

## Chapter I

### Representation of Adolescents and Setbacks to Adaptation

The study examines identity formation between adolescence to adulthood and it is a transitional time for children to shift from self centric to collective world. The research undergoes comparative study in *The House on Mango Street* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Both the novel present child characters and observe their behaviors. The characters are in between adolescent to adulthood period and both of them experience world and struggle for forming identity. The research explores an individual development from childhood to adulthood. Both child characters experience two different worlds and have different social experience and interact with external world to form personal self. In the novels, Esperanza and Charlie experience crucial period while interacting with external world and their transformation in psychology and morality.

As the novels introduce protagonists Esperanza and Charlie, both of them have several similarities. Due to the societal upheaval and multicultural fluctuation, both of them are suffocated by the external world when they are in transition period. Along with interaction with external world, the young encounter expected and unexpected social phenomena. As such phenomena guide and shape them to construct personal self; many aspects are unfamiliar to them. Unable to experience with unfamiliar cases in public space, they are confused and suffocated. They always encounter a kind of surprise and fear in their mind. With several questions in their mind, they are unable to find answer. The gap between desired world and reality causes depression, frustration and suffocation. Both of them are unable to decide and determine decision which are true and fact.

This kind of experience amasses several questions in their mind but unanswered. The researcher employs coming of the age narrative theory which discusses inner development from childhood to maturity. Tobia Boes enumerates idea that coming-of-age narrative examines character, setting, journey and hand experience. The process of becoming mature is explained in coming of age narrative. It is based on individual's self-knowledge and how is the knowledge gained through empirical experience and social interaction. Self-knowledge is acquired through individual role and dialogue with the society. The theory introduces and garners idea that assume process of becoming adulthood in which period an individual exercise family, society, friends circle and other many social aspects which shape knowledge, experience and personal self. Bias argues:

The image of man in the process of becoming and situates its protagonist on the threshold between different historical eras. The hero emerges along with the world and he reflects the historical emergence of the world itself. The dominant character in Coming-of-Age narrative is no longer within an epoch. It is on the border between two epochs, "at the transition point from one to the other. This transition is accomplished in him and through him. It is a foundation of the world is changing, and man must change along with them.

(6)

This theory follows the characters from childhood to adulthood as they pass through physical, mental, emotional, and moral changes. The narrators express their experience along with the narration of the events in the novels. Esperanza in *The House on Mango Street* and Charlie in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* form their personal identities along with relative social ground and find different worlds.

The study discusses focusing on shifting identity and behavioral changes take place between childhood and adulthood. Both of the novels *The House on Mango Street* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* project young characters who are in between the two stages of human life. Both of them are similar age group and experience similar world. However, both of them have a different context and society which have brought difference between them. Esperanza in *The House on Mango Street* undergoes several experiences and is unable to take decisive power. She simultaneously goes alienation and depression and encounters several problems which dismantle her temperament of personal being. After she is unable to form own self then she outlets her suffocation through creative writing.

Similarly, Charlie in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* has faced exclusion of society and feels isolated from entire community. Even Charlie chooses writing to discover oneself. As she experiences world, she writes up her views and experiences. In course of adjusting in society, she finds confusion, suffocation and illusion. And she is unable to decide her-self then she is isolated from the society.

The researcher uses the theoretical concepts regarding coming of age narrative. The coming of age narrative dwells upon the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from youth to adulthood. The protagonist is often a sensitive person. He or she looks for answers and experience. The goal of coming of age narrative is maturity. The protagonist achieves it gradually. After having achieved maturity, the protagonist is then able to reach out and help others. The plot is directed towards certain course. The protagonist grows from child to adult. The initial part of the narrative involves a separation from family. The protagonist desires to quit home and live independently. Exposure to the external world of risk and danger teaches plenty of lessons. Besides, the study uses adaptation theory in analyzing the texts as

both of them raise the struggles of the protagonists in adapting to new cultures. It is identity formation. As the characters in the novel undergo abnormal and unusual experiences, it develops complicated self which is against social norm as and value. Along with development of children, it is explicitly reflected in their behaviors. Adolescence phase is a crucial phase of identity formation of children and it is threatened by external forces. The way they involve in society matters their identity formation.

Going through unusual experience, they cannot express their internal idea and fear of society. Besides struggling in the society, they seek an escape from the society. Instead of tolerating phenomena they are unable to face them and try to readjust in situation. The novels project abjected experience of young children which is defined as one of the problems of adolescence which creates crucial experience in children and it pushes them away from societies. During the phase of identity formation, tragic experience haunts the protagonist and is unable to understand self and society. The complicated psychological mindset creates a kind of conflict within him. His experiences always follow him and he wants to come out of the society.

As a young undergoes both physical and mental change. Due to the suffocated feeling, an individual is not able to accept social practices, a problem of socialization. During the phase of identity formation, there is always conflict between society and self. The self centric ego guides person and is unable to accept external world. The transitional phase is considered as critical of life and everyone should undergo conflict between self and society. Maria Nikolajeva explains, "convey exactly an adolescent's inability to understand the world and other people; the confusion and anxiety of being young; the discomfort about the profound changes in mind and body (88). Young adult period indicates a crucial period of mental and physical

development in which a process of creating social identity from inner world to external world. A child in early teenager period does not know outer world, mainly social norms and values. Erik Erickson additionally speculates, "individuals who reached early adulthood without having established a sense of identity would be incapable of intimacy (372). As an individual encounters social norms and values because they cannot assimilate social norms and values.

The protagonist, in coming of age of narrative, is involved in the cultivation of identity. The journey of the protagonist starts from provincial place and ends in the complex one. In the life of the protagonist in coming of age narrative, education appears to be important. Knowledge, lesson and awakening are counted as the part and parcel of the child's maturation. In addition, it is also a preparation for impending adulthood. Awakening and understanding arise at a huge price, mainly at the price of disillusionment. The new world, which the protagonist embraces, does not seem to be very much friendly and intimated to the protagonist in coming of age narrative. Though this genre is said to have decreased, its relevance has regained renewed importance. The decline of the genre during the modernist period is fictitious. In reality, the novel of formation continues to developing various literatures in contemporary literature.

The research discusses textual actions, scenes, dialogues of the characters and their language which undertakes a thorough close textual analysis of the novels, characters' dynamism, and plot, narrators' perspective to explore the heroic qualities in the adolescents and variables that make them vulnerable in the host country. Both Cisneros and Chbosky have good place in the history of children literature. Their works have gained a large scale awards and accolades.

Numerous critics have studied the novels with high expectations. Kia Jane Richmond is a popular critic of children literature. She detects certain pattern in which writers of children literature introduce chronic problems encountered by adolescents. She goes through Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and comes up with the following conclusive finding:

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky is an epistolary novel focused on fifteen-year-old Charlie, who first turns to alcohol and drugs, then seeks psychiatric help for symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. Readers can easily connect to the characters in Chbosky's novel, partly because of the fact that they help "deepen students' thinking and provide them with a rich reading and writing experience. (21)

The entire esthetic merit and artistic integrity of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* rely on the smart and elegant use of epistolary method. With this method in use, Chbosky has succeeded in externalizing all the twisted emotions and repressed agony of Charlie. Behzad Barekat and Narges Sayyadi are of the view that *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is known for its extensive thematic coverage. The issues it addresses range from the search for freedom to haunting trace of traumatic jolt. Addressing this aspect of the novel's strength, Barekat and Sayyadi makes the following observation:

The novel tells the story of a fifteen-year-old boy named Charlie who is coping with the suicide of his friend, Michael. To lessen the fear and anxiety of starting high school alone, Charlie starts writing letters to a stranger, someone he heard was nice but has never met in person. The book addresses a range of themes including sex and drugs dispassionately. Other themes include friendship, body image, first love, suicide, eating disorders and sexuality. (59)

Charlie's sudden awakening with regard to handling basic problems of life shows him a clear path. When he is confused and too weak to yield to any unexpected hardship, he does not try to know about his own inner power. The moment he begins to realize this truth, he comes forward on the way to solving all hardships of life in a flying color. Mary B. W. Tabor sees issue pertaining to the intersection between the Latino and the American ground. Cisneros explores a space for negotiation between Esperanza's longing for Hispanic identity and the pressures exerted by American life in this longing. To reinforce this issue, Tabor makes the following forceful argument:

But it is finding the middle ground between the Latino and the American that has provided the most creative tension for Ms. Cisneros. The first resolution of such tension, she says, was making it through school. The second was moving away from home and her Mexican father, Mexican-American mother and six brothers. In some ways, she still is a dreamer since her expectation is not rooted to practical ground. (1)

To come out of the conflicting situations, it is not be natural to seek a space for negotiation. As long as conflict between opposing cultural norms persists, there continues to be restlessness and problem in adaptation. In Esperanza's case, the same and similar condition prevails. That is why Cisneros puts herself on the lookout for a space for negotiation so that conflicting self can find solace and moves forward on the way to adaptation. Kelly Wisman probes the frequently repeated trend of recasting popular fairy tales in literary works of various types. In Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*, this trend is used purposefully. Wisman is keenly interested in looking at the functional aspect of this legacy which is explicated here:

Sandra Cisneros alludes to and recasts popular fairy tales in *The House on Mango Street* to reveal their troubled legacy in the lives of many women in the

novel. Drawing upon Latina feminist theory and Cisneros's autobiographical writing, this article posits that the main character Esperanza's alternative "happily ever after" comes through locating the vocation of writing as the fulcrum for self-definition and social change. (3)

*The House on Mango Street* can be enhanced through analysis of heroines from diverse cultural backgrounds and theoretical frameworks. This framework must be attuned to racial and ethnic diversity. The way Esperanza happens to act as if she has got a way out to the trouble she is affected by appears to be like an element of fairy tale. The inclusion of fairy tale component throws light on the process of adaptation which must be accepted by every adolescent.

According to Neely-Prado social adaptation is, "the capacity to confront, relate, compromise, and cooperate with the environment and others, accommodating thoughts and behaviors in this process" (2). Indeed, social adaptation involves emotion regulation, search for rewarding social interactions, and higher social sensitivity. Similarly, social adaptation encompasses, "play and leisure to measure social adaptation among a group of children" (2). The immigrants are the vulnerable sections in host countries. They seek for social adaptation which is determined by different variables. Culture, economic status, and political activism affect their adaptation in the destination countries. Esperanza faces difficulties in adapting to the world of adults. The adverse conditions such as poor health, unemployment, lack of quality education force the immigrants to compromise with the cultural and religious aspects in new societies.

Charlie is compelled to repress a painful memory which frightens him occasionally to enter the joyful world of his likeminded friends. In addition, problems like bullying, alienation, temptation of drug addiction and seductive appeal of

infatuation continue to exert pressures in Charlie's life. Stuck to his own solipsistic and delicate world of adolescence, Charlie remains in doldrums as he fails to adapt to the emerging changes in his life and in his surroundings. The more Charlie learns to express his emotions, views and attitudes with regard to anything, the more comfortably he adapts to changing scenarios. The reverse holds true as well. The more he adapts to the rigors of his school life, and loneliness at home, the more expressive he tends to be. He hears some of his favorite music and songs which gradually enable him to boost his expressive power. With a rise in his expressive power, he manages some of the tough challenges and discomforts of his life.

Attending Rocky Horror Picture Show instructs him how to expose himself for the mobility in his life. He chooses to read some novels which enable him to adapt to the rigidity of his solipsistic life. The more exposure and adaptation he demonstrates, the more expressive, cool, dynamic and flexible his disposition tends to be. There are six concepts of adaptation which can be distinguished. Venelin Terziev mentions these concepts:

Adaptation is used to denote the process by which the subject adapts to the new environment. Adaptation means the result of the adaptation process.

Adaptation is associated with certain particular goal towards which the subject strives to stay alive to achieve material prosperity, to improve his social status etc. Adaptation implies conformity between goals and achieved in the process of the activity results. Adaptation is used to define the ratio of the equilibrium which is established between the subject and the environment. (8)

The implications of adaptation can be seen in social acceptance of the people who are in the new countries. The characters in the texts of the study strive to adapt to the

environment basically in different social contexts. They conform to the new world by expressing their consent to maintain equilibrium.

Although all these critics and reviewers have examined *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *The House on Mango Street* from different points of view and then have arrived at several findings and conclusions, none of them have noticed the issue of how expressivity and adaptation go side by side dialectically enabling confused adolescents to overcome setbacks on the way to adaptation. Through writing Esperanza masters all of her inner and outer malaises. The more she hones her nuance and passion for writing the more comfortably she gains victory over outer challenges that restrict her adaptive strength. By the same token the more she removes her adaptive obstacles she more comfortably she sharpens her expressive talent. It works in two ways. In the same way, the more Charlie develops his expressive impulse by listening music and interacting with likeminded friends, the more smoothly he handles setbacks on his way to adaptation. The more he adapts to tough outer conditions, the more expressive, and interactive he tends to be.

A young adult stage is a psychologically crucial phase in which several physical and mental changes take place. It is difficult for them to adopt each and every change of society. If the changes are wrongly addressed, it distracts them from usual social practice and they are unsocial. Each and every matter for young adult is related to the formation of social identity. If not guided by the social values and principles, they lose own control and accustomed in unsocial practice. In this way, adolescence engage in forming own self in relation to society but their experience and guidance always influence them to be part of society. Individual losing networks of society cannot find social space. Abjection is possible complication of young adult experience and as many children undergo similar experience due to the terrified and

fragmented state of being. The abject feeling always overrides children and creates hallucinatory image in their mind. As abjected young is always guided by terrible and fragmented experience and it creates dominating space in mindset. It always influences each and every desire and choice of children. Discussing idea of young adult literature, it is all about conflict between own self and society. Adolescence undergoes intricacy of self and other. It is the phase of socialization when the person comes out of self-centered psychology and struggles against social identity formation. During the phase, adolescence undergo complicated situation while facing society. It creates a confused situation in which children cannot find distinction between them.

A society is an institution which constructs certain norms and values but as such discourses are against personal choice and freedom. As a result, young fight against existing norms and values to overcome personal point of view. Having different experience in two words Jonas faces complicated situation in which everything is against him. It causes psychological distress which causes negative impact in his identity formation. He is in identity formation phase and his interaction with society remains terrible because worn torn society. Jonas always thinks about leaving society which scares him to be involved. For this reason, he searches optional life beyond the society where he wants to be involved. Being self-centric, he makes personal perspective toward people and society therefore, he wanders however he cannot find own life as desired. He is depressed, frustrated and alienated and suffers from dreadful memories. Those memories and psychological wounds embed his present. He always finds him as a helpless, inferior, bleak and sympathetic character. He cannot be free from retrospective images and experiences.

Psychological theory explains about identity formation during transition period that it shows forceful shift from self centric to social orientated mentality.

Erick Erickson claims, "individuals reached early adulthood without having established a sense of identity would be incapable of intimacy" (372). As he explains, cruciality of identity during adolescence and adulthood period, it may bring confusion and young are unable to find own position in society. An identity is formed in relation to existing norms and values of society and the ideology influence person to make sure social position. Entering into adult period, he encounters several contradiction in society unlike he had supposed to have imagined in adolescence period. He struggles and defends those social values to establish own self however the situation changed his perspective to look at the world.

This stage of transformation and transition is a sensitive period in which young undergo both physical and mental changes which take them into confused situation. While going closer with society, young undergo several problems. It can be hollow space for them and their self-centric psychological remains in contact. It leads them to create social identity and fights against social forces. This is crucial phase for them to balance their ego. As uneven experience in their life brings complicated to find out own position. Subjectivity formation is main issue for adolescence or it is socialization process. Subject formation determines or posits social position. Karen Coats, " It looks specifically at the types of corporeal exclusions that the subject undertakes, those things that he or she must abject to constitute his or her clean and proper body" (139). Regarding the concept of identity formation Erickson discusses it with his different stages of human development and he categorizes the phase with named under identity formation. Erikson explains about identity, "Being firmly convinced that he is a person on his own, the child must now find out what kind of a person he may become. He is, of course, deeply and exclusively, "identified with his parents, who most of the time appears to him to be powerful and beautiful, although

often quite unreasonable, disagreeable, and even dangerous" (111). Erikson in this extract explains about significant phase of childhood identity formation. Every child is born anew. S/he shows her/his unique features. Social predispositions start to rehearse power against child's distinctiveness. Society sees the child as not child but wild. This phase is the struggling process of child's identity formation.

## Chapter II

### **Psychological Adaptation of External Factors in *The House on Mango Street* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower***

The study focuses on child development from one stage to another. It focuses to the crucial period of human life from childhood to adulthood who discusses upon psychological, physical and ideological shifting from one state to another. In other words, it is a kind of identity formation period with which an individual adjusts and readjusts through socialization process. The study in *The House on Mango Street* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* project characters who undergo the dialectics of expressivity.

The research presents young characters and one is Esperanza from *The House on Mango Street* and Charlie is from *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. As Esperanza experiences her life from the outside home, she is unable to bear other social aspects. The society has a different opinion, thoughts and perspective. She spends much of her childhood travelling. She is made isolated due to the belief of her parents that the girl should not go out as like boys. As a result, she dreams of becoming a writer as she is. Her autobiographic information can be seen in the novel as well. The protagonist is the mouthpiece of the author. The study reveals the psychological and moral transformation of Esperanza.

The research examines crucial experiences of characters and their identity formation crises embed them and are unable to reshape their external pressures. The transitional phase between adolescence and adult period create conflict and seeks personal self against the society. Both of the novels introduce problem a teenage faces during adolescence phase and the problems is about defining and exploring identity. Moving from self to society, it creates more confusion as well as conflict within the

self. It is a kind of psychological complication and lack of communication with society. To establish own self, an adolescence explores similar thought but the society does not recognize it. The representative characters always face a question of self against society and experiences societal discourses which are against personal freedom and choice.

Esperanza lives in the family of six members in her own house on Mango Street. Before this house, they live on rent. They move to many places time and again because of the problem, like breaking of the pipes which landlord does not fix so that they have to carry water in empty milk gallons or broken windows not being repaired etc. As her mother often tells her about the houses she has dreamed of for her children before they go to bed. Esperanza thinks that the house is like she has dreamed. However, after they enter the house, she finds the house is not like what her mother tells her in the stories and of her interest. This causes her to dream of having her own apartment where she can keep things where ever she likes in the beginning and she becomes successful to have her dream at the end. She becomes fortunate in this regard.

Esperanza develops the sense that she is different from boys as portrayed in the novel. Psychologists think that social expectations guide the behavior of both men and women. (Myers 503). In other words, girls are taught to behave like of females and boys like of males in society. As Esperanza knows this fact, she behaves appropriately with her brothers and sisters. For instance, she and her sister only talks with their brothers inside their house. Her brothers also behave in the same way. Out of the house, boys play with boys and girls play with girls. Social learning theory assumes that children acquire this identity by observing and imitating others' gender-linked behaviors and by being rewarded or punished for acting in certain ways

themselves children organize themselves into 'boy worlds' and 'girl worlds' each guided by rules for what boys and girls do (Myers 504). The discriminations based on gender differences become the barriers to the protagonists especially Esperanza who experiences terrible conditions in her surroundings.

Esperanza perceives gender oppression in her community. She knows about Minerva and Sally. Minerva already has two kids although she is a little bit older than her. She is left by her husband so that her daughters are raised by Minerva's mother. Sally gets married legally to Marshmallow salesman at a school bazaar. She listens to her saying that Sally is given money by her husband to buy her own things. Sally is happy except sometimes when her husband gets angry. Now Sally cannot talk on the telephone and visit her friends except what he lets her to do. Without his permission, even she is afraid of going out of the house.

Esperanza also listens to the story of Marin. According to Marin, her boyfriend is in Puerto Rico. She shows letters and promises not to tell anybody that they get married when she goes back to Puerto Rico. She says that he does not have any job yet. Instead she keeps saving money selling Avon and taking care of her cousins. Even she tells that she is always beautiful wearing nice clothes so that she could get good job. She tells her plan to go to downtown to get real job and get somebody to get married so that she will be taken to big house to live. Marin also tells Esperanza about how Davey, the Baby's sister got pregnant or how she can know how many boys are thinking about her, etc. As Marin wears shorter skirts, boys also tease her telling 'I am in love with those two green apples you calls eyes, give them to me, don't you, etc. But Marin looks at them without getting afraid.

In the same way, Esperanza knows that Sire has a girlfriend, Lois. Since she has to pass him and his girlfriend, she sees straight on the street and passes them. She

gets scared of them. When his girlfriend comes, he calls her by name. She runs with him to the store. While Lois is standing next to her, she notices that Lois wears makeup although she does not know how to wear tie her shoes. Esperanza sees Sire and Lois laughing late and talking, riding together or walking together holding hands, etc. According to Keating, adolescents developing cognitive skills enables them to make abstract generalizations about the self'. These stories or events cause Esperanza dream about a boy. She thinks it is waiting for her as like Christmas. She wants to be all new and shiny and sit at night with a boy, but not like those Sire and Lois. She dreams of a boy holding her.

Esperanza has observed since her childhood that her mother seeks to adjust her interest with her husband's interest. As her mother often tells about her dream house, children are happy. Her dream house is with every facility she has known. However, the house on Mango Street is not like the same she frequently tells her. However, her mother seems satisfied with the house. From this matter, she realizes how girl has to adjust herself with her husband in spite of having different interests.

When Esperanza's family is living on Loomis, she has realized that she should have a house. Esperanza has realized she has to have a house. This cognition develops due to the feeling of humiliation in front of nun. Arfken states that as cognitive recognizes that mental rules are socially, culturally, and historically contingent this is predicated on the view that all human thought and behavior is fundamentally rule-governed. Esperanza has also observed the activities of the adolescents and adults and has formed the thought predicting it as necessary at her age. In other words, Esperanza develops that thinking because environment is a major determinant of behavior and individual development (35). She has observed the activities of the

people and developed the cognition similar to that and finally made similar sort of thought.

Esperanza has grown in the context of family and her community. Since Esperanza, a daughter of immigrant from Mexico, she feels something different than her sisters and neighbors. Her narrations in the novel show the tiredness of living on rent in different places before moving to Mango Street. In this regard, she says, “We didn't always live on Mango Street. Before that we lived on Loomis on the third floor, and before that we lived on Keeler. Before Keeler it was Paulina, and before that I can't remember. But what I remember most is moving a lot” (3). There are different reasons for moving to different places. She perceives those problems as the main reasons for migrating from place to place. She states:

We had to leave the flat on Loomis quick. The water pipes broke and the landlord wouldn't fix them because the house was too old. We had to leave fast. We were using the washroom next door and carrying water over in empty milk gallons. That's why Mama and Papa looked for a house, and that's why we moved into the house on Mango Street, a far away, on the other side of town (4).

As the extract presents, Esperanza's family faces different problems while staying on rent. Her parents have dreamt of living in their house one day. Her mother often describes the house they will be having someday. Esperanza is the daughter of Mexican immigrants in the novel. She has observed her parents and realizes their hardships in the foreign land. She has become familiar with the difficulties her parents are facing while living on rent with the dream that one day they will have their own house. Even her mother often tells her dream to her sons and daughters. In this regard, the narrator states:

They always told us that one day we would move into a house, a real house that would be ours for always so we wouldn't have to move each year. And our house would have running water and pipes that worked. And inside it would have real stairs, not hallway stairs, but stairs inside the houses on T.V. And we'd have a basement and at least three washrooms so when we took a bath we wouldn't have to tell everybody. Our house would be white with trees around it, a great big yard and grass growing without a fence. This was the house Papa talked about when he held a lottery ticket and this was the house Mama dreamed up in the stories she told us before we went to bed. (4)

However, the house on Mango Street is something different. There is no front the yard. There have been hallway stairs and only one washroom which have to be shared by all. Esperanza is not fully happy to live in the house of Mango Street. She is optimistic that one day she will be writer and have an apartment of her own with enough space for her for every activities including keeping her books. According to American Psychological Association, adolescences set of beliefs one has about oneself. This includes beliefs about one's attributes, roles and goals, and interests, values, and beliefs. In the words of Markus and Nuriious, 'adolescents see themselves right now; it also includes what has been termed the "possible self"—what individuals might become and who they would like to become (32). Hence, many adolescents feel less attached with their parents and neighbors.

Similarly, adolescents are able to analyze situations logically in terms of cause and effect and to entertain hypothetical situations and use symbols, such as in metaphors, imaginatively. Esperanza has realized that her name is funny for others in school. Although it has good meaning in Spanish language, in English it is said to be funny as if the syllables are made out of tin and hurt the roof of mouth. Therefore, she

wishes her name to be any other like Cassandra or Alexis or Maritza, but not Esperanza.

In the same way, Esperanza thinks that she is an ugly daughter so that nobody comes for her. American Psychological Association states that the physical changes the adolescents are experiencing can strongly influence, either positively or negatively especially on girls (34). However, Esperanza thinks that the beautiful people are cruel as she has seen in the movies. Esperanza's thought and goals are different from those of any other characters in the novel. She chooses to be a writer, but this is strange for her ethnicity and gender. This is the reason that she becomes detached from her family and neighbors. As a result, the thought of buying and living alone in a flat comes in her mind. Esperanza realizes that boys and girls live in separate world as she is in late childhood or puberty stage. She thinks that boys are in their universe and girls are in theirs. Another criterion she thinks to be her friend is to be of her age. According to Savin-Williams & Berndt, "younger adolescents typically have at least one primary peer group with whom they identify whose members are usually similar in many respects, including sex" (*American Psychological Association*). Therefore, she thinks that Carlos, Kiki and Nenny are not her friends. She realizes that Carlos and Kiki, her brothers, are best friends. Because of being younger than her, she does not accept Nenny as her friend although she comes right after. Esperanza does not have her peer friend. However, she is optimistic that she will have the best friend to whom she can share all her secrets and will understand without explaining them. Studies show that girls usually play in smaller groups, often with one friend (15). Esperanza has Lucy as her friend for few days.

Esperanza is grown in the lower class family. As a result, her family has to move house to house due to having numerous problems for living. After moving to

Mango Street, Esperanza and her friends, Lucy and Rachel are given pair of second-hand shoes by their neighbors. These shoes change to pale blue from white. This indicates that they have been used for long time. However, Esperanza and her friends are very happy to receive these shoes. Even they try turn by turn as these shoes are high heels and they have not worn these types of shoes before. This all represents that Esperanza and her friends have been from the poor family so that their family cannot afford all the things which make them happy. Esperanza is well known about these problems of her family and community. As immigrants, people in her community are having several dreams. However, most of them are not achieved. Consequently, Esperanza do not like to live in the father's house so that she wishes to buy a flat of her own far away from her community. She has enough space to live there alone for keeping her things including her books and stories. This shows that she loves to live alone in the house with wide space away from her family and neighbors. However, she has good relations with family members and neighbors. Being eldest daughter, she cares younger members of her family as well. These all bits of information represent that she is prone to hassles of innumerable types ranging from bullying and abuse to alienation and depression.

To tap her creative impulse, she is in search of a separate house which is supposed to enhance her creativity. Her neighborhood bores her. The then society looks at Hispanic Americans with bias. She too falls prey to this unjust practice. Like other typical Hispanic girls cherishing their dreams, she hopes to accomplish a feat of memorable importance as well. Nevertheless, the surrounding she lives in and the people she faces bore her to death. She develops the impression that only she is right in her approach and others are wrong. Such an impression brings her in conflict with many people and things. To overcome the problem in adaptation, she begins to write

about her restless self, suffering and dream of salvation. The more she writes and tries to express in various ways, the more easily she adapts to the tough world which is seemingly insensitive and indifferent, according to Esperanza's perception. Actually, the world is as it is. Because Esperanza is stuck to her comfort zone, it is natural for her to hold the entire society responsible for her inner difficulty in adaptation. The more she expresses about her inner malaises and outer hassles, the more smoothly she adapts to complicated world of adults. Her expressivity enables her to come to terms with the world of mature people. Simultaneously, the more adaptive power she cultivates, the more expressive she appears to be.

According to Brianna E. Tylor, Esperanza positions the in-between stories within the boundaries of her own community where she becomes progressively more conscious of her limitations as a Mexican-American girl in a Chicago barrio. The restricted physical movement on the page mimics the borders that detain Esperanza to fulfill the role she has inherited as, "Characters move through and around Mango Street but rarely leave the neighborhood" (9). Taylor's reading shows that Esperanza imitates the racial tension that she has inherited while absolutely questioning why these borders subsist. Motions within Esperanza's community foreground prompt her final decision to leave community boundaries as well as to return at the end. "One of the three sisters did not seem to be related to anything but the moon" (103). It explains Esperanza's unbreakable connection with her heritage.

The relationship between Esperanza with Mango Street is deep and emotional. Esperanza examines her simultaneous sense of belonging and not-belonging by telling the stories of people who live on Mango Street. Telling stories allows for Esperanza to learn about herself and to eventually understand it. For instance, "Mama's story describes her as having "hair that smells like bread" (7). Becoming Madame Butterfly

while cooking oatmeal in the kitchen, she says, “I could’ve been somebody” (91). The story of Marin is about a girl who stands outside every night with the radio on while “waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life” (27). Mamacita refuses to speak English and dreams, “a house in a photograph” as she “sings all the homesick songs about her country” (77).

Esperanza recognizes and writes down these cycles of unhappiness, vowing that hers will not be like the experiences of Martin, Sally, or Mamacita with each story that she tells. Young Rafaela inhabits the same space:

Getting old from leaning out the window so much because she is locked inside by a husband who is afraid of her beauty. Sally gets married young to escape her father’s abuse and claims that she is happy except when her husband gets angry and won’t let her talk on the telephone or look out the window. (102)

The perplexing transition from childhood to adulthood is confounded further by living between languages that establish different frameworks for thinking about what is normal. Cisneros writes about her personal conflict between different expectations in American and Mexican culture for children leaning from their parents at home, “When she thinks to herself in her father’s language, she knows sons and daughters don’t leave their parents’ house until they marry. When she thinks in English, she knows she should’ve been on her own since eighteen” (xiii). The study reveals how immigrants use alcohol and even write to heal their pain. For instance, Minerva expresses her troubles of living with two kids in the foreign land without her husband through her poems.

Similarly, Rafaela who drink coconut juice on Tuesday reveals that she is restricted in her home as her husband doubts over her and locks her inside home thinking that she will run away. Even Esperanza becomes familiar with the problems

of girls i.e. how they are treated in their family and community. All these patterns cause Esperanza's depression. Adolescents' cognitive development, in part, lays the groundwork for moral reasoning, honesty, and pro-social behaviors such as helping, volunteerism, or caring for people including Eisenberg, Carlo, Murphy, and Van Court. Esperanza helps the younger ones being oldest in the family. She is also well known that if Nenny comes after her, she will be her responsibility as she is older than Nenny. Even she helps her minors with money to buy bicycle. By performing these tasks, she fulfills her responsibility of being the eldest sister. This reveals that she morally accepts that she has certain roles and responsibilities over her younger brothers and sisters because of being eldest sister. This is a common perception that anyone needs to learn seeing others in the community.

As Esperanza lives in a multicultural society, she struggles for her identity as depicted in the novel. Whatever identity crisis she experiences causes her to create a new set of guiding principles for success. She is encouraged to write as she observes the female problems, like Minerva being abused by her husband, Alicia attending university without support of her father, etc. She is also told to continue writing by her Aunt Guadalupe. Therefore, she uses her ability to connect these problems to create the story of herself and her society. This endeavor helps to identify herself as a writer. She believes that she can help the oppressed female of her community through writing. She believes that she can reveal how social constrictions of poverty, gender, culture and ethnicity touches upon her life and around her through her writing although she is aware about the complex process. She wishes to empower her community raising the voice against the oppression. This intention is taken as one of the very important contributions of Esperanza.

Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* presents the American open culture of the adolescence. This study reveals the psychological and moral transformation of Charlie. Charlie is the main character of *The Perks of being a Wallflower* who is the youngest member of his family. There are five members, including parents, sister, brother and himself, in his family. Charlie is only 15/16 years old in this novel. He is a depressed character from the beginning. The reason for his depression is the death of his friend, Michael. Similarly, he also remembers his aunt Helen, who dies few years back. Moreover, the novel also presents the role of his friends to get relief from the problem as well as to fall in drug addiction.

Charlie is well known about the physical development of boys and girls during adolescents. As some secondary organs' development especially of girls can be observed, he mentions about these changes of some female characters. In this regard, she states, "she (Frank) got a little taller and prettier and grew breasts. According to Myers, secondary sex characteristics, and non-reproductive traits such as breasts and hips in girl" (527). Similarly, he is aware of his primary organs being developed so that he has put his curiosity to unknown friend in his letter. He says, "Do you know what masturbation is? I think you probably do because you are older than me. But just in case, I will tell you. Masturbation is when you rub your genitals until you have an orgasm. Wow!" (21). As such explanation can be only given by a person who knows well about it. He even explains how masturbation is done i.e. rubbing the genitals. Such indications show that Charlie is well known about the physical development of adolescents.

Charlie develops the sense that there is attraction to opposite sex. He himself is attracted to Sam who is older than him as well. He imagines of dating her. He says, "And even though I thought Sam was very pretty and nice, and she was the first girl I

ever wanted to ask on a date someday when I can drive. I did not mind that she had a boyfriend especially if he was good guy like Patrick” (20). Charlie expresses it before he is well known about Sam and Patrick. He immediately thinks that Sam and Patrick are boyfriend and girlfriend. However, he wants to date Sam although she is older than him and has a boyfriend. Later he knows that Sam and Patrick are stepsister and stepbrother. In other words, Patrick's dad marries Sam's mom after her birth. After he knows this relation, he is very happy because he wants to ask her for date someday. He even dreams of doing sexual activities with her. This thought develops within Charlie because he is attracted to her.

Charlie learns what boyfriend and girlfriend do when they are in date or otherwise. He observes a boy and girl doing sexual activities in front of him in his house. Similarly, he sees his sister doing sexual activities with her boyfriend. From these observations he comes to know that boys and girls do several sexual activities when they are alone. In this regard, he states, “And I opened the door to the basement, and my sister and this boy were naked. He was on the top of her, and her legs were draped over either side of the couch. And she screamed at me in a whisper. Get out. You pervert” (12). He develops competence of gay sexual activities as well. He knows about it after he sees Patrick's and Brad's activities in the room. He finds them in the bathroom of Patrick's home whenever he is there for the party. In this regard, he says:

When I got out of the bathroom, I heard a noise in the room where we left our coats. I opened the door, and I saw Patrick kissing Brad. It was a stolen type of kissing. They heard me in the door and turned around. Patrick spoke first. Is that Charlie? (36).

However, Charlie is unknown about what girlfriend and boyfriend do during dating in spite of being 15/16 years old. In other words, he is not experienced about these activities. Later, he listens to the description of the activities that boys and girls do during dating from Sam. She tells him about these matters. Even she is well known about Mary Elizabeth. In this regard, Charlie says:

Sam did say that sex things were tricky with Mary Elizabeth since she's had boyfriends before and is a lot more experienced than I am. She said that the best thing to do when you don't know what to do during anything sexual is pay attention to how that person is kissing you and kiss them back the same way.

She says that is very sensitive, which I certainly want to be.

So, I said, "Can you show me?" (113)

Similarly, he learns many things about birth of the baby from his sister. She is also so frank to him so that she says whatever he wants to know on this topic. Even he hears many things about sex from his father. When his father knows that Charlie has a girlfriend, he suggests him about sex. His father asks him to use protection during sex. He also advises him not to do anything forcefully. Even he tells Charlie to ask anything to himself or his brother in case he finds difficulty to ask his father. In this way, Charlie learns about love, date and sex in the novel.

Charlie learns many things through emotional experience as well. Nico Frijda states, "Emotional experience can take three different forms: awareness of situational meaning structure awareness of autonomic arousal, and awareness of action readiness" (256). Charlie also observes what is happening around him and trying to find the meaning so that he is trying to develop the competence suitable to arising environment. As he is depressed due to the death of his friend, Michael in the beginning, he is trying himself to bring out of that with the help of family members,

friends, teacher and even psychiatrist, and he seems to be somehow successful in this matter. Similarly, he is aware of information Sam tells him regarding love and Mary, his girlfriend. He is trying to use it in real life. However, Charlie seems to fail in the performance of some actions. Although Charlie falls in the love affair and drinks alcohol with Mary, he does not do sex with her when she is ready for it. This is one of the reasons of their affair breakdown.

Charlie is depressed due to the death of Michael in the beginning. He is so sad and even cries a lot. He is even kept in the counseling session. When the counselor expresses the possible reasons i.e. problems at his home for Michael's suicide, Charlie screams at the guidance counselor. He writes:

The counselor said that he suspected that Michael had problems at home and didn't like he had anyone to talk to. That's maybe why he felt all alone and killed himself. Then I started screaming at the guidance counselor that Michael could have talked to me. And I started crying even harder. He tried to calm me down by saying that he meant an adult like a teacher or a guidance counselor. But it didn't work and eventually my brother came by the middle school in his Camaro to pick me up. (4)

The condition as discussed in the extract so far shows that Charlie is very sad and depressed because of Michael's death. Even he is facilitated to rescue from that condition in the school as well as home. However, he feels that nobody is his favorite after the death of Aunt Helen, mother's sister. He says:

I don't think that there is favorite kid in our house. There are three of us, and I am the youngest. My brother is the oldest. He is a very good football player and likes his car. My sister is very pretty and mean to boys and she is in the

middle. I get straight A's now like my sister and that is why they leave me alone. (5)

Charlie feels alone at his home as portrayed in the text. Father and mother remain busy in their own tasks. His brother and sister are busy in their own affairs of their interest. From this condition, it seems like Charlie has developed the feeling that they do not like him especially immediately after the Michael's death. However, this condition slowly improves as he has made many friends including Sam and Patrick. His family especially mother takes care of him. She comforts him when he is sad.

The more Charlie learns to express his emotions, views and attitudes with regard to anything, the more comfortably he adapts to changing scenarios. The reverse also holds true. The more he adapts to the rigors of his school life, and loneliness at home, the more expressive he tends to be. He hears some of his favorite music and songs which gradually enable him to boost up his expressive power. With a rise in his expressive power, he manages some of the tough challenges and discomforts of his life. Attending Rocky Horror Picture Show instructs him how to expose himself for the mobility in his life. He chooses to read some novels which enable him to adapt to the rigidity of his solipsistic life. The more exposure and adaptation he demonstrates, the more expressive, cool, dynamic and flexible his disposition tends to be.

Later Patrick and Brad have sex in the Patrick's room in one party. In this regard, Charlie further avers:

Patrick kept a secret as to why Brad came to the party. When most people left, Brad and Patrick went to Patrick's room. They had sex for the first that night. I don't want to go into detail about it because it's pretty private stuff, but I will say that Brad assumed the role of the girl in terms of where you put things.

(44)

Later Charlie himself dates with a girl named Mary Elizabeth. She is an experienced girl in dating and even having sex. Charlie's adaptation is cultural. He endeavors to adjust by being dynamic and fluid. In this regard, Catalina Booth & Kathy Lazear define cultural adaptation that reviews and changes the structure of a practice to more aptly suit the needs and choices of a specific cultural community (1). Hence, cultural adaptation involves modifications to service delivery to meet spiritual, social and geographical needs of the specific people. Charlie seeks to adapt to the society spiritually and culturally.

After Charlie meets Sam and Patrick, he becomes a good friend to them. Even though he is attracted to Sam who is elder than him, he gets more intimate with them. They take Charlie to their friends and introduce him to them. He even shares the dream in which he sees himself naked with Sam. He also thinks of asking Sam to date after he learns to drive. However, she ignores him in the beginning as she is elder than him. He becomes intimate with Sam and Patrick as friends. Charlie goes to party, theatre, etc. with them. They share gifts during Christmas as well. Charlie's mother even tells him to bring them sometime for dinner after holidays and he does. Similarly, he also goes to Patrick's and Sam's house. The intimacy is quite good between them.

Later Charlie finds Mary Elizabeth with whom he goes for dating as well. He goes to watch movie with her. He knows many things of Mary Elizabeth including her desire to explore lesbian relationship. She gives him a book of poems by a famous poet named e. e. Cummings and Charlie gives her a book *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a gift. After his parents know about his girlfriend through her sister, they invite Sam, Patrick and Mary Elizabeth in the house. However, Mary Elizabeth identifies his real condition after she visits his home and leaves him.

Charlie is also socialized nicely within the family. He goes shopping with mother and sister. Sister often tells her secrets only with him. During the Christmas even his father tells him his story when he is in high school and Charlie likes it. Charlie also meets grandmother, uncle, aunt and has nice time. Spending time with family makes him somehow change his mind and come out from the depression.

Charlie is sad remembering Aunt Helen who dies when he is seven years old. After her, he thinks that he finds nobody intimate like her in his family. He often visits her grave with his mother. He spends leisure reading books, listening music and watching movies. Charlie is very sad to the death of Michael. As he is Michael's intimate friend, he thinks that he can understand everything of him. However, Michael does not share anything like that which can be the cause of his suicide. Due to this reason also, he is aggressive as well.

His behavior is good with his friends. His behavior is also good with the family although he feels lonely. He develops quite good behavior with friends especially Patrick and Sam. They even exchange gifts at Christmas. Similarly, the relationship is also quite good in the family. Charlie's mother is aware about her son at home. She takes Charlie to shopping, grave of Aunt Helen etc. to make him happy. She also asks him to invite Patrick and Sam after holidays. These activities help Charlie to somehow be happy.

In the beginning, Charlie does not smoke. However, he learns to do it later because of the influence of his friends. As he is very intimate to Sam and Patrick, they smoke so that they share cigarettes later. Even he is encouraged by them to smoke. Charlie learns to smoke due to friends' circle because he spends more time with Sam and Patrick. Barnes.

Charlie is facilitated by Sam for learning to smoke. She shares how it feels like while smoking with Charlie and also asks how he feels. In this way Charlie learns to smoke following her instructions. However, Charlie's sister doubts over him for smoking, she asks him about it with surprise and suggests him not to do so. Charlie learns to drink alcohol as well. He goes to Mary Elizabeth's house where he drinks brandy with her. In this regard, Charlie says:

So, I was sitting alone in her basement while she was upstairs getting something to drink. And I looked around the room, which was very clean and smelled like people didn't live there. It had a fireplace with a mantel and golf trophies. And there was a television and a nice stereo. And then Mary Elizabeth came downstairs with two glasses and a bottle of brandy. She said that she hated everything her parents loved, except for brandy. (125)

Charlie takes the risk of drinking wine to accept the Mary Elizabeth's request as depicted in the text. Although Charlie is suffering from depression, he is dutiful to his seniors. Once when his parents have gone to Ohio, his brother organizes party in his home. At that time Charlie is told to stay in the room where the coats are kept by his brother and he obeys it honestly. Similarly, Charlie completes the task given by his teachers. He does all the assigned tasks by his advanced English teacher, Bill. He studies many recommended books and writes essays on many of them. Similarly, he obeys his parents, brother and sister. He does all the tasks like reading books or helping mom in the kitchen, etc. He even helps the sister being her fake husband to abort while she is pregnant.

She asked me to pour the drinks while she made a fire. She was excited, too which was strange because she's never like that the music started, and she clicked my glass, and cheers, and took a sip of brandy. Brandy is very good by

the way, but was better at the Secret Santa Party. We finished the first glasses very quickly. My heart was beating really fast, and I was starting to get nervous. She handed me another glass of brandy and touched my hand very softly. (26)

Ethics is about affectivity, but affectivity is also about coming to know and act in the world more adequately, and thoughts are created on the basis of that which shows the similar type of behavior appropriately. Charlie is honest towards his friendship as well. He is faithful towards the friendship with Sam and Patrick. Even he saves Patrick when he is attacked. In this regard, Charlie says:

Brad's buddies started laughing even harder. That is, until Patrick threw the first punch. It's kind of eerie when a whole room gets quiet at once, and then the real noise starts. The fight was hard. A lot harder than the one I had with Sean last year. There was no clean punching or things you see in movies. They just wrestled and hit. And whoever was the most aggressive or the angriest got in the most hits. In this case, it was pretty even until Brad's buddies got involved, and it became five on one. That's when I got involved. I just couldn't watch them hurt Patrick even if things weren't clear just yet. (151)

Charlie clearly expresses in the excerpt that he cannot see Brad and his friends hurting Patrick so that he gets involved in the fight. Then he rescues him from there. All these incidents show that Charlie's moral transformation is good. Despite spiritual transformation of immigrants in the United States, they undergo the ethnic and cultural transformation for adaptation. The National Center for Cultural Competence elucidates that the making of the U.S. population changes because of immigration patterns and crucial changes take place racially, ethnically, culturally and

linguistically diverse communities. Charlie copes with the fluid cultural diversity of the US so as he can be accepted.

The study discusses psychological transformation of Charlie of *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and Esperanza of *The House on Mango Street*. It explores how the struggle of Esperanza and Charlie go in parallels. Both of the novelists Cisneros and Chbosky hold significant positions in the history of children literature. In both of the novels, adolescents narrate the stories. Specifically, subject matter in *The House on Mango Street* is seen through the eyes of Esperanza. She narrates what she has seen around her and how she feels while witnessing these things. Similarly, the subject matter in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is seen through the eyes of Charlie. He narrates whatever he witnesses around him and whatever he feels while witnessing these things. Therefore, whatever is revealed in the story is through adolescents' perspectives.

Both of the novels are set in America. *The House on Mango Street* makes its setting in Chicago, where there are immigrants from Mexico live. Similarly, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* makes its setting somewhere in America. The novel does not mention where it is really based. However, its setting in Pennsylvania can be guessed as the writer is born and grows there. Therefore, both of the novels include the problems American adolescents face in their context and how they try to come out of these problems.

The protagonists of both of the novels are in between 12 to 16 years. As they are in the phase of physical transformation, they notice the changes taking place at this age. As a result, both of the characters mention about the physical changes which they observe especially in girls in the novels. In this regard, Charlie states, "There is this one girl in my advanced English class named Susan. In middle school, Susan was

very fun to be around. She like movies and her brother Frank made her tapes of this great music that she shared with us. But over the summer she had her braces taken off and she got a littler and prettier and grew breasts” (6). As expressed in the excerpt, Charlie says when Susan grows breasts when she is in the advanced class. However, she does not have breasts when she studies in the middle school. He clearly marks the physical development he notices in the girl named Susan in the novel. Similarly, Esperanza expresses the change of girls during the adolescence. In this regard, she says:

But most important, hips are scientific, I say repeating what Alicia already told me. It's the bones that let you know which skeleton was a man's when it was a man and which woman's. They bloom like roses. The bones just one day open. Just like that. One day you might decide to have kids, and then where are you going to put them? Bones give. (50)

As expressed by both characters Charlie and Esperanza, they well know the physical changes of adolescents especially of girls in both of the novels. Both of the protagonists suffer from depression. Charlie is depressed due to the death of his friend Michael in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. He also remembers his dead aunt Helen. Similarly, Esperanza is depressed due to moving from place to place for living with all the family members in *The House on Mango Street*. Likewise, other reasons for her depression are poverty, gender oppression and ethnic oppression. Her parents are low class workers so they cannot afford the big, wide house. However, she wants to stay in the wide house so that she dreams of hiring of apartment and living there alone and she is able to do it at the end.

Similarly, the perception of Mexican-American people over their daughters is also reflected in the novel. These people think that sending girls to school/college

takes an extra burden. However, Esperanza is found to be against this perception of people of her community. Hence, she struggles against this perception. Moreover, Mexican-American people are found to be different in the community than others, especially European. They do not want to mix their children with other poor and working class children. Therefore, Esperanza finds the treatment done by high class people different to them than by the people of their community. As a result she is depressed.

The protagonists in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *The House on Mango Street* struggle for their identity. Charlie struggles to forget the memory of his friend, Michael. Even he is taken to the counseling class in school to help him to come out of the problem. Later, he is also taken to psychiatrist for the treatment. With the support of his family, friends, teacher, etc. he is able to gain success in it.

Esperanza, on the other hand, struggles against the women's oppression, poverty and loneliness. She observes the imprisoned women, deserted women, etc. in her society and keeps ambitions to work against it although she knows that this is very complex. She expresses about all these problems in her writings. Later, she moves to her own apartment leaving her family. She feels free and independent from every perspective there. After this long struggle, she is able to achieve success as a writer.

Both protagonists face violence. Charlie is sexually abused by his Aunt Helen when he is young. This is revealed when he is admitted to mental hospital. Similarly, he knows that his friend Sam is also sexually abused as a child. He also witnesses the other violence events as well. Brad and his friends attack Patrick. At first as Patrick and Brad are fighting, other four friends of Brad are involved so that Charlie gets involved and saves Patrick. Moreover, Charlie witnesses his sister's boyfriend hitting on her face. He does not reveal this event to their parents in request of her. Other

many incidences of violence are also revealed by Charlie in his letter to his unknown friend.

On the other hand, Esperanza witnesses many events of violence as depicted in the novel. She sees the violence when she is with Sally. The boys take the keys of Sally and tell her to kiss them to get it back. Similarly, she witnesses scarred skin of Sally which represents that she is beaten at home. Rafaela is locked indoors when her husband arrives home. These sorts of domestic violence are common in her community.

Charlie, the protagonist in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and Esperanza, the chief character in *The House on Mango Street* possess numerous compatibilities. Both of the novels are narrated through those adolescent characters. Thus, both of the novels are delivered from their perspectives. As a result, the texts come under the category of children literature.

There are diverse differences between Charlie and Esperanza in terms of transformation. It presents how the world of Esperanza and Charlie different in terms of context and problems they face and how they endeavor to resolve or escape from them. Esperanza in *The House on Mango Street* is female. She is the narrator of the whole novel. She expresses how girls exist in the family and community. Regarding the boys and girls, she asserts, “The boys and the girls live in separate worlds. The boys in their universe and we are. My brother is an example. They have got plenty to say to me and Nenny inside the house. But outside they can't be seen talking to girls. Carlos and Kiki are each other's best friend not ours” (87). In Mexican-American community, girls may talk or play with their brothers inside their houses. However, they do not even talk freely the outdoor. Along with gender, Esperanza thinks that age is also important to be friend. She does not like to befriend younger or elder people. In

this regard, she says that Nenny is too young to be her friend. She is just her sister and that is not her fault. She argues that she cannot take girls of her sisters' age and play with them. She cannot play with those Vergas kids. Otherwise, she can become like them. For the protagonist, certain qualities must be possessed by the person to be her friend. Nenny is her responsibility. She seeks an appropriate friend and she expresses her hope that she will get a person who can become her friend one day. Then she could tell her secrets and jokes.

However, girls and boys are not restricted in terms of gender in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* as it has the setting of American culture. Charlie, the main character of the novel freely makes friends to both boys and girls. He makes a friend to a girl name Sam although she is elder than him. Besides, Charlie's mother invites his friends including girlfriends to her home for dinner. Thus, the relationship between Charlie and his sister is also like of friends. She usually shares many secrets with him. He is the one who becomes her fake husband for abortion purpose. The evidence reveals that the community of Charlie is liberal than the community of Esperanza.

Esperanza is the daughter of Mexican immigrants to America. Therefore, she stays with her family members on rent which she finds troublesome because they have to migrate from one place to another in the hope that one day they can buy their own house. Her mother often tells the story of the house of her dream and children get to listen and be satisfied. After the house on Mango Street is bought, Esperanza does not find much that her mother has told her. Later on she decides to live alone in an apartment which has enough space for her. This activity is different from the Latina culture because parents generally find good husbands for their daughters after they enter to the adolescence. The cultural differences influence the lives of both

Esperanza and Charlie. Guillermo Bernal and Melanie M. Domenech Rodriguez in their article, "Cultural Adaptation Context" state, "Notions such as interdependence, spirituality, relational views of self or the person, and particular worldviews are woven into the treatment. How to perform such cultural adaptations in a systematic way that documents the changes made to treatment, treatment provider, and treatment context is the basis for the writing" (10). The cultural values of the protagonists in the novels are discarded in the United States of America. Although both Esperanza and Charlie endeavor to retain their norms and assumptions in the host country, they fail because of their positions as immigrants. The difference between Esperanza and Charlie is the former's life is full of struggles as she faces financial crisis, whereas the latter one is the son of American parents and does not have any financial hazards. His challenge is that his personal life and its values are not compatible to those of the American normative culture.

However, Charlie is the son of American parents. He lives in his parents' home. As American culture is open, he is free to make decisions for himself regarding marriage. He is free to make girlfriends and also to leave them. These represent that the culture of Esperanza and Charlie are different regarding the conjugal life. Similarly, keeping sexual relationship with boyfriend/girlfriend is found to be common in American culture. In other words, keeping sexual relationship before marriage is taken easily there. Mary Elizabeth tries to keep sexual relation with Charlie, but he does not show any interest in sex. Moreover, Sam seeks to keep sexual relationship with Charlie as well. However, he does not show any interest in having sex with her as well. Hence, Charlie expresses in the letter that Sam and Mary have sex with their boyfriends. Charlie knows about the sex between Patrick and Brad.

Charlie does not keep sexual relationship. Thus, his sexual life is questionable. His sexual maturation is suspected.

Although actual age of Esperanza is not mentioned in the novel, it is predictable that she is in the process of becoming mature sexually. As her culture does not allow her to make boyfriend and/or keep sexual relationship before marriage, she learns by watching other girls making boyfriends and becoming pregnant. These show that the communities of Charlie and Esperanza are different. Charlie gets support in various ways as depicted in the novel. Sam and Patrick help him giving company. Spending time with them, Charlie tries to forget Michael's death. Sam's support for making girlfriends is also very important in the novel. Similarly, the support of family to Charlie is also important. His father comes to his room after he knows that Charlie has a girlfriend and suggests using protection. In the same way, his mother invites his friends for dinner to make the relationship intimate. Moreover, the support of Bill, his advanced English teacher is also important. His teacher recommends several books and encourages Charlie to read them and write essays on them. Reading and writing essays also keeps Charlie busy most often when he is alone at home.

Esperanza does not get support as like Charlie does. She struggles herself. Her father mostly remains busy in his work and cannot help her in studies. Similarly, her mother remains busy with her household chores. Moreover, she does not have friends who can help her in her study or get out of any problem. Charlie learns to smoke in the novel. He learns smoking due to peer influence because Sam and Patrick smoke. Similarly, he also drinks alcohol. Particularly, he usually drinks brandy when he goes to the house of Mary Elizabeth. However, Esperanza is not addicted to drug as portrayed in the novel. Nevertheless, she sees that the people who have problems in their home are generally addicted to it. Similarly, he also learns to drink alcohol/wine.

As drinking alcohol/wine may be common in American culture, he is young enough for it. He is offered wine by Mary Elizabeth when he goes her home and he accepts it.

Charlie has been suffering from the depression since his childhood. After the death of his friend, Michael, he becomes so depressed. Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder are also seen within him so that he is taken to a psychiatrist for the treatment. Similarly, he is admitted to advanced school after he completes the middle school. He is supported by the teacher, Bill who recommends the books for him to read and write the articles on the same books. This also helps utilize Charlie's time especially when he becomes alone.

Charlie's sudden awakening in handling basic problems of life shows him a clear path. When he is confused and too weak to yield to any unexpected hardship, he does not endeavor to know about his own inner power. The moment he realizes this truth, he comes forward on the way to solve all hardships of life in a flying color. On the other hand, Esperanza is depressed as an immigrant. Her experience reveals that she is from the oppressed working class racial minority and Latina culture. Through the presentation of other females without husbands and without good economic status, the reasons for Esperanza's depression are revealed in the novel.

Mary B. W. Tabor sees the issue pertaining to the intersection between the Latino and the American ground. Cisneros explores a space for negotiation between Esperanza's longing for Hispanic identity and the pressures exerted by American life in this longing. To reinforce this issue, Tabor argues:

But it is finding the middle ground between the Latino and the American that has provided the most creative tension for Ms. Cisneros. The first resolution of such tension, she says, was making it through school. The second was moving away from home and her Mexican father, Mexican-American mother and six

brothers. In some ways, she still is a dreamer since her expectation is not rooted to practical ground. (1)

To come out of the conflicting situations, it is not natural to seek a space for negotiation. As long as conflict between opposing cultural norms persists, there continues to be restlessness and problem in adaptation. Individuals with multicultural backgrounds mostly struggle to identify who they are and where their place in the world might be. In Esperanza's case, the same and similar condition prevails as well. That is why Cisneros puts herself on the lookout for a space for negotiation so that conflicting self can find solace and moves forward on the way to adaptation.

Charlie in the novel is a member of the economically upper class family. His parents have fulfilled his every demand like buying gifts, books, etc. Similarly, his family has their own house and car which sometimes he drives himself. Even they keep a personal teacher, Bill who recommends books and makes him write reviews/essays on them. Moreover, Charlie seems to manage the money for buying cigarettes after he starts smoking and sometimes for drinking wine. All these pieces of evidence show that Charlie is from a well-to-do family.

On the other hand, Esperanza is from the poor family. Firstly, the study demonstrates that her family migrates from place to place in the search of house to live and every time they face adverse conditions including lack of water, broken pipes, the problem with washroom, etc. After they buy the house on Mango Street, that house does not have any yard or enough space around. Secondly, her family does not have luxurious objects like car. Thirdly, they do not buy and read books as depicted in the text. They read books by borrowing from the library and writing. Finally, Esperanza and her friends even become happy when they get second hand shoes. These pieces of evidence reveal that Esperanza is from the lower class family.

Esperanza witnesses the problems of people especially females in her community. After she experiences oppression over immigrants and females in her community, she decides to take a lead role to rescue them. Regarding the functional aspect of legacy, Kelly Wissman states:

Sandra Cisneros alludes to and recasts popular fairy tales in *The House on Mango Street* to reveal their troubled legacy in the lives of many women in the novel. Drawing upon Latina feminist theory and Cisneros's autobiographical writing, this article posits that the main character Esperanza's alternative "happily ever after" comes through locating the vocation of writing as the fulcrum for self-definition and social change. (3)

The extract mentions that Esperanza is trying to search her identity through writing. She also raises voice against every type of oppression over the immigrants and females. As she catches glimpses of alternative realities through the guidance and support of mentors, the true significance of her defiance and creativity rests in her ability to connect her writing to self and community empowerment (Wissman 31).

However, Charlie's role is different from Esperanza. The text does not mention his role for the social transformation of his society. He forms a company of his friends. He enjoys with them and sometimes he invites them to his house at his mother's request. However, he does not think anything regarding the social transformation. Charlie narrates the entire story in the novel. He expresses everything from his perspective. In other words, all the events are presented from his vantage point of view. As a result, he expresses his feeling over every event. For example, he expresses how he feels for Aunt Helen and Michael. Similarly, he discusses how he feels for Sam, Mary and Patrick as well. One thing that is revealed on his expression

is maleness. In other words, he proposes Sam and Mary to realize that he is male. He does not have sex with them although they are ready to do with him.

Charlie lets Patrick kiss him as well although he realizes his maleness. He knows that Patrick is a gay and has relationship with Brad. Besides, Patrick has sex with Brad. He also knows that Patrick plays the role of male during the sex. This matter makes doubt by his saying 'I don't know why I let Patrick kiss me'. Except this evidence, maleness in all his expressions cannot be seen.

On the other hand, Esperanza narrates the whole story of *The House on Mango Street*. She describes whatever she sees and how she feels for herself and community. She makes friends to outsider girls i.e. not sisters. The study explores that she has some feeling for herself and some for her community. As she thinks that her society is oppressed due to being immigrants, she wants to help the people of her community. Similarly, she also thinks that female is oppressed in her community. She hopes that this oppression can be eliminated one day and therefore she works for that. Therefore, she leaves her family and lives in an apartment alone to be free from oppression. Moreover, she writes the pieces of evidence of females' situation of her community along with her feelings. In other words, she has feeling of sympathy for the females who are deserted or oppressed in some way. The expression of more femaleness in this novel cannot be observed.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* presents sex overtly. It expresses that when a girl is attracted to a boy or vice versa, their destination is to have sex, and they do it openly. When Charlie's brother organizes party as their parents are out to Ohio, one similar event happens in front of him. As he is sitting in that room to look coats with his brother's permission, two lovers come and asks for permission to stay in the same

room as they do not find a secret place there. After Charlie admits them, they start their romance. In this regard, Charlie says:

This one couple, whom I was told later were very popular and in love, stumbled into my room and asked if I minded them using it I told them that my brother and sister said I had to stay here, and they asked if they could use the room anyway with me still in it. I said I didn't see why not, so they closed the door and started kissing. Kissing very hard. After a few minutes, the boy's hand went up the girl's shirt and she started protesting... (30)

Then the girl starts to suck his penis and his every activity is observed by Charlie. As a girl is trying to trigger a boy about the physical presence in front of them, they do not care about it and continue to act for sex. This reveals that sex is an open activity for them. Even Charlie knows about Sam having sexual relation with her boyfriend, his sister with her boyfriend and Patrick with Brad.

However, Esperanza's community is not so open to sex. The text reveals the results caused by attraction and sex, like of Minerva and Marin. It does not present any sexual activities openly because Esperanza's community takes it as a secret activity that should be limited between husband and wife.

The relationship between brother and sister is shown like that of friends in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. His sister lets him use her dolls and watch whatever he wants to watch on the television. Charlie also helps his sister being her fake husband to abort when she is pregnant.

As the girl protests, the boy keeps on working. Charlie further says:

After a few minutes, she stopped protesting, and he pulled her shirt off, and he had a white bra on with lace...he took off her bra and started to kiss her breasts. And then he put his hand down her pants and she started

moaning...He reached to take off her pants, but she started crying really hard, so he reached for his own. He pulled his pants and underwear down to his knees. (30)

The protagonists share most of the things among themselves. Even her sister tells about childbirth as well. He also says that his sister is the one who tells him where babies come from. Similarly, when she knows that Charlie smoke, she threatens to tell about it to the parents, but she keeps it secret suggesting him to stop smoking later. All these matters show that the relationship between Charlie and his sister is like friends. However, the novel does not talk much about his relationship with his brother because his brother is out of home most often.

On the other hand, Esperanza's relationship is not as friendly as like Charlie with her brother and sisters. She thinks that the age and gender is most important for making friends. In her opinion, person of same gender and similar age can only be friends. As being a girl, Esperanza even hesitates to talk with her brothers in the public places. In this regard, she says:

The boys and the girls live in separate worlds. The boys in their universe and we in ours. My brothers for example. They've got plenty to say to me and Nenny inside the house. But outside they can't be seen talking to girls. Carlos and Kiki are each other's best friend...not ours. Nenny is too young to be my friend. She's just my sister and that was not my fault. (8)

As the excerpt expresses, the boy develops friendship with the boy and girl makes friends to girl in the Esperanza's community. Even she considers as the important factor to make friends. Carlos and Kiki are best friends because they are boys and probably have less difference in age. However, she does not accept Nenny as her friend because she is younger than her. The evidence presents that the relationship

between brother and sister is different in both of the novels. Consequently, both of the protagonists endeavor to maintain the relationship as their community and culture favors.

Charlie is the youngest son in the novel. Therefore, his family members take care of him. After Charlie suffers from depression after the death of his friend, Michael, a special attention is given to him by his family. His mother takes him for shopping. Similarly, his father suggests him after he knows that Charlie makes a girlfriend. His brother goes to his school to receive him after the death of Michael. Even he is taken to the psychiatrist by the family for the treatment. Charlie also obeys what his seniors say without any question. In this regard, he says:

I was just confused all day. So, I tried to help my mother in the kitchen, but I dropped the casserole, so she told me to read in my room until my father came home, but reading is what started this whole mess in the first place. Luckily, my father came home before I could pick up the book again, but he told me to stop “hanging on his shoulders like a monkey” because he wanted to watch the hockey game. (56)

The extract reveals that Charlie is obedient to his seniors. He obeys all whatever his parents, brother and sister say because of being a youngest son of the family.

Esperanza, on the other hand, is the eldest daughter of the family. She has to take care of her brothers and sisters in her family. She also fulfils her responsibility of being elder daughter of the family. In this regard she says, “She (Nenny) can't play with those Vergas kids or she will turn out just like them. And since she comes right after me, she is my responsibility” (23). Her parents tell any matter to her as she is the eldest daughter. In this regard, she says, “Because I am the oldest, my father has told me first, and now it is my turn to tell the others. I will have to explain why we can't

play. I will have to tell them to be quite today” (56-57). This excerpt reveals that there is the culture of handling the family by the elder members. Therefore, parents give this responsibility to the eldest one in their absence. This is the main reason that her parents tell the matter to her as she is the eldest child in her family.

Both characters are different in both of the texts. The problems they face of different nature and they overcome in their own way. Charlie’s culture seems to be more open than the Latina culture of Esperanza. Their perception regarding gender is also different due to the prevalent way of thinking in their community. Similarly, their status, expectation of the family, etc. also causes them to be different. Therefore, it can be said that Charlie and Esperanza reveal the reality of the multicultural society.

The study has explored the multiple challenges faced by the protagonists especially Esperanza and Charlie in both of the texts. The social and cultural adaptations for both of them retain the focal aspects of their psychological and physical journeys. The study has met the objective that it shows the transformation of the characters during their course in the American society. Adolescent youths in children literature develop philosophies of their own in their struggles for adaptation. This research discovers dialectics of expressivity and adaptation of the protagonists, Esperanza and Charlie. It shows how adolescent youths in these children literatures happen to develop philosophies of their own in their struggles for adaptation. In other words, it reveals how Esperanza and Charlie transform psychologically and morally in their society. This research is done using coming of the age narrative theory. In Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street*, Esperanza is prone to hassles of innumerable types ranging from bullying and abuse to alienation and depression. To tap her creative impulse, she is in search of a separate house which is supposed to enhance her creativity. Her neighborhood bores her. The then society looks at Hispanic

Americans with bias. She too falls prey to this unjust practice. Like other typical Hispanic girls cherish their dreams, she too hopes to accomplish a feat of memorable importance. She develops the impression that only she is right in her approach and others are wrong. Such an impression brings her in conflict with many people and things. To overcome the problem in adaptation, she begins to write about her restless self, suffering and dream of salvation.

I watched the hockey game with him for a while, but I couldn't stop asking him questions about which countries the players are from, and he was "resting his eyes," which means he was sleeping but didn't want me to change the channel. So, he told me to go and watch television with my sister, which I did, but she told me to go help my mother in the kitchen, which I did, but then she told me to go read in my room. I've read about a third of the book now, and it's pretty good so far. (66)

The more Esperanza writes and endeavors to express in various ways, the more easily she adapts to the tough world which is seemingly insensitive and indifferent, according to Esperanza's perception. Actually, the world is as it is. Because Esperanza is stuck to her comfort zone, it is natural for her to hold the entire society responsible for her inner difficulty in adaptation. The more she expresses about her inner malaises and outer hassles, the more smoothly she adapts to complicated world of adults. Her expressivity enables her to come to terms with the world of mature people.

Simultaneously, the more adaptive power she cultivates, the more expressive she appears to be.

Charlie is compelled to repress a painful memory of his friend, Michael. In addition, problems like bullying, alienation, temptation of drug addiction and seductive appeal of infatuation continue to exert pressures in Charlie's life. Charlie

remains in doldrums as he fails to adapt to the emerging changes in his life and in his surroundings. The more Charlie learns to express his emotions, views and attitudes with regard to anything, the more comfortably he adapts to changing scenarios. The more he adapts to the rigors of his school life, and loneliness at home, the more expressive he tends to be. He hears some of his favorite music and songs which gradually enable him to boost his expressive power. With a rise in his expressive power he manages some of the tough challenges and discomforts of his life. Attending Rocky Horror Picture Show instructs him how to expose himself for the mobility in his life. He chooses to read some novels which enable him to adapt to the rigidity of his life.

Young find conflict between own self and society. In general, it is difficult to communicate own problem with anyone and expresses own personal matter. Even the young stage is transition phase; therefore, all crucial changes cannot be experienced. This conflict creates obstacles and incommunicable complexity between them. As such many problems and understanding can be experienced during the phase of adolescences. The novels particularly discuss crucial problems of adolescence during the transitional phase, one in which a young encounters psychological shifting. The individual undergoes drastic change that is reflected in both physically and mentally.

### Chapter III

#### Reshaping Personal Self in Transitional Phase in Between Childhood to Adulthood

The study has discussed and shown the failure to come out of the mold of adolescence to the dawn of adulthood as the fundamental point that both *The House on Mango Street* and *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*. Both of the novels have presented young characters in between childhood to adulthood. The phase is crucial when an individual undergoes several changes and out of the mess of changes, person establishes own self. Having contact with external world, an individual experiences moral and ideological lessons. On the basis of external world and its practice, children shape and reshape personal opinion, thought and idea which is considered identity formation of any individual. Every person undergoes the transition period but experiences are different which can create a unique and different identity.

Esperanza and Charlie have undergone similar experiences in terms of age factor however both of them have different socio context and experiences the external world. The different context invites them into the world which is distinctly different and experiences of the world are different. Other many factors, society, culture, tradition, people and altogether practice of the world reshape their identities respectively. The experience is learning process and having the experience they should learn and develop own idea that carries and represent self and it is social identity of any individual.

The novels projects American society which is multicultural world and the society is rapidly fluctuating. This kind of societal experience is reflected through the characters in the both novels. The study has also shown that the status of immigrants including Esperanza as depicted in the novel is not acknowledged and counted by the

people of the majority culture in America. The immigrants cannot achieve the objective of being culturally adaptable to the new society. She has pursued appropriate home environment for her creative exposures. Therefore, she seeks a separate house for enhancing her creativity. Her neighborhood bores her. The then society looks at Hispanic Americans with bias. She becomes a victim of the illogical and unjustifiable practices prevalent in the normative society. She has dreamt of achieving a bigger goal in life which she fails to do so. Nevertheless, the surrounding she lives in and the people she faces bore her to death. She develops the impression that only she is right in her approach and others are wrong. The impression leads her to conflicting with the diverse people and things.

The study has explored intricacies and crucial aspects in development and their physical and psychological temperament. Both Esperanza and Charlie undergo complicated and crucial suffering. The research has observed protagonists' development and their struggles for identity. In course of creating identity, both of them experience different world, why they express their sexual desires differently from the normative patterns and what the protagonists do to adapt to the adverse conditions in the host country. In order to overcome and come out from adversities, they try to discover themselves.

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