

The Comparative Literature Analysis of Collins' Novel "The Hunger Games" and Veronica Roth's Novel "Divergent"

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Keywords: Comparative Literature, Feminism, Social Phenomenon

ABSTRACT

The title of this research is The Comparative Literature Analysis in Suzanne Collins' Novel "The Hunger Games" and Veronica Roth's Novel "Divergent". It compares the two main characters in each novel, Katniss and Tris, using a feminist approach. The purpose of the research is to reveal and to compare the feminist values conducted by the main characters and to examine the similarities and differences in the main character's role in influencing the novel's social conditions in terms of feminism. This study uses descriptive qualitative research. The data source comes from the novels The Hunger Games and Divergent. Based on the writer's analysis, it shows that Katniss and Tris have tough and dominant characters. Both of them also show the activities that engage with the feminist movement. Furthermore, Katniss and Tris are fighting injustice in their social environments, albeit in different ways. Katniss makes soft gestures while Tris does the confrontation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Comparative literature is a branch of study that focuses on the study of literature and culture, as well as the action of comparing two or more literary works. If there is any similarity in form or thought, or if the literary works impact each other, a literary work comparison can be made. (Das, 2002) explained that "the simple way to define comparative literature is to say that it is a comparison between the two works of literature. Comparative literature analyses the similarities and dissimilarities and parallels between two works of literature. It further studies themes, modes, conventions, and use of folk tales, myths in two different works of literature or even more."

Based on that explanation, the writer conducts a comparative literature analysis of two types of literary works, *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*, in this article. The writer chose those types of books because it has a similarity in the theme of the story. Aside from that, the two works share a female main character; hence the writer will use a feminist critical approach to this research.

Feminism is a theory, which focuses on women ability to maintain their equality through their own actions and choices (Agustina & Mustolih, 2022). According to (Ritzer, 2004) "Feminism is kind of critical social theory which included in social context, political, economic, and history that is facing by injustice people. Feminists argue that society holds the false belief that women are by nature, less intellectually and physically capable than men, thus it tends to discriminate against women in the academy, the forum and the market place. According to (Krolokke, C., & Sorensen, 2005), the history of feminism is divided into three wave. Each wave deals with different aspects of the same feminist issues. (Rosenstand, 2006) states that "the first wave generally refers to the feminist movement in Europe and the United States from its early beginning the seventeenth century to the accomplishment of its most urgent goal, the right for the women right". Further (Philcer & Whelehan, 2004) say that "In Britain, the origins of first wave feminism lay in the widespread social and economic changes of industrialization, one aspect of which was the extension of constitutional rights to wider sections of the (male) population.

Feminist movements in numerous cultures are triggered by the patriarchal system's existence. The feminist movement is dedicated to achieving gender equality between men and women. Gender equality includes such things as the right to an education, the ability to work, and so on. The feminist 2 movement is not just portrayed or carried out through demonstrations or physical activities, but it can also be carried out in various ways, one of which is through literary works.

As we all know, one of the functions of literary works, such as *Hunger Games* and *Divergent*, is to serve as a social satire on things that are occurring in a social group at a certain era. The two novels are literary works that tell a story about public unrest in the face of a widely accepted and implemented 'social norm' that has become a tradition.

There are parallels between Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy and Veronica Roth's *Divergent* novel in terms of how they chose the theme and how the tale is redlined. Both of them demonstrate women's dominance in society. The primary characters in the novels look to be incredibly powerful ladies with significant character development. They are defined as physically and mentally tough, visionary, and sensible female figures, with personalities that are inversely proportional to women's "normal" personalities. Furthermore, both of the primary characters are defined as figures who have a significant influence on the way others believe. They also can inspire others to challenge society's unreasonable and harmful rules.

There a number of studies discussing this issue. One of them is a study conducted by (Anggawasita, 2010). In her research entitled, "An Analysis of The Main Character through Feminism Approach in The Novel Lucia, Lucia", she found that that Lucia is a well-educated, self-sufficient, firm, and determined woman. Furthermore, there is one point that demonstrates Lucia as a feminist character, because she appears as a strong personality woman in social conditions that discriminate against women's roles (Anggawasita, 2010). The next one is a research by Lisa entitled "*Kedudukan Perempuan dalam Kumpulan Cerpen SAIA Karya Djenar Maesa Ayu (Marxist Feminisme)*", she found that the issue of feminism appear in the novel such as discrimination, slavery and violence (Woll, 2017). The next one is a

research conducted by Eka Sela Sudarmi. Her material object is a novel written by Angela Morrison entitled *Sing Me to Sleep*. She found some action and effort to struggle against gender discrimination (Sudarni., 2017). The next one is a research conducted by Mahboob Hossain. His article builds arguments based on Marxist feminism which highlights that the capitalistic mode of production is one of the reasons for women's oppression and second category status in society. Thus, they face discrimination in many aspects of their lives. This paper also borrows the idea of (Hazelton, 2013) that access to specific information is a human right (Hossain, Nik Ahmad, & Siraj, 2016).. The last one is a study conducted Indiani Eka Permatasari She analyzes discrimination toward black woman which appears in Maya Angelou's poems. In this case, she chose three poems of Maya Angelou. Those are "Still I Rise", "Phenomenal Women", and "Caged Bird" (Permatasari, 2016).

There are several differences and similarities between previous studies done by various researchers and current research. The most striking similarity between all compiled research and current research is the object of research, which focuses solely on the main character in each literary work. Furthermore, there are some parallels, particularly concerning the issues raised regarding feminism. Then the difference is that the previous research only used one literary work as research material. While this research employs comparative elements, two literary works serve as research material. Ima Mustafa's previous research, "Comparative Literature in Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily* and Pramoedya's *Panggil Saja Aku Kartini*" has a similar concept to this current research. Ima's research focuses on attempting to compare two literary works that are solely concerned with the main character. These literary works, on the other hand, make more general comparisons, focusing on the characterizations and socio-cultural circumstances of the two main characters. Although there are elements of feminism discussed, the researcher does not go into detail about them. Meanwhile, the most recent study compares the main characters of the two literary works and focuses on the issue of feminism.

2. METHODS

In this research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative method for analysing the novels. (Cresswell, 2012) explains that "Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem" (p.22). The author uses qualitative research methods because the research is related to social phenomena that investigate human behaviour, where the presentation will be in the form of descriptive analysis. This research's primary data sources include dialogues among the novel's characters as well as narratives delivered directly or indirectly. The data that will be used are data that is directly related to or has an attachment to the main characters in the two novels, Katniss Everdeen (*The Hunger Games*) and Tris Prior (*Divergent*).

The writer collects the data by observation through reading the two novels (*The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins and *Divergent* by Veronica Roth). According to (Angrosino & Rosenberg, 2011), "observation is a data collection technique, in which the researcher doing the examination directly in the object of research to look at the activity" (p.104)

After collecting data through observations on the research object, the writer proceeds to the next step, which is data analysis. The data will be presented in descriptions and narrative forms because the author employs a qualitative approach. The writer will generally perform three steps to analyze the collected data, data reduction, data display and analysis process, and drawing conclusions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Women's Equality

One aspect of the two novels that demonstrates the value of feminism is the sign of women's equality through how the main characters in both stories struggle in their lives. Katniss Everdeen, for example, is a character who becomes the backbone of her family. She was forced to assume her late father's responsibilities. The situation was difficult for Katniss because she had taken responsibility since she was a child. The following statement demonstrates the condition:

They're not our kids, of course. But they might as well be. Gale's two little brothers and a sister. Prim. And you may as well throw in our mothers, too, because how would they live without us? Who would fill those mouths that are always asking for more? With both of us hunting daily, there are still nights when the game has to be swapped for lard or shoelaces or wool, still, nights when we go to bed with our stomachs growling (Hunger Games, Pg. 9) I can see the hills I climbed this morning with Gale. For a moment, I yearn for something . . . the idea of us leaving the district . . . making our way in the woods . . . but I know I 34 was right about not running off. Because who else would have volunteered for Prim? (Hunger Games, Pg. 25)

The statement above implies Katniss' difficulties as the backbone for her family. Despite her struggle, Katniss never attempts to escape her responsibilities as the family's leader, which she considers heavy despite the opportunity. Furthermore, Katniss's role as the head of the household and the backbone of her family demonstrates that Katniss is capable of carrying out the men's role.

Besides the issue of Katniss' role as her family backbone, the comparison of characterization between Katniss and Peeta is another example to reflect the emergence of the feminism movement in the novel *The Hunger Games*. It is well known that in the *Hunger Games* competition, each must send two representatives, one female and one male, including District 12. Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark were chosen as District 12 tributes (representatives).

In several parts of the *Hunger Games* story, Katniss's character is always juxtaposed and compared to Peeta's character, either explicitly or implicitly. Katniss Everdeen is

described as a tribute who is strong, intelligent, and quite capable of completing the Hunger Games competition. On the other hand, Peeta is known as an unconfident person because of his incompetency compared to Katniss. This statement is illustrated in the following situations:

I exchange a look with Peeta. "I don't have any secret skills," he says. (Hunger Games, Pg. 87)

"I can't do anything," says Peeta. "Unless you count baking bread." "She's excellent," says Peeta. "My father buys her squirrels. He always comments on how the arrows never pierce the body. She hits everyone in the eye. It's the same with the rabbits she sells the butcher. She can even bring down deer." 35 "What about you? I've seen you in the market. You can lift hundred-pound bags of flour," I snap at him. "Tell him that. That's nothing." (The Hunger Games, Pg. 88)

"Yes, and I'm sure the arena will be full of bags of flour for me to chuck at people. It's not like being able to use a weapon. You know it isn't," he shoots back. (The Hunger Games, Pg. 89)

Several excerpts from the above conversation describe the situation in which Haymitch, as a mentor, asks Katniss and Peeta for their strengths as tributes. In this situation, it is clear that Peeta lacks confidence and believes he has no advantages in the Hunger Games competition. Reversing it, Peeta conveys Katniss's strengths as a good skilled in archery, where this ability can be relied on in a competitive setting. Peeta's statement accurately describes his character, who appears weak, in contrast to Katniss's character, who is both physically and mentally strong. The following statement is the most obvious evidence that shows the comparison of Peeta and Katniss competency:

"But you won't! You'll be living up in some tree eating raw squirrels and picking off people with arrows. You know what my mother said to me when she came to say goodbye as if to cheer me up, she says maybe District Twelve will finally have a winner. Then I realized, she didn't mean me, she meant you!" bursts out Peeta. (The Hunger Games, Pg. 89)

The writer has already mentioned the evidence above in the first subchapter concerning Katniss Everdeen's characteristics. The excerpt above can also be a shred of good evidence to prove that Katniss is a very competent tribute, especially when compared to Peeta, her district colleague. However, this statement becomes very emotional for Peeta because his mother, as his closest person, believes Katniss is more likely to win the match than her son, Peeta.

Some of the passages that serve as the comparisons between Katniss and Peeta show the implementation of the women's and men's positions in the Hunger Games novel. It also indicates the equality of men and women, which can be referred to as a feminist movement.

In addition to Katniss, Tris Prior, the main character in the novel *Divergent*, shows the value of gender equality through her struggles to join Dauntless. Tris finds the training for new trainers or members who will join Dauntless to be an effortful test. It is because Tris is competing not only with new Dauntless trainers but also with Dauntless-born initiates, as demonstrated by the following statement:

"There is always at least one transfer who doesn't make it to the compound," says Eric, picking at his cuticles. He shrugs. "Anyway, in the first stage of initiation, we keep transfers and Dauntless-born initiates separate, but that doesn't mean you are evaluated separately. At the end of initiation, your rankings will be determined in comparison with the Dauntless-born initiates. And they are better than you are already. So I expect—" (Divergent, Pg. 32)

The condition demonstrates that Tris must be prepared to compete with all trainers, including opportunities to compete head-to-head with trainers. As is well known, the selection of trainers includes some factors such as physical, emotional, and mental endurance. Tris' situation will become even more difficult because most of the trainers are men, giving her a big chance to compete with male trainers. Included in the following combat sessions:

I stare at my name on the board. My cheeks feel hot. Al and Christina are just trying to help, but the fact that they don't believe, not even in a tiny corner of their minds, that I have a chance against Peter bothers me. 37 One second Peter and I are standing there, staring at each other, and the next Peter's hands are up by his face, his elbows bent. His knees are bent too like he's ready to spring. I have to stay on my feet so he can't kick me in the head. That's the only thing I can think about. (Divergent, Pg. 48)

The passages above show that Tris must get ready to face all of her trials, including direct competition with her male rival, in her efforts to join Dauntless. Tris must be prepared to compete with all of the male trainer group's competitors. Tris' struggle is becoming increasingly challenging, as she will face her competitors at different stages of the competition. Tris had to brace herself for the various forms of bullying she encountered during her struggle to join Dauntless. Tris, who was initially regarded as frail, had to mentally prepare herself to be humiliated by several competitors and her seniors at Dauntless. The following excerpt exemplifies this:

Angry. I should be angry. I scowl at my hands. Whatever Four's strategy is, it's based on the idea that I am weaker than the other initiates. And it gives me a bitter taste in my mouth. I have to prove him wrong—I have to. (Divergent, Pg. 58)

This statement depicts Tris' struggle to become a member of the Dauntless. Not only did Tris have to physically 'fight' her competitors, who were mostly men, but she also had to

prepare to survive the selection. In another statement, Tris' hard work paid off, as she finished first in the selection stage two. On the other hand, the result causes Tris to receive 'threats' from competitors who believe she has defeated them.

I nod, still staring at the board. I should be pleased that I am ranked first, but I know what that means. If Peter and his friends hated me before, they will despise me now. Now I 38 am Edward. It could be my eye next. Or worse. (Divergent, Pg. 111)

Tris may be under pressure from her male competitors, as evidenced by the statement above. On the other hand, it demonstrates Tris's ability to become a Dauntless member, where most of the competence is close to male characters who are physically and mentally strong. In other words, Tris has indirectly demonstrated in the novel that she, as a woman, has the same character as men.

Based on the explanations above, it shows that both of the main characters have the strong aptitude. We can see the traits through the actions of the story's two main characters, and some of them are described directly by the author. This exemplifies Katniss and Tris' 'campaign' for gender equality in both novels.

3.2. Women's Dominance

Based on (Press, 2022), Dominant is more important, strong, or noticeable than anything else of the same type. The description of Katniss Everdeen's dominance in the Hunger Games novels is in greater detail. In the Hunger Games, she is a woman who has more specific skills than her opponents. Katniss has a good ability in archery, while the average opponent is only good at combat. Katniss Everdeen is also intelligent, astute, and knowledgeable. Katniss even has the rudimentary knowledge required to survive and locate food sources or springs.

Katniss' archery skills, combined with her ability to analyze her surroundings, make her one of the tributes regarded as superior in the Hunger Games competition. It demonstrates in the following scenario:

I know what to do. I move into range and give myself three arrows to get the job done. I place my feet carefully, block out the rest of the world as I take meticulous aim, The first arrow tears through the side of the bag near the top, leaving a split in the burlap. The second widens it to a gaping hole. I can see the first apple teetering when I let the third arrow go, catching the torn flap of burlap and ripping it from the bag. For a moment, everything seems frozen in time. Then the apples spill to the ground and I'm blown backward into the air. (Hunger Games, Pg. 217)

The situation described above is one example of Katniss' ability to defeat her opponent through archery. The passage also describes Katniss' intelligence, as she is the only one capable of weakening her adversary by destroying the opponent's logistics base. Katniss has a way of disrupting her adversary's defenses without having to fight physically. In other words, Katniss' demonstrates her ability to control the situation.

Furthermore, Katniss was able to achieve the highest score in the private session thanks to this ability. As shown in the following excerpt,

I dig my fingernails into my palms as my face comes up, expecting the worst. Then they're flashing the number eleven on the screen. Eleven! Effie Trinket lets out a squeal, and everybody is slapping me on the back and cheering and congratulating me. (Hunger Games, Pg. 107)

For this ability, Katniss even earned the nickname 'The Girl who was on fire, according to the following statement: "Katniss, the girl who was on fire," says Cinna and gives me a hug. (Hunger Games, Pg. 107)

According to urbandictionary.com, "on fire" is metaphorically defined as a state of mind in which people believe they are unstoppable and can do whatever they want and do it. It also demonstrates that Katniss's character, according to those around her, possesses strength and ability and is thought to represent a woman's dominance. The following Katniss statement backs up this assessment.

The weapons give me an entirely new perspective on the Games. I know I have tough opponents left to face. But I am no longer merely prey that runs and hides or takes desperate measures. If Cato broke through the trees right now, I wouldn't flee, I'd shoot. I find I'm anticipating the moment with pleasure. (Hunger Games, Pg. 195)

However, There is a difference between Katniss' strong character to Tris' dominant character. Katniss gets her strong character as a result of events in her life, whereas Tris gets her dominant character develops 'outwardly.' He was born with the personality of a 'Divergent.' Someone who has a Divergent character demonstrates that he is 'fit' or can be a member of various groups or factions that exist. If the five factions in the Divergent novel describe each specific character, then Tris, as a Divergent, has abilities that correspond to the various factions.

Tris discovers she is a Divergent after taking a simulation test on young people before deciding on her future faction. The simulation will assess each youth's ability and determine whether they are suitable and capable of joining a specific faction. The following scenario will show the illustration:

"Beatrice, your results were inconclusive," she says. "Typically, each stage of the simulation eliminates one or more of the factions, but in your case, only two have been ruled out." (Divergent, Pg. 13)

"Wait," I interrupt her. "So you have no idea what my aptitude is?" "Yes and no. My conclusion," she explains, "is that you display an equal aptitude for Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite. People who get this kind of result are..." She looks over her shoulder like she expects someone to appear behind her. "...are called...Divergent." She says the last word so quietly that I almost don't hear it, and her tense, worried look returns. She walks around the side of the chair and leans in close to me. (Divergent, Pg 14)

Based on the situation described above, it is clear that Tris has a dominant trait tendency in more than one faction. It also demonstrates that Tris has been quite predominant to other candidates for members of the other factions from the start. Tris is already a 'provision' above average in terms of ability.

Tris simply needs to hone and practice these abilities. Tris' natural ability and effort could be validated by her ranking position in the Dauntless Faction, which had steadily increased since the first stage of selection.

3.3. Women's Dominance

In this part, the writer will examine how the dominance of the two main characters in these novels affects the social conditions of their local community. The analysis in this section will be closely related to the discussion in the previous points, in which the characters are described as quite dominant figures with their various characters. Based on these indications, the writer will investigate how the main characters' thinking and behavior in the two stories can influence changes in the social conditions of their environmental community. The writer will divide it into two main points, which will be related to the similarity and differences in the main character's role in influencing the social conditions of the environment.

The writer notices the most fundamental resemblance between the two characters is how they are both concerned about the social conditions in their surroundings. Starting from this unrest, both directly and indirectly change the current social system. The two characters in the two stories are described as figures who dare to break the rule. The author will examine the 'anxiety' in question using the following analysis:

Katniss Everdeen's belief that what the Capitol is doing, including the holding of the Hunger Games competition, is a disservice to people in various districts. That fact increases the indication of her act to influence her social condition. The competition demonstrates the Capitol's authoritarian attitude toward controlling the people in various districts. The Hunger Games are a symbol of the Capitol's power that people must be willing to follow all of the Capitol's rules. It is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

Taking the kids from our districts, forcing them to kill one another while we watch — this is the Capitol's way of reminding us how we are at their mercy. How little chance we would stand of surviving another rebellion. (Hunger Games, Pg. 18)

The excerpt from the statement above demonstrates Katniss's belief that the social conditions imposed by the Capitol were unfair to the people of various districts. Furthermore, Katniss is aware of the magnitude of the social inequality that exists between the Capitol and all districts, as described in the following excerpt:

I wonder, to live in a world where food appears at the press of a button? How would I spend the hours I now commit to combing the woods for sustenance if it were so easy to come by? What do they do all day, these people in the Capitol, besides decorating their bodies and waiting around for a new shipment of tributes to roll in and die for their entertainment? (Hunger Games, Pg. 64)

Katniss revealed that there was injustice in the Capitol's social system through the statement. The Capitol enslaves the people from all districts to fulfill the Capitol's basic needs, while those from various districts struggle to meet their basic needs. It also happens in the Hunger Games situation. The participant of the Hunger Games fight for their lives, but for the Capitol, it is just entertainment. Reality reveals a lack of humanity in the Capitol environment. Katniss's concern about the Capitol's rules caused her to act 'against' them inadvertently. This is exemplified by the following Katniss gestures:

Rue's death has forced me to confront my own fury against the cruelty, the injustice they inflict upon us. I want to do something, right here, right now, to shame them, to make them accountable, to show the Capitol that whatever they do or force us to do there is a part of every tribute they can't own. That Rue was more than a piece in their Games. And so am I. (Hunger Games, Pg. 232-233)

On the other hand, Tris, like Katniss, becomes a figure who can influence her environmental situation because of her anxiety. One of the social phenomena that Tris has observed is the dominance of one faction, the Erudite, over the other factions. Erudite is a faction comprised of people with a high intellectual level. They believe that they can lead other factions due to their intelligence. It is explained in more detail in the following excerpt:

A moment later, Tobias's thumb brushes over the injection site in my neck, and a few things come together at once. I don't know how I didn't figure this out before. One: Colored serum contains transmitters. Two: Transmitters connect the mind to a simulation program. Three: Erudite developed the serum. Four: Eric and Max are working with the Erudite. (Divergent, Pg. 160)

The preceding statement describes a situation in which all new members of the Dauntless, including Tris, are injected with a serum created by Erudite to control the Dauntless members. It is demonstrated in the following scenarios:

They are all different now. The buildings are dark and empty. The roads are packed with Dauntless soldiers, all marching at the same rhythm except the officers, who stand every few hundred yards, watching us walk by, or gathering in clusters to discuss something. No one seems to be doing anything. Are we really here for war? (Divergent, Pg. 172)

"Oh, they can see and hear. They just aren't processing what they see and hear the same way," says Eric. "They receive commands from our computers in the transmitters we injected them with..." (Divergent, Pg. 173)

After receiving the serum injection, the Dauntless members become like robots controlled by a computer, as described in the preceding excerpt. The serum, however, does not affect Tris because she is a Divergent. Tris is motivated to fight because she is concerned that Dauntless members will harm and attack other factions under Erudite's control.

I can't wage war against Abnegation, against my family. I would rather die. My fear landscape proved that. My list of options narrows, and I see the path I must take. I will pretend long enough to get to the Abnegation sector of the city. I will save my family. And whatever happens after that doesn't matter. A blanket of calm settles over me. (Divergent, 171)

Tris' statement implies that she wishes to defy her current faction and save her family. In other words, Tris is attempting to alter the current state of her surroundings; she does not want a war, and she regards all factions as equal, each with their specialties.

4. CONCLUSIONS

After revealing the comparison between the two literary works which focuses on the main characters, here is the conclusion. The similarity of the two novels' themes refers to the existence of social phenomena that encourage the emergence of the dominance of the two main character roles in each novel. Another similarity is that the two novels' main characters are both females; and both of them struggle for the right of women. Second, the strong and dominant characters of Katniss and Tris provide several indications that they are 'practicing' feminist values in their surroundings. Katniss and Tris demonstrate a variety of activities in

several story passages that can be interpreted as efforts for gender equality and their 53 dominance as women among male characters in each story. Indications of feminism activities are seen in how both act, speak, think, and gesture, explicitly or implicitly. Finally, aside from sharing the same character as a dominant woman, Katniss and Tris behave similarly in their unfair social environment. Based on the issue of social inequality, both of them carried out a rebellion movement to change the existing social system in their environment. Both of them indirectly 'agreed' that the social phenomena that are currently occurring in their respective environments must be changed. However, in reality, they both have different methods of carrying out the 'rebellion action'. Katniss uses symbols or signs by her actions and gestures. Katniss's acts have influenced the thoughts and actions of others. Tris, on the other hand, prefers to use physical force. On the other hand, Tris prefers to do a confrontation to confront those she considers to be the "masterminds" behind the emergence of injustice in her social environment.

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