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Title?

The late comedian, Bernie Mac, once said: "it's okay to have that Nigga in you....Ain't nothing wrong with bein' a Nigga. There's somethin' wrong with being a "nigger"- but not a Nigga" (Asim_x 212). However, the question of where the line that separates a "nigga" from a "nigger" is drawn is still being asked today. "In JUBA TO JIVE: A Dictionary of African- American Slang, Clarence Major wrote that the N word can function as a term of endearment when exchanged by blacks, whose usage reflects a tragicomic sensibility that is aware of black history" (Asim_x 212). What is a term of endearment? Terms of endearment usually are "nicknames" that express love and effection, i.e. sweetheart, honey, baby, snicker doodle, pumpkin, and things of that nature. Really, where is the love and affection in being called a "nigga"? Being an African- American woman myself, I believe we as a race should not refer to one another as "nigga" or "nigger" especially as a "term of endearment. The majority of us as a race have taken a term that was once used to degrade us as a people, and have turned it into a part of our everyday vocabulary.

Andrew Hacker said: "Societies create vocabularies, devising new terms when they are needed and retaining old ones when they serve a purpose. Dictionaries list

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