of words and delivered message, known as *Ar 'n' t I a Woman*, was re-presented ten years after the event in two significantly different variations. One version of her speech was written in the *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, a newspaper aimed towards ending the oppression of slavery, on June 21, 1851. The other translation and interpretation of Sojourner Truth's nationally recognized speech was written in *The Narrative of Sojourner Truth* by Frances Gage, the president of the Women's Rights Convention. Both depictions of the speech are written with a unique choice of language and rhetorical devices intended to publicize the author's alternative purpose and aim. "By comparing both versions of this classic oral text of African American literature, we can usefully reconsider Sojourner Truth's message from two perspectives and thereby appreciate its complex impact on those in her own time who tried, with varying success, to convey the power of her verbal artistry" (Gates).

The use of dialect in these two variations of the speech with the various rhetorical strategies aim to influence the style and structure of the speech while employing an in-depth meaning and portrayal of an African American Slave who independently symbolize the cruelty of slavery, the march towards anti-slavery, the rights of women, and the progressive encouragement of the individual to make a difference despite present oppositions. The usage of language in both depictions of Sojourner Truth's speech "function to transform Truth into the kind of character that fits the storyteller's purpose and resonates with audience expectations formed by knowledge of similar portrayals"(Mandziuk) and other slave narratives. The dialect