CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Freedom is the ability to make our own decisions without feeling pressed or threatened. According to Cambridge Dictionary, “freedom is the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, choose, etc. Whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited.” We can define that freedom is something the human being is born with. In our society, we can get freedom such as freedom of speech, freedom of choice, freedom of expression etc. We can say anything we want, we can choose anything, etc. Everyone wants to be free. Free from choosing something, deciding something, thinking of something, saying of something, etc.

Human freedom exists because of four endowments. Those are self-awareness, conscience, imagination and independent will (Covey, 1932). Because of those endowments, everyone has the power to decide what they really want to do with their life. Sometimes, we cannot get freedom because of some reasons but we shouldn’t let anyone control our power of choosing something that will affect our whole life.

What makes us different from the animal is we have culture, self-awareness, conscious memory, imagination, higher emotion, values, morals, and freedom to choose (Thornton, 2009). Unlike the animal, God gives human intellectual ability in facing life. The animal has no fear and worries about the consequence of what they are doing, meanwhile human always try to face their problems and accept the consequences. In this world, people have to pick some choices that will affect their whole lives. Whether the good choices or the bad one, human will face the consequences.

Veronica Roth is a novelist that includes freedom of choice theme in her novel entitled Divergent. Veronica was born in Chicago, August 19, 1988. She is the youngest out of three children. Her parents divorced when she was still a kid. Her mother, Barbara Ross is a painter. Her mother has married again.
with a financial consultant and Veronica lived with her mother. Veronica studied creative writing at Northwestern University and in 2011, she wrote Divergent while on winter break in her senior year. It became a huge success.

In *Divergent* (2011), Veronica Roth illustrated how freedom of choice is reflected on Tris’s (Beatrice ‘Tris’ Prior) life. It is written that in Chicago, people are divided into five factions. Candor, Abnegation, Amity, Erudite and Dauntless. Each faction has its own characteristic. Candor values honesty, Abnegation values selflessness, Amity values friendship, Erudite values smartness and Dauntless values bravery. Beatrice Prior (Tris) is raised in Abnegation. When teenagers reach 16 years old, they have to choose one of five factions officially.

Before The Choosing Ceremony, each teenager has to do the mind test. The test will show her who she truly is. After taking the test, something big happens. The result shows that she is a *Divergent*. *Divergent* means you belong to multiple factions. She does not know whether it's a blessing or a danger. The only one who knows about this besides her is Tori, the lady who tested her. Tori tells Tris that she shouldn’t tell anyone the result of the test. Tori does not tell her why. She thinks a lot about what to do. She is so confused, but on the other hand, a little part in her heart is happy thinking about how she should change her faction into Dauntless. Of course, she loves her family in Abnegation but she wants to try something new, besides she feels like she does not fit in Abnegation sometimes.

The day of The Choosing Ceremony begins. Before she goes, her dad and mom say that they trust Tris, which means her parents are sure that Tris will choose her parents’ faction (Abnegation) so that they can be together again. Because once you pick other faction, you will be part of that faction and not allowed to be with your parents again. After seeing her brother abandons Abnegation for Erudite, she decides to abandon Abnegation to be in Dauntless. She wants it. She doesn’t want society or even her parents affect her for choosing something that will affect her entire life. She is ready to face every consequence that will surely happen in her new faction.
In Goodreads, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth has very good rating with 4.25% out of 5% and with 100,042 reviews. 50% of the reviewers give 5 stars, 30% gives 4 stars, 13% gives 3 stars, 3% gives 2 stars and 1% gives 1 stars. A user with name Emily May says that this novel was one of the most highly anticipated works of dystopian fiction to be released in 2011 and the fact of the matter is that it just really doesn't work as a dystopia. Meanwhile, user id Heather K gives 1 star and complains about how bad the characters are. He compares *Divergent* by Veronica Roth with Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins and says that *Divergent* is the low version of the Hunger Games.


I have several reasons why I choose this book as the main object of the study. First, I love the theme. I love adventures and action. This book fits my taste well, along with *The Hunger Games* and *The Maze Runners*. What makes this book stand the most among those two books is the idea the author gives to the book. *Divergent* is unpredictable and very intriguing. Most books only focus on one relationship, but in *Divergent* you can find many more. Veronica Roth not only focused on the relationship between Tris and Four, but she also showed the relationship between Tris and other characters and her family.

Second, the characters have strong characteristics, especially the main character. Tris is a very strong character. She has her own mind and she does
not follow the rules. She does not let anyone to meddle in the choices she makes. Once she wants something, she is very determined to have it. This is why her characteristic is related to the theme of this study.

Because of the relation between subject matters and the content of the novel, the researcher decided to make a researcher paper entitled *FREEDOM OF CHOICE AS SEEN ON VERONICA ROTH’S NOVEL DIVERGENT: AN EXISTENTIALIST PERSPECTIVE*.

B. Problem Statement
1. What indicates the freedom of choice in the novel?
2. How is the freedom of choice portrayed in the novel?
3. Why did the author address freedom of choice in the novel?

C. Objective of the Study
1. To identify the indicators of the freedom of choice in the novel.
2. To describe how the freedom of choice is portrayed in the novel.
3. To reveal why the author address freedom of choice in the novel.

D. Significance of the Study
This research theoretically can be used to give contribution and an academic reference for other researchers in the future. Meanwhile practically, this research can give knowledge and experience of the researcher and the other students who have interest with literary study on the novel from existential approach.

E. Research Paper Organization
The research paper organization of “FREEDOM OF CHOICE AS SEEN ON VERONICA ROTH’S NOVEL DIVERGENT (2011): AN EXISTENTIALIST PERSPECTIVE” is as follows:
Chapter I is introductions which presents Background of the study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Research Paper of Organization.

Chapter II is Literature Review which consists of Underlying Theory of Existentialist Perspective, The Principles of Existentialist Perspective, Previous Study, and Novelty of The Research.

Chapter III is Research Method which discusses about Type of the Study, Object of the study, Type of the Data and the Data Source, Method of Collecting Data, and Technique of Analyzing Data.

Chapter IV is The Analysis of the Divergent novel.

Chapter V contains the Conclusion and the Suggestion of the research.