

**SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION REFLECTED IN VERONICA ROTH'S
DIVERGENT (2011): MARXIST THEORY**



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APPROVAL

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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan diskriminasi sosial yang terjadi pada novel Divergent (2011) karya Veronica Roth. Novel Divergent (2011) dianalisis menggunakan pendekatan Marxist. Analisis diselesaikan dengan mengacu pada dua objek: pertama yaitu analisa yang berdasar elemen struktural, dan yang kedua yaitu analisa mengenai sosial diskriminasi dengan menggunakan pendekatan Marxist. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua sumber data. Yang pertama yaitu novel Divergent (2011) karya Veronica Roth sebagai sumber utama. Sumber data kedua diambil dari buku, biografi penulis, jurnal, sumber internet yang berhubungan dengan penelitian. Dua jenis data diperoleh melalui perpustakaan yang dianalisa menggunakan analisa deskriptif. Berdasarkan penelitian tersebut, peneliti menyimpulkan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama yaitu elemen struktural novel yang diperoleh melalui karakter dan karakterisasi, seting tempat dan waktu, plot, sudut pandang, dan tema yang terangkum menjadi satu sebagai cerita dalam novel. Kedua, yang berdasar pada pendekatan Marxist dalam materialisme dialektis, sejarah materialisme, perjuangan kelas, keterasingan, revolusi dan diskriminasi sosial yang tercermin pada karakter utama dalam novel Divergent (2011).

Kata kunci: sosial diskriminasi, elemen struktural novel, pendekatan Marxist

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to reveal the social discrimination in Divergent (2011) novel by Veronica Roth. Divergent (2011) novel is analyzed by using Marxist approach. The analysis is done by determining two objects: the first is analyzing the novel based on the structural elements, and the second is analyzing the problem of discrimination by using Marxist approach. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. There are two types of data sources. The source of primary data is Veronica Roth's Divergent (2011) novel. The secondary data sources are from books, biography of the author, journals, and internet sources related to the study. The two kinds of data collected through library research and analyzed with descriptive analysis. Based on the research, the researcher draws the following conclusions. The first, the structural element of the novel described the character and characterization, setting of place and time, plot, point of view,

and theme. It shapes into one unity in a novel story. The second, based on Marxist approach in dialectical, historical, class struggle, alienation, revolution and the social discrimination was revealed with other descriptions of Marxist the major character reflected in *Divergent* (2011) novel.

Keywords: social discrimination, structural elements of novel, Marxist approach.

1. Introduction

All of people who live in this world would demands justice and equality. They also want a decent job and a good social status to fulfill their daily requirements, but they have a different social status. This is the reason why discrimination appears. Envy against the existing thereon and also a sense of discrimination against people who underneath. Marx Stated that “all society that had ever existed had been class societies of one kind or another” (Saunders, 1990: 5). And because of this difference discrimination occur Ansel said that “Discrimination refers to unfair treatment of some sort”. (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 290), Ansel also mentions that “discrimination is costly both to individual and to society” (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 304).

Veronica Roth, as the author of *Divergent* (2011) novel, reflected the social discrimination on her novel. *Divergent* (2011) tell a story about post apocalyptic nation, named Chicago. The government of Chicago decided to divide the society into five factions in hopes of creating a better, more peaceful world than the one that existed before. The city of Chicago is said to be abandoned and in ruins due to the collapse of the last society. All events in the book take place in the five factions including Abnegation, Erudite, Dauntless, Amity, and Candor.

In the *Divergent* (2011), the authority of the government in Chicago was trusted with the Abnegation. Jeanine as the Erudite’s leader envy with it, she want to grab those authority, she released some article filled with slander about Abnegation. Those article made the Abnegation under discrimination from the other factions. This condition affected with the main character of the *Divergent* (2011) novel, Beatrice Prior. She had to face the discrimination because she came from the Abnegation.

1.1 Literary Review

The *Divergent* (2011) is an interesting fantasy novel. These novels are interesting to be read and also to be a research object. As far as the researcher concerns,

the research on *The Divergent (2011)* has been conducted by the students around the world.

The research is created by Larasati (2016) from State Muhammadiyah Surakarta University at Sukoharjo with title “Pessimistic View Of The Future Of Genetic Engineering In Veronica Roth’s *Divergent (2011)* Trilogy Novel (2011-2013): A Sociological Approach.” This research belongs to qualitative research. The primary data of this research is *Divergent (2011)* Trilogy by Veronica Roth, while the secondary data of this research is other sources related to the study, such as: virtual sources and other printed materials that support this research. The researcher draws three conclusions in this research. *First*, the Pessimistic View of the Future of Genetic Engineering is characterized by such qualities as negative perception, anxiety, sadness, despair, doubtfulness, and low self-esteem. *Second*, the Pessimistic View of the Future of Genetic Engineering is depicted mainly through the plot illustrating that society cannot develop naturally, society wants equal treatment between genetic damage and genetic pure, society commit revenge to the bureau, and genetic damage is always accused of war, rebellion, or the kind of bad action. *Third*, the underlying reason of the author to give concern in futuristic issues is that the author wants to raise the awareness of the need for wise usage of science and technology, especially genetic engineering.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the researcher takes the problem statement is “How is the Social Discrimination reflected at Veronica Roth’s *Divergent (2011)* novel?”

1.3 Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher will focus in analyzing Social Discrimination which is reflected in the *Divergent (2011)* using marxist approach.

1.4 Underlying Theory

This chapter deals with underlying theory. The theory that is going to be used in this research, namely Marxist theory, which is appropriate to analyze the problem in this novel *Divergent (2011)*.

1.4.1 Notion of Marxist

Marxist theory explain that social theory about human live in the world. Marxist theorists tend to focus their interpretations on considering how literary texts depict class oppression, strife, and social inequality to serve critique elements of capitalistic Western life. Marxist theorists also consider how literary texts subvert even overturn ordinary forms of social and political order then it will present new forms of social and political perception and interaction. According to Suseno (2001:5) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between economic, social, and political concept. Marxism is one of the components in the communist sytem ideology and marxism is different with communism.

1.5 Major Principle of Marxist Theory

1.5.1 Dialectical Materialism

According to Elster (2000:47) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Dialectical is a term from ancient Greek. It is a concept that sees conflict, antagonism, and contradiction is condition that needed to reach some certain result. While matreialism means belief that only money, possessions, and something can be seen are important. So dialectical materialism is the process that build reality through the process of contradiction to reach the absolute truth and movement.

1.5.2 Historical Materialism

According to Engels on Prihana India thesis, the universal or general is not some mystical, immanent reality existing in a different sphere from the concrete particulars.

The suprastructure economy is reflected in suprastructure of social politic and ideology. But the reality that determined the structure of society and the development in history is the structure of social classes (Suseno, 1999:1350).

Slaughter (1980:197) explains about identical that a process and phenomena. Identical is the individual exsits only in the connection to universal. The universal exists only in the individual and individual. Every individual is universal.

According to Karl Mark view, historical materialism is a term that contains about society and history. Historical materialims is marxist theory that tend to focus on the social development based on economic circumtance. The structure of society and the development in history are determined by the structural of social classes.

1.5.3Class Struggle

According to Sati Nurchotimah on her thesis: 16, Class strugle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class againts the oppressor. It focuses on the way the class oppressed face the oppressor. The reason behind this class of struggle is economic. Because economic can determine the society class of level such as the elite (the arisocrats and the bourgeois), the proletariat. The oppressed that make the proletariat struggle is they work for the elite but it make them exploited. Rummel (1977) said “Marx’s emphasis on class conflict as constituting the dynamics of social change, his awareness that change was not random but outcome of a conflict of interest, and his view of social relation as based on power were constributions of the first magnitude”. Class of struggle is the active expression of the thoretical class of conflict that is looked from any socialist perspective.

1.5.4Alienation

According to Suseno (2001:88) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Karl Mark views human is alienated from his society because of his work in capitalist economy. The basic human alienation is work. Because the fundamental human activity is work and work makes human being real.

Human nature is aspect of alienation. Human work to appropriate their needs. Human is different from animal because human need to produce foods or goods by work. Basically alineation is happen both in human and world which it is seperated from object (Fargacs, 1986:63).

1.5.5Revolution

The result of class struggel is revolution. Revolution is an indication to the society which survived from crisis (Permanasari, 2011:18). Social revolution is the rapid and fundamental changes of society and class structure of a country. In the other word according to (Theda Skocpol:2), Social revolution coupled with the rebellion of the lower classes or the oppressed class. the lower classes or proletariat

change the social structure from old into the new one. By the revolution that is made by the lower classes, the lower classes sweep the class stratification to stop discrimination, exploration, then make a new society for a better life.

1.6 Notion of Social Discrimination

This research takes issue about Social Discrimination that occur in *Divergent* (2011) novel. All of people who live in this world would demands justice and equality. They also want a decent job and a good social status to fulfill their daily requirements, but they have a different social status. This is the reason why discrimination appear. Envy against the existing thereon and also a sense of discrimination against people who underneath. Marx Stated that “all society that had ever existed had been class societies of one kind or another” (Saunders, 1990: 5). And because of this difference discrimination occur Ansel said that “Discrimination refers to unfair treatment of some sort”. (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 290), Ansel also mentions that “discrimination is costly both to individual and to society” (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 304).

Discrimination called prejudice in action, it can called as prejudicial treatment of an individual based on their membership in a certain group or category. Discrimination is actual behaviour towards members of another group. It involves excluding members of one group from opportunities that are available to orther groups. Discrimination can produce exclusion from jobs, educational opportunities or neighborhood and also prejudice leads to overt forms of aggression against its target on one case in social environment. The person who is discriminate gets pressures of certain minority groups from living in society or neighborhood. Women and minorities have been victimized by discrimination in employment, education, and social services.

As the fact that, there are actual judgments for the black society with white society, there are some members of black group societies being isolated by white group societies within black people is settled down in white communities, or can be shown by the story of this novel, which Factionless had unfairly action by the other Faction in Chicago country.

There are some factors contribute to the existence of prejudice and discrimination, there are great diversity of the human species, pulls the contact that contact among people of different racial, ethnic and national background is increasing in human live (Baron & Bryne, 1997: 219).

According to Day (2001), There is no doubt that women, ethnic groups, gays and lesbians have all suffered discrimination, hence it is reasonable to view society as characterised by a plurality of oppressions, each rooted in a different form of domination.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data sources need literary data. This kind of research has purpose to analyze literature using psychoanalytic approach. The first step of conducting the research is determining the type of the study. The second is determining the object of the study. Then the third is determining data and data sources. The fourth is determining the technique of data collection, and the fifth is determining technique of data analysis. The object of the study of the research is *The Divergent (2011)* (2011) novel, written by Veronica Roth.

3. RESEARCH FINDING

The novel is analyzed by using Marxist theory. Marxist consist of five major issues. There are: Dialectical materialism, Historical materialism, Alienation, Class struggle, and Revolution. Veronica roth as the author of the *Divergent (2011)* described it systematically. She showed the dialectical materialism by reflecting the thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. She showed the process of alienation hapended to the major character of the novel. She describes the oppressing and the oppressed class that indicates class struggle, and closed the story with revolution process.

3.1 Dialectical Materialism

Dialectical is a term from ancient Greek. It is a concept that sees conflict, antagonism, and contradiction is condition that needed to reach some certain result. While materialism means belief that only money, possessions, and something can be seen are

important. So dialectical materialism is the process that build reality through the process of contradiction to reach the absolute truth and movement.

In Veronica Roth's *Divergent* novel reflects the process of dialectical materialism. Thesis comes when Erudite wanted to grab the authority in the government by releasing some article without proofs. Erudite releasing about Abnegation leader, Marcus Eaton who abused his children that caused him transferred into Dauntless.

Erudite true intention finally showed when Jeanine made new serum. She wants to control The Dauntless member to annihilated Abnegation, and took the authority in the government.

3.2 Historical Materialism

According to Karl Mark view, historical materialism is a term that contains about society and history. Historical materialims is marxist theory that tend to focus on the social development based on economic circumtance. The structure of society and the development in history are determined by the structural of social classes.

The definition of historical materialism can be reflected in character and characterization, setting and style. The character in *Divergent* divided into five factions. There are five factions in this novel, Amity, Erudite, Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless. But there are only two factions that never have the same arguments, they are Abnegation and Erudite. Erudite always told the untrue story about the Abnegation, because they want to take anything that belong to Abnegations. Erudite releasing some article without fact, because they wanted to take the authority in the government.

This situation affected to the major character, especially Beatrice Prior. Because she came from Abnegation, she had to face the social discrimination from the other members when she in was in the Dauntless to complete her initiation. She was called with "Stiff", a nickname for someone who came from Abnegation.

3.3 Class Struggle

According to Sati Nurchotimah on her thesis: 16, Class struggle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class againts the oppressor. It focuses on the way the class oppressed face the oppressor. The reason behind this class of struggle is economic. Because economic can determine the society class of level such as the elite (the arisocrats

and the bourgeois), the proletariat. The oppressed that make the proletariat struggle is they work for the elite but it make them exploited.

In the Marxist perspective society was divided into two classes. The Bourgeois and The Proletariat, The Oppressing class and The Opressed class. In The *Divergent*, Oppressing Class was reflected with Erudite, Opressed Class reflected with Abnegation. Erudite controlled Dauntless under the simulation. Erudite developed new serum which can control and used The Dauntless members to attacked The Abnegation. Erudite wanted a life in wealth, comfort and prosperity by taking the authority of the government. Jeanine as the leader of the Erudite said that Erudite was bored with the Abnegation leadership, they want to improve the government better than before, but they use many tricks such as released some fake articles to discriminated Abnegation, and made a new serum to control all the Dauntless members to attack the Abnegation.

3.4 Alienation

According to Suseno (2001:88) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Karl Mark views human is alienated from his society because of his work in capitalist economy. The basic human alienation is work. Because the fundamental human activity is work and work makes human being real.

The process of Alienation was reflected in the Veronica Roth's *Divergent* novel. The alienation process was reflected by Beatrice Prior as the major character. When Beatrice was in the Abnegation, she was alienated from her family, environments and her friends. She was different, she couldn't accept Abnegation value in her life, she was too selfish, and she was different from her family, so Beatrice decided to transfer to Dauntless.

3.5 Revolution

Revolution is an indication to the society which survived from crisis (Permanasari, 2011:18). Social revolution is the rapid and fundamental changes of society and class structure of a country. In the other word according to (Theda Skocpol:2), Social revolution coupled with the rebellion of the lower classes or the oppressed class. the lower classes or proletariat change the social structure from old into the new one. By the revolution that is

made by the lower classes, the lower classes sweep the class stratification to stop discrimination, exploration, then make a new society for a better life.

In The *Divergent* novel, the revolution was reflected at the end of the story. It was showed the process of the oppressed class against the oppressing class. The process was reflected by Tris as the major character. With her father, brother, and Marcus, they came to The Dauntless headquarters, build a plan and tried to saving Tobias and stop The Dauntless attacking on Abnegation because of the new serum's effect.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

After analyzing the *Divergent* novel using Marxist theory, the researcher founds that Veronica Roth as the author, showed her imagination about social live in the future. She gives her point of view about people personality from their aptitudes by reflecting in the character of the story. She reflects the whole of the Notion of Marxist, dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle and revolution.

The Dialectical Materialism in the story consist of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. Thesis comes when Erudite wanted to grab the authority in the government by releasing some article without proofs. Erudite releasing about Abnegation leader, Marcus Eaton who abused his children that caused him transferred into Dauntless. Erudite true intention finally showed when Jeanine made new serum. She wants to control The Dauntless member to annihilated Abnegation, and took the authority in the government.

Divergent also reflected Historical Materialism, the definition of historical materialism can be reflected in character and characterization, setting and style. The character in *Divergent* divided into five factions. There are five factions in this novel, Amity, Erudite, Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless. But there are only two factions that never have the same arguments, they are Abnegation and Erudite. Erudite always told the untrue story about the Abnegation, because they want to take anything that belong to Abnegations. Erudite releasing some article without fact, because they wanted to take the authority in the government.

Roth also reflect Class Struggle, The Bourgeois and The Proletariat, The Oppressing class and The Oppressed class. In The *Divergent*, Oppressing Class was reflected with Erudite, Oppressed Class reflected with Abnegation. Erudite controlled

Dauntless under the simulation. Erudite developed new serum which can control and used The Dauntless members to attacked The Abnegation. Erudite wanted a life in wealth, comfort and prosperity by taking the authority of the government. Jeanine as the leader of the Erudite said that Erudite was bored with the Abnegation leadership, they want to improve the government better than before, but they use many tricks such as released some fake articles to discriminated Abnegation, and made a new serum to control all the Dauntless members to attack the Abnegation.

The Alienation process also happen in *Divergent*, The alienation process was reflected by Beatrice Prior as the major character. When Beatrice was in the Abnegation, she was alienated from her family, environments and her friends. She was different, she couldn't accept Abnegation value in her life, she was too selfish, and she was different from her family, so Beatrice decided to transfer to Dauntless.

The Revolution show up at the end of the story. It was showed the process of The Opressed Class against The Oppresing Class. The process was reflected by Tris as the major character. With her father, brother, and Marcus, they came to The Dauntless headquarters, build a plan and tried to saving Tobias and stop The Dauntless attacking on Abnegation because of the new serum's effect.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Veronica Roth explains about the condition of the future where social classes are not divided based on materials. It was divided based on the citizen's personality, but Roth also explain that materials can cause jealousy as Jeanine does, she doing anything that cause Abnegation under discrimination.

After reading The *Divergent* (2011) novel, the researcher finds many moral values from the novel. The novel tells about the struggle of Beatrice Prior to bring out her confidence. Beatrice Prior does anything to move on from her condition. She was brave to takes an choice, because she believes that she will get happiness if she does it.

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