CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter revolves around introduction of the research including the background of the study, research question, the aim of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Young adults or adolescents are those between 12- to 20-years of age who experience a period of transition from childhood to adulthood (Bucher and Hinton, 2010, p.2). This transition involves various developments, namely biological, psychological and social development (Karunan, 2006, p.5). Karunan (2006) further states that these developments occur simultaneously at different paces for each adolescent within each gender, being impacted oftentimes, by structural and environmental factors.

Every adolescent or young adult is maturing, but each may take a different road and going at different speed on his or her journey from childhood to adulthood (Manning and Bucher, 2009, as cited in Bucher and Hinton, 2010, p.2). In other words, every adolescent experiences their development differently, which are affected by their surroundings, like family and peers, and also their readiness
to be an adult. Therefore, Bucher and Hinton (2010) further state that it is important to know adolescents or young adults on an individual basis and to use this knowledge to select appropriate young adult literature.

One of the common themes of young adult literature is coming of age. Terminologically, the expression coming of age is usually used to mean ‘to reach full legal adult status’ (Millard, 2007, p.11). Millard (2007) further says that the moment of coming of age is usually occur in twelve and nineteen-years-old. In this case, adolescents try to reach full legal adult status variously between cultures, especially in relation to such cultural markers as alcohol, sexual consent, driving license, and marriage.

There are some previous studies that have been conducted focusing on coming of age issue within young adult literature. For instance, Fox (2010) on her journal entitled “Girls Coming of Age: Possibilities and Potentials within Young Adult Literature” centered on the voices and of experiences of young girls, coming of age. Fox (2010) found out that girls are bombarded with images of skinny models that help to perpetuate pervasive body image problems, and the need to be “perfect”. Fox (2010) also uncovered that these oppressions construct girls’ identities through their process of coming of age.

The issue of coming of age is often adapted in a story of young adult fiction. One of the examples is the novel entitled Crank which was written by Ellen Hopkins. Crank talks about a teenage girl named Georgia who is quiet and seems not to have any problems in her life. However, everything in her life changes
when she went to visit her father. She experiences many problems in her coming-of-age period such as becoming a drug user, being raped by a teenage boy and so on. In other words, the story describes a teenage character who has to face her life with some problems. The ways she overcomes her problems are interesting to be analyzed. In addition, the writer wrote her novel in an unusual yet unique way by writing the stories of Georgia like a poem. Hence, this study focuses on how the issue coming of age is addressed in the novel Crank by Ellen Hopkins.

1.2 Research Question

This study raises one question, that is:

How is the issue coming of age addressed in the novel Crank by Ellen Hopkins?

1.3 Aim of the Study

In line with the problem of the study above, this study attempts to reveal:

The way coming of age issue is addressed in the novel Crank by Ellen Hopkins.
1.4 **Scope of the Study**

The study investigates the way Georgia’s coming of age is addressed in the novel entitled *Crank* which was written by Ellen Hopkins. Some problems which come up in her coming-of-age period are taken to be the data.

1.5 **Significance of the Study**

The study focuses on how coming of age is described in the novel entitled *Crank* which was written by Ellen Hopkins. It is expected that the study offers a different point of view in understanding the issue of coming of age in young adult literature.

1.6 **Research Methodology**

1.6.1 **Research Design**

This present research is conducted using qualitative method due to the data used in this research is in the form of text. The data which are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences are critically selected as textual evidences to answer the research question. The research analyzes the way coming of age issue is addressed in the novel *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins.

1.6.2 **Data Collection**

The data are collected from the novel entitled *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins in the form of textual evidences. It is because the study mostly deals with narrative text.
The data which are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences are critically selected as textual evidences to answer the research question.

1.6.3 Data Analysis

The data analysis is presented through the following procedures:

- Reading and re-reading the novel being investigated in attempt to find the issue of coming of age of adolescents;
- Making the list of problems faced by the main character, Georgia, in the coming of age stage occurs in the novel.
- Choosing the problems from the list which lead the main character to the maturity. The purpose of making the list and choosing the problems from the list is to analyze and give textual evidences which are needed for the research.
- Framing those textual evidences using thinking framework of young adult, coming of age and also identity theory;
- Analyzing and interpreting the result of data collection;
- Presenting the conclusion of the result and also providing suggestions for further study.
1.7 Clarification of Terms

In this study, there are some terms that need to be clarified in order to avoid misunderstanding of the concepts underlying the title of the study. Those terms are:

1. Adolescents

Adolescents or young adults are those between 12- to 20-years of age who experience a period of transition from childhood to adulthood (Bucher and Hinton, 2010, p.2).

2. Coming of Age

Terminologically, the expression coming of age is the term that usually used to mean ‘to reach full legal adult status’ (Millard, 2007, p.11). Millard (2007) further says that the moment of coming of age is usually occur in nineteen and twelve-years-old.

3. Identity

Identity belongs to an individual as a subject or as a member of part of particular social group (Barker, 2002, p.109). Barker (2002) further says that identity is thought to be a universal and timeless core, an ‘essence’ of the self that is expressed as representations that are recognizable by ourselves and by others.
1.8 **Organization of the Paper**

This research consists of five chapters. It is organized as follows:

**CHAPTER I**

This chapter focuses on introduction of the research including the background of the study, research question, the aim of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms and the organization of the paper.

**CHAPTER II**

The chapter covers the theoretical frameworks and also literature reviews which stand as the foundation of the study.

**CHAPTER III**

The chapter consists of the research methodology, discussing the steps and procedures of the study, and the data resources in conducting the study.

**CHAPTER IV**

The chapter presents the research findings and discussion. In this part, the discussion of the research is elaborated.

**CHAPTER V**

The last chapter provides a conclusion which is the interpretation of the result and suggestion for further research.