1.1. Background of the Study

In daily speaking, people may say “He is Scottish, I can hardly understand what he says”, or “Her accent is so strong”, or “Their dialect is very much different from ours”. Those statements show that there are some mistakes of the use of the language or some misunderstandings for the three different terms in language, i.e. language, dialect, and accent.

Furthermore, why do Scottish deny the fact that the language they use is one of English dialects and they claim that it is Scott’s language? Similarly, in Indonesia, there is a linguist believes that actually there is no a single Bataknese language, but languages of Bataknese. There are some linguist say that a dialect in certain area is a language. And the most happening is that people from a place or area state the language they use is a language, not just a dialect.

Dialect, a word that comes from Greek *dialektos* was once used as something that is related with its language. There were many small distinctions of the language used among the people. However, they never thought that they have different languages (Meillet, 1967:69). The differences did not prevent them to feel that they have one language. So, it can be described that the main characteristic of dialect is *Differences in a unity, and a unity in differences*.

There are two more things about dialect, that are, first, dialect is a series of different local utterances, which have a common way, and each of them is quite
similar than a form of another utterance in the same language, and second, dialect is not supposed to take every kind of utterance of a language (Meillet 1967:69). Then, in its generation, eventually, some of the dialects that have the same degree are accepted as a formal language by all area using that dialect. Thus, for example, it is often heard that the speech of African or South American tribes referred to as dialects; or English farm-worker of minimal education may be described as speaking a dialect; the educated person, on the other hand, would be said to speak a language.

Any two people will not pronounce a sound exactly alike. This is caused by the different dialect between them. Professional linguists who specialize in dialectology use various criteria of pronunciation, vocabulary and grammatical expression to make a distinction between one dialect and another dialect. It is noticed that some speakers use words that other speakers do not use, or use words with different meanings. Differences of vocabulary could lead to misunderstandings, but misunderstandings arise among people who know each other well, who live together (Charles W. Kreidler: 1997).

Of the difficulties in understanding the dialect, there are two main basic cases, which are the consonants and the vowels. The problem is mostly concentrated in how they are pronounced. Noticing the differences among dialects, there will be many aspects that make clear distinction. One of them is the ways of pronouncing the vowels in each dialect. Basically, what makes the various dialects different from each other is geography or simply distance. If it is compared, English spoken in Australia with one spoken in Canada, there will be a
significant difference of vowels between them. For example, ‘I am going today’, an Australian may pronounce [aim giŋ tədai], and it sounds like ‘I am going to die’. Canadians pronounce it with [am giŋ tədei]. So, it is such kind of dialect. It doesn’t change any meaning; it is just different in pronunciation. Vowels are usually being voiced, and the etymology of word might lead every one to believe this must be so. Although a vowel may be taken to be voiced, there are also voiceless vowels in many languages. In some languages, voiceless vowels occur following a corresponding voiced vowel. And beside the voiceless vowels, there are also vowels which have a number of such vowels, and the quality of the vowels is continually changing. The technical term for that kind of vowel is a ‘diphthong’. There is a lot more in learning vowels. One thing that will be discussed is about its variety in some specific English dialect.

Regarding that the study of the dialect has a great difficulty, in this paper, I would describe dialect focused on the vowels. I wrote this because this is my main interest along my time studying English and I want to share what I have acquired all this time. This paper is dedicated to students whose field of study includes linguistics or English.

1.2. Scope of the Study

Talking about the entire study of dialect, there will be many things to learn and it feels so hard to discuss it all. In this paper, I focus my discussion on the vowels and the variety of some specific English dialects.
1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this paper are:

- To explain the meaning of dialect
- To describe the differences of vowels in different dialect
- To introduce the English vowels and the varieties (The Keywords and the Symbols)
- To add knowledge about the dialect and the vowel of English

1.4. Significance of the Study

I hope this paper should be useful especially for students of English to help them understanding how English, especially the vowels, spoken under many different dialect. Realizing that everyone is of different dialect, English that is spoken is normally different each other. So, by this paper, I could learn, at least, how different English dialects through the vowels side. Beside, I hope that after understanding the English vowels, English learners will have more knowledge of English vowels and have better pronunciation.

1.5. Method of the Study

In writing this paper, I use library research as my references. I need to read many books and search through access on internet because I want to make this paper as clear as possible so that it will not make any doubt for the readers.