CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background to conduct this research. This includes Background, Statement of Problem, Research Objective, Research Significance, and Definition of Key Terms.

1.1. Background

In English language, there are varieties of English, which teacher and linguists express their concern about the decay of English language based on non-standard varieties of English to fit the description as "ungrammatical". Moreover, in our country, English as second language is studied by learner based on standard English form in formal setting like education system at the school. As the result, people who study English language as second language in their country just know English sentence related to the standard form.

Leech and Startvik (2002) argued that their study "emphasized that in English sentence, every sentence of English must have at least one verb, and a verb phrase that consists one or more auxiliary is called complex phrase" (p.37). Therefore, primary auxiliary verbs have most important function grammatically in forming of tensed verb. Whereas, in this case, there is the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in the sentences of characters' conversation within novel written by Toni Morrison's *Beloved,* and it is interesting phenomenon to investigate this research.

Beloved is African American novel written by Toni Morrison, there is the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in the sentence of characters' conversation which is the feature of ungrammatical in English language. Therefore, it is unacceptable in the standard English. **Table 1.1** shows some the examples of the presence of primary auxiliary verbs omitted by some characters in their conversation within novel:

No	The Omission of Primary Auxiliary Verbs Occurred in The Sentence of Characters' Conversation in The Novel
1.	**"**How old are you, Lu? **I been bleeding for four years but I ain't having nobody's baby.** Won't catch me sweating milk cause.." (l.10, p.45)
2.	"What'd be the point?" asked Baby Suggs. "Not a house in the country ain't packed to its rafters with some dead Negro's grief. **We lucky** this ghost is a baby. My husband's spirit was to come back in here? or yours? Don't talk to me. **You lucky.** You got three left. (l.47, p.2)
3.	**Why they hang your ma'am?**" Denver asked. This was the firs time she had heard anything about her mother's mother. Baby Suggs was the only grandmother she knew. (l.53, p.33)
4.	**Where you been keeping yourself?** I told John must be cold if Stamp stay inside. (l.13, p.38)

In the previous explanation and some examples above, this novel is African American Vernacular English novel written by Toni Morrison. As the result, the writer will investigate this phenomenon in sociolinguistics field, because African American Vernacular English is an ethnicity in the United States. Therefore, this research will use sociolinguistics theory based on who argued that

his “study to identify the linguistic variable as basic working tool, then to see how linguistic variation relates to social variation” (Wardhaugh 2006, p.146).

The presence of primary auxiliary verbs omitted by the characters in the conversation of the novel shows that the examples above are the features of linguistic variation in English language. Therefore, the writer will investigate this linguistic variation that correlated with social variation for analyzing this phenomenon in the novel, and African American Vernacular English is an ethnicity in the United States which is one of social variations in sociolinguistics filed. In recent study Holmes (2001, p.177) argues that the linguistic differences act as the symbol of ethnicity, and express the sense of cultural distinctiveness of man African American.

The writer investigates this case based on previous study about “the omission of primary auxiliary verbs BE and HAVE in London teenage speech (a sociolinguistic study)”. That research describes that reason of teenager express communicative competence in a way which differs from other age-groups of a speech community. Therefore, they omits primary auxiliary verbs BE and HAVE in their conversation based on socioeconomic class. In the result, Anderson (1995) said in her thesis that “demonstrates that the regarding distribution of non-standard forms, namely to find a higher proportion of non-standard form among the speakers of lowest socioeconomic classes than among speakers of the higher classes (p.5).

In the previous study above, it is research about the omission of primary auxiliary verbs BE and HAVE based on different age-group, especially in teenage

speech. Whereas, this research will investigate the omission of primary auxiliary verbs BE, HAVE, and DO which is the feature of linguistic variation with social variation such as ethnicity, gender, social status, social class, and age related to characters in the novel written by Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. This research uses sociolinguistic approach as a base to identify the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in the sentences of characters' conversation in the novel.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Society is formed of same geographical, customs, historical authority, and dominant expectations will be achieved together in certain district of language user. Therefore, that appears the varieties of different way people in the use of language where they live at. A recent study (Wardhaugh 2006, p.25) emphasized that Hudson and Ferguson agree in defining *variety* in terms of a specific set of'linguistic items' or 'human speech patterns' (presumably, sounds, words, grammatical features, etc.) which we can uniquely associate with some external factor, presumably, a geographical area or a social group.

In fact, English language has some varieties appoint ungrammatical or incorrect in standard English, such as there are omission of primary auxiliary verbs in the sentences of characters' conversation in the novel. In other words, there is non-standard English occurred in the novel. Whereas, primary auxiliary verbs have important rules in each sentences clearly. Indeed, their function as auxiliary does not affect their ability to be omitted in the sentences of the

sentences of characters' conversation in the novel written by Toni Morrison's *Beloved.*

That is a phenomenon occurred in social context of novel. Therefore, this is a reason of the writer for identifying this case. This research is limited for answering about these research questions:

1. In what types of sentences, the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in characters' conversation of the novel written by Toni Morrison's *Beloved?*
2. What are the features of social variation (if any) in relation to the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in the sentences of characters' conversation in the novel written by Toni Morrison's *Beloved?*

1.3. Research Objective

Generally, this research purposes to get empirical data about the omission of primary auxiliary verbs in the sentences of characters' conversation of the novel and social factors related to this phenomenon. While, especially this research purpose for:

1) To know the types of sentences, the omission of primary auxiliary verbs occurred in characters' conversation of Morisson's novel titled *Beloved*.
2) To identify the correlation between social variation and the absence primary auxiliary verbs occurred in the characters' conversation of the novel as features in linguistic variation.

1.4. Research Significance

The significances of this research are to inform to the readers about variety of English language based on set of‘linguistic items’ or ‘human speech patterns and which we can uniquely associate with social factors. In the result, there appears a phenomenon about primary auxiliary verbs omitted by the characters of the novel in the sentences of their conversation. It is non-standard English of variety of social context in English language. Beside, this research can inform to the readers about correlation between social variation and linguistic variation which can cause the presence of omission of primary auxiliary verbs as linguistic variation in characters’ conversation of the novel.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding on several terms used in this paper, the following are the definitions:

1. Primary Auxiliary Verbs, Leech and Svartvik (2002) argue that heir study “demonstrates that primary auxiliary verbs is called ‘helping verbs’ they do not make up verb phrase on their own, but must usually be accompanied by a following head verb” (p.187). Primary auxiliary verbs consists of BE, HAVE, and DO.
2. The omission of primary auxiliary verbs is the absence of primary auxiliary verbs, DO, BE, and HAVE in English sentences. Whereas, primary auxiliary verbs is important in forming of tensed verb. It is

non-standard English which is related to the features of linguistic variation correlates with social variation.

3. Vernacular dialect or non-standard English, Holmes (2001, p.133) argue that his study "emphasized that the term of non-standard English is called as *vernacular* by some sociolinguists". It is related to English language used in informal context which contrasts with the standard English. Because, non-standard English is formed in people's environment where they live and communicate with people around them, whereas the standard English is taught in formal setting as in the school.
4. African American Vernacular English is an ethnicity in the United States is formed by demographic racial categories, social status, region, and especially the similarity of the common history and physical. Therefore, who agues that his "study demonstrates that African American Vernacular English has developed a distinct variety of English (Holmes 2001, p.177).
5. Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which studies about the correlation between language and society. Therefore, the differences of language related to different social context. It has been argued that sociolinguistic is "the way people signal aspect of the social identity through their language" (Holmes 2001, p.1).