

# FEMINISM IN VERONICA ROTH'S MOVIE "DIVERGENT"

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## Abstract

The study deals with Feminism in Veronica Roth's Movie "Divergent" from three women character. The objective of the study were to find out the types of feminism and the roles of women in Divergent movie. The research method of this study used qualitative research, relying on the analysis and description of previous researcher and the studies of feminism. The data of this study were the utterances that can be found out from the script of divergent movie. The data of this research were analyzed by using Tong's theory. The researcher found there are 3 types of feminism in three women character in Divergent movie, they are : 5 statements that are included in liberal feminism, 12 statements are included in radical feminism, and 3 statements are included in anarchist feminism. The role of women that can be found from three women character in Divergent movie was the role of women in domestic sector and the role of women in public sector.

**Keywords:** *Divergent Feminism, Movie*

## INTRODUCTION

Literature is anything made by people through their ideas or imagination. Klarer (2005) states that literature comes from the word *litteratura* which derived from the word *littera* (latter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing. Literature is often defined as a permanent expression to the words of some thoughts or ideas about life and the world. This idea is shown by using media called literary works. Literary work is a reflection of society to present a situation or circumstances.

Massari and Sidek (2014), state that literature consists of a vast repertoire of human expression carried out through the medium of language both in oral or written forms. It is a study that concerns people; the life and activities connected to it. Literature is another way for people to express their feeling, their thought or also their idea. Literature is a human kind that has aesthetics and artistic sides. In the further progress, literature was made in written form and then it was visualized in drama. The development of literature has a great impact from textual to visual because of the advancement of science and technology.

Freedman (2001) says that feminism concerns themselves with the inferior position of women in society and with the discrimination encountered by women because of their gender. Every feminist believes that every men and women deserves equality in any opportunities, treatment, respect and social rights. Every woman has their struggle to minimize the gap between men and women. In other case, there is still physical or sexual harassment affecting a minority of women and there is also a minority of men who commit with this horrific act. Women must have their rights to have an equal opportunities and against gender discrimination.

Hannam (2013) states that the word of feminism can be interpreted as: recognition of an imbalance of power between the sexes, with a woman in a lower role than men. The belief that women's condition is socially constructed and therefore can be changed by emphasizing women's autonomy. The situation of women being an under pressured genders began in the 19th century. Most of men thinks that women is powerless and weak.

Over several decades feminism movement has helped women to defend themselves and be recognized. However, feminism today cannot be easily defined anymore, it does not look like it used to be in the first wave, and some women do not want to be associated with feminism because they still consider it a rigid and outdated movement.

According to Tong (2009) feminism is divided into several types. They are:

#### 1) Liberal Feminism

They urge that men would not give opportunities to women if women themselves did not take part in politics and education. This movement aims to fight for equal rights, politics, law, education, freedom, and socio-culture.

#### 2) Radical Feminism

Radical feminism views patriarchy and sexism as the most basic factors in the oppression of women - cutting everything else from race and age to culture, caste and class.

#### 3) Postmodern Feminism

Postmodern feminism has started somewhere in the early 1980s with the currency of the term post-feminism which actually looks critical in various feminist theories of the past especially from the second wave of feminism.

#### 4) Anarchist Feminism

Anarchist feminism discusses the power states, attempts to criticize, envision, and plan. Anarchism and feminism are entirely freedom which is not something that must be decided and protected by law or the state.

#### 5) Marxist Feminism

Marxist feminism focuses on liberation by improving their material conditions. This movement revolves to take women free from household chores, cooking, and other traditional women's household chores.

#### 6) Socialist Feminism

Basically, socialist feminism argues that capitalism strengthens and supports the sexist status because men are people who currently have power and money.

The role is part where people has a particular position or status, for men and women in the society. This role is not a single human role, but it is a circle of role that made people

able to function fully in society. The role of women is how the women treatments and behavior in their community.

According to Soekanto (2014) the roles of women are divided into two parts, they are:

1) The women's role in domestic sector

This role requires women to do all the household like cleaning, washing, cooking, caring for the children, and all the things that women should do in the house. As a mother, women should do all the thing in the house, especially in moulding the children's personalities.

2) The women's role in public sector

The modern society has started to recognize the individual identity of women. Women is believed to do as a men does to have her aspiration, abilities and qualities. This society also agreed that women should have opportunities to express her own choice.

Divergent is a kind of trilogy movie. This movie is kind of dystopian science fiction action movie directed by Neil Burger. This movie was released on March 2014. The story in this movie takes place in a dystopian and post-apocalyptic Chicago where people are divided into five factions based on human virtues.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The design of this study is a descriptive qualitative method. Woods (2006), qualitative research is concerned with life as it is lived, things as they happen, situation as they are constructed day-today, moment to moment course of event, qualitative researcher seek live experiences in real situation. Qualitative research used as purpose to describing, explaining, and interpreting the data. The data were taken from the script or the utterances from the women characters in Divergent.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. The Types of Feminism Analysis**

There are four types of feminism that can be found in this movie. In this research there are 21 data that consisted types of feminism.

#### a. Liberal Feminism

This type of feminism refers to the freedom of women in education, political, and economic.

(1) Tris : " I don't get it. I'm dauntless. I'm going to be dauntless. I chose dauntless"

From this statement also shows how women should have the responsibility to choose what they want to do because they are confident, powerful, and independent. This statement includes liberal feminism because it describes the woman's confident.

(2) Tris : "We split into two groups. We'll go this side and let the rest of you engage Eric"

From Tris statement above, it is when they do the war training session. This statement consists of liberal feminism because this statement describes how Tris can control their team and give them instruction to against their enemy.

(3) Tris : "Don't get me wrong. There's a certain beauty to your resistance"

From the statement above, it includes in liberal feminism because the woman character believe that there is always the beauty or the kindness if the women try and push themselves to do everything by themselves.

(4) Mother : " You don't conform. But your mind works in a million different ways. They're scared of you. Stage two of training is where you are most at risk. They gonna get inside your head and watch how your response to fear. But you can pass. You can make it through dauntless. I have seen it before"

The statement above reveals how is the mother's way of thinking in this movie. This statement shows her knowledge that she knows how the divergent mind's work, and it makes it possible that her daughter, Tris can be part of Dauntless. This statement includes in liberal feminism because it reveals mother's knowledge about dauntless which not everyone in the society knows about it.

(5) Christina : "I was candor. And I'm not lying"

The statement above is when Christina say what is in her mind. This statement includes in liberal feminism because she said this statement with confidence to prove her friends that she is not lying in her words.

#### b. Radical Feminism

Radical feminism claimed that an exclusively feminine gender identity is likely to limit women's development as full human persons.

(1) Tris : "Today I take the test. I'm scared it'll tell me I'm not abnegation. That I have to leave my family. But I even more scared that it will tell me to stay"

This statement is about the day when all the young generation from five factions decides which factions where they belong to after the test and to continue their life. This statement includes in radical feminism because it is said the critic and the oppression from her thought.

(2) Tris : "That's not supposed to be a choice. The test should tell us what to do"

This statement includes in radical feminism because it shows how the women character criticizes the system in the society because in the test she did not get the clear result from the test. This statement shows Tris being serious with her words.

(3) Tris : "Anyone can stand in front of the target and it doesn't prove anything"

Tris' statement above is when she decides to replace with Al to stand in front of the target when other male character tries to throw the knife to the target. This statement includes in radical feminism because the women character criticize the male leader for overestimating women.

(4) Tris : "They are liars here. There are people who know how to manipulate you. You need to understand that"

The statement above is when Tris came to Erudite to meet her brother Caleb. This statement includes in radical feminism because it shows how Tris told her brother about something in Erudite that is inappropriate with her view. It shows how she can speak up and be serious with this situation

(5) Tris : “Fear of heights. I’m not surprised. It’s not real. We could just jump”

Tris’ statement above is when Tris doing the mind training with her male instructor. In this training, they stand on two iron pipe at the high place. This statement is said to the instructor because he is afraid of height. This statement includes in radical feminism because it shows the ‘masculine’ side of women character, it means that women are not always powerless persons.

(6) Tris : “Right, if I’m too good, then they’ll kill me, and if I’m too slow, the I’ll die”

The statement above describes about the situation when Tris is under pressure. This situation forced Tris to be wise in taking decisions or attitude. This statement includes in radical feminism because it describes the oppression that is experienced by the women character in this movie.

(7) Tris : “Think you might be overestimating my character”

This statement is a reflection of Tris while they execute the abnegation. Tris a woman that has talent in shoots with a gun which is supposed to be men’s ability or activity but she can do this activity and prove to her male leader so he does not underestimate her. This statement includes in radical feminism because it shows how women are underrated by men, and in this movie, the women character convince that what men’s character said is not right.

(8) Tris : “They don’t know what they’re doing. They’re under stimulation. We need to wake ‘em up. I need to get into dauntless”

The statement above describes Tris’ feeling that she has a role to stop the chaos that occurs in their society. This statement includes in radical feminism. She gets an oppression when she is trying to help all dauntless members and also to keep all the abnegation save. The oppression comes from Marcus, abnegation’s leader.

(9) Tris : “Every minutes we waste, another abnegation dies, and another dauntless become a murderer”

Tris statement above is when they try to get into dauntless to stop the program. This statement shows how she really cares with the society, she thought that if they take a long

time to stop the program, it makes the society more crucial and it will make her feel guilty. This statement is said because Marcus, as abnegation leader feels that they will not be able to stop this situation. But Tris, with her bravery forces herself to get into dauntless. This statement includes in radical feminism. The women character get oppression while she is trying to save the society.

(10) Tris : “You’re not gonna like it. There’s a net on the bottom. Don’t think just jump”

Tris statement above is when they try to enter to dauntless to stop Jeanine’ programs to resist abnegation to run the government. This statement includes in radical feminism because it shows how brave Tris as a women. She has no doubt to jump from the top of the building as she is also the first jumper in their first time coming to dauntless.

### c. Anarchist Feminism

Anarchist feminism addresses these nations of power, attempts to criticize, envision and plan.

(1) Tris : “So what am I supposed to do at the choosing ceremony? I was supposed to learn what to do. This was supposed to tell me what faction to choose, the test. We’re supposed to trust the test.”

Tris statement above is when she finishes the first initiation test before they chose new faction. This statement includes in anarchist feminism because it tells about Tris criticism to the system which can not show which faction she should be. Tris : “You’re right. I’m not. I’m divergent. Now shut it down and wiped the program”

(2) Christina : “Of course you are. No offense, but I’m surprised abnegation even eats at all. To selfish, right? No wonder you left”

Christina statement above is said while they have dinner with all dauntless member. This statement includes in anarchist feminism because Christina criticizes how abnegation live when they also need to run the government and care for the factionless in their society.

## **2. Roles of Women in *Divergent* Movie**

In this research, the researcher found the roles of women in *Divergent* movie. Role of women in domestic sector is the women who live in the house, where the women do all the work dealing with the household. In domestic sector, it can be found in the character of Natalie Prior as the mother in this movie. She shows how is being a mother treating her family especially her child. While the role of women in public sector is women who work outside the home.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

After analysing the data that show the types of feminism and role of women in three women characters, it is concluded that:

There are 3 types of feminism in three women character in *Divergent* movie, they are : 5 statements that are included in liberal feminism. This statement can be seen from all the women character that being analysed in this research. 12 statements are included in radical feminism.. And the last 3 statements are included in anarchist feminism. All of 3 statements that included in anarchist feminism are to criticize the system in their society.

The role of women that can be found from three women character in *Divergent* movie was the role of women in domestic sector. It can be found in the character of Natalie Prior as wife and a mother in this movie, and also the role of women in public sector that shown by the women character who does the same job with the men in society.

### **Suggestion**

Referring to the results of the analysis, there are some suggestions as follows:

The readers should be able to read more literary works especially book or journal to find out more information about types of feminism and roles of women. By reading more literary works, it will increase their knowledge so they can distinguish feminism types. The lectures especially for English and literature department should give more explanations about types of feminism and roles of women, and the theories related to feminism. The researcher of this research hopes that the next researcher analyses deeper on feminism from literary

works. The movie maker especially in Indonesia needs to make or produce more movie that show about heroine, because there are only few movie show heroine as the main character

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