

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Orlando L. Taylor

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Taylor, Orlando L. , 1936-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor,
Dates:	June 14, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:48:55).
Abstract:	Academic administrator and communications professor Orlando L. Taylor (1936 -) is dean of the Graduate School at Howard University. As a speech and communication scholar, Taylor and several other colleagues helped coin the term, "Ebonics." Taylor is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles in the field of communication disorders and linguistics. Taylor was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 14, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_076
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author and educator Orlando Taylor was born on August 9, 1936, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. His mother was a teacher and his father was a factory worker. Taylor attended Orchard Knob Elementary School through ninth grade. As a youth, he enjoyed listening to the radio, and in 1952, hosted his own show called "Teen Time" on the local radio station. In 1953, Taylor earned his high school diploma from Howard High School.

While attending Hampton University, Taylor participated in a student exchange program at Dennison University in Ohio, where he became a member of an all white fraternity, Delta Epsilon. In 1957, he earned his bachelor's of science degree in education. While studying for his master's degree at Indiana University, he joined the NAACP and participated in sit-ins and helped to integrate Bloomington barbershops. He earned his masters degree in 1960. He went on to further his education by earning his Ph.D. in education at the University of Michigan in 1966.

Taylor worked as a speech-language clinician, identifying speech disorders in patients, between 1958 and 1960. From 1960 to 1962, he was the director of the speech and hearing clinic at Fort Wayne State School in Indiana. From 1970 to 1973, Taylor was a professor of communication sciences at the University of the District of Columbia from. In 1972, Taylor and several other colleagues coined the term *Ebonics* to describe black speech patterns. The term is a combination of the words *ebony* and *phonics*. In 1975, Taylor taught students at Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley as a visiting professor.

In 1973, Taylor joined the faculty at Howard University where he served in a number of posts including executive assistant to the president, interim vice president for academic affairs, dean of the School of Communications and chair of the Department of Communications and chair of the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences. Currently Taylor is dean of Howard University's Graduate School, vice provost for research and a professor in the

School of Communications. As vice provost for research, he is responsible for increasing the number of Ph.D. recipients in science, math, and engineering.

Taylor is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles in the field of communication disorders and linguistics. He is also the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Orlando L. Taylor was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on June 14, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and communications professor Orlando L. Taylor (1936 -) is dean of the Graduate School at Howard University. As a speech and communication scholar, Taylor and several other colleagues helped coin the term, "Ebonics." Taylor is the author of numerous books, chapters and articles in the field of communication disorders and linguistics.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Taylor, Orlando L. , 1936-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Taylor, Orlando L. , 1936---Interviews

Howard University--Faculty--Interviews

African American college administrators--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews

Southern States--History--1865-1951

Segregation--Tennessee

African American families--Tennessee

Racially mixed people--United States--Interviews

Sharecroppers--Tennessee

Education, Secondary--Tennessee

African American educators--Interviews

Linguists--Interviews

Hampton University (Va.)

Denison University

Segregation in education--Ohio--Granville

Indiana University

Discrimination in higher education--Indiana--Bloomington

University of Michigan

Black English

English language--Study and teaching--African American students

Language and education--Social aspects--United States

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

Communications Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor, June 14, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor, Section A2004_076_001_001, TRT: 0:29:08
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Linguist and educator Dr. Orlando Taylor details his childhood in Jim Crow era Tennessee. He describes life in his all-white neighborhood and the sense of isolation he felt. Taylor also discusses his secondary education and relationship with his family and extended relatives. Taylor describes a grandfather who was the child of a white father and black mother and how his biracial status elevated him from sharecropping.

Howard University--Faculty--Interviews.

African American college administrators--Washington (D.C.)--Interviews.

Southern States--History--1865-1951.

Segregation--Tennessee.

African American families--Tennessee.

Racially mixed people--United States--Interviews.

Sharecroppers--Tennessee.

Education, Secondary--Tennessee.

African American educators--Interviews.

Linguists--Interviews.

Hampton University (Va.).

Denison University.

Segregation in education--Ohio--Granville.

Indiana University.

Discrimination in higher education--Indiana--Bloomington.

University of Michigan.

Black English.

English language--Study and teaching.

Language and education--Social aspects--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor, Section A2004_076_001_002, TRT: 0:29:32
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Dr. Orlando Taylor details his education, starting with his high school years in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He recalls his favorite activities in high school, and discusses his college aspirations. Taylor then describes his undergraduate years at Hampton University, talking about academics and social life on campus, and telling of his semester spent at an all-white school, Denison University. Taylor explains how the Denison experience taught him how to compete and thrive in an environment in which he was a minority. Taylor then describes his time as a graduate student at Indiana University, telling of his studies and his efforts to fight racial discrimination on campus, including his participation in sit-in demonstrations. After receiving his master's degree from Indiana, Taylor talks about his work as a speech therapist in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Finally, Taylor explains why he chose to attend the University of Michigan for his doctorate.

Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor, Section A2004_076_001_003, TRT: 0:30:39
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Dr. Orlando Taylor delves into the theories and controversy surrounding Ebonics, a linguistic theory and phrase he first coined. Taylor describes the issues facing African Americans who speak non-standard English and his efforts to reach them through the use of Ebonics in an educational setting. He also discusses the controversy surrounding the use of Ebonics to teach black students. Taylor then summarizes his work at Howard University, and considers why the institution is the largest producer of black Ph. Ds. Finally, Taylor reflects on his career and shares his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Orlando L. Taylor, Section A2004_076_001_004, TRT: 0:19:36
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Orlando Taylor narrates his photographs.