

# OPPRESSION ON BEATRICE IN VERONICA ROTH'S *DIVERGENT*

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**ABSTRACT:** This thesis describes the oppression on women in the *Divergent* written by Veronica Roth. This thesis is carried out with the aim to find out the cause and effect of oppression against woman in the *Divergent*. The research design used is qualitative research. This research also discusses some of problems that occur in the novel: the causes of oppression and the effects of the oppression experienced by the main character named Beatrice. Oppression on woman in this study uses a psychological approach. Beatrice is a woman who experienced oppression by some of her dorm friends. Oppression happens to Beatrice because she has more than one personality trait or commonly refer to Divergent. Beatrice experience several oppressions which cause her body to become bruised, mentally depressed, but Beatrice remain strong to live her life until she could become a strong woman.

**Keywords:** *Oppression, Woman, Psychological*

## INTRODUCTION

Oppression often happens in real life. It is often found in daily life which is sometimes triggered by the limited rights held by women. It also often occurs in various fields such as culture, in many countries the majority of cultures still oppress women by limiting the rights held by women. It is not even necessary for extreme events like that involving legal parties, such as in the case of slavery and the lack of the right to vote and express opinions. It is usually done by one group against another group. It occurs because it has the highest level or position in a group. Oppression occurs because there is no right to express an opinion.

The object of oppression itself sometimes happens to a woman. women who are supposed to be loved and protected but are also the object of oppression. Women are considered weak by men and men who are always considered stronger. People who have power usually do oppression. Power is also used as a tool to achieve the goal of oppression.

The issue above is also discused by Veronica Roth in her novel *Divergent*. It describes about oppression on women. The main character in this novel is a woman named Beatrice Prior who is usually called Tris. Starting from the story of the novel when it will be a test to determine its class.

Beatrice was worried about the exam because she would be with her family in one faction or even leave her family for another faction. Beatrice has a strong desire to join the Dauntless faction. The test is carried out by a Dauntless woman named Tori. After the test is over, Tori tells Beatrice that she is fit to enter the five factions, which could be called Divergent. Tori tells Beatrice to cover up the big secret about being Divergent. The advantage of a Divergent is to have more than one personality trait, it is called Divergent. Being a Divergent made many people hate Beatrice. Beatrice received oppression by those around her.

Based on the description of oppression on women in this novel there are several ideas that can be analyzed, but because the idea of oppression of women is also very strong in this novel, the author is interested in analyzing oppression of women. Not only stories that exist in literary works but oppression on women often occur in the surrounding environment.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study will use qualitative research. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 210) qualitative research involves an identification and interpretation of a series of verbal or non-verbal signs. Qualitative research is descriptive and is usually used to analyze. Its means to explain or describe the results of the analysis. Qualitative methods is use because this study utilizes a theory that is used as an object for explanations. The author uses feminist theory in research. And qualitative research is usually used for research related to social life, history, and other social activities.

## **DISCUSSION**

This research presents about the causes and effects of oppression that occur. This chapter will discuss about feminist literary criticism will focus only on the role of a woman in social life which can be found in literary works. In this analysis can be done through the portrayal of a woman involved in literary work. In observing the phenomena that occur in this literary work, therefore this research focuses on the oppression of women who are considered weak by men.

And the researcher will answer the problem questions in Chapter I. There are two problems in the discussion. First, researchers will examine the conflicts that occur in the novel. And secondly, the researcher will discuss the causes of oppression that occur in the novel. Then the researcher will also discuss the effects of oppression that occur in the novel.

## **The Cause of Oppression on Beatrice in *Divergent***

Beatrice Prior is a 17 year old teenager who live with the parents and with her parents and younger brother in Chicago. In Chicago there is a regulation that requires a teenager who is 17 years old to take part in a faction election. This faction selection will aim as a lifelong identity. Every person has a faction or personality trait, only one faction but not Beatrice who has three factions, namely Abnegation, Erudite, and Dauntless. In faction selection it turned out that Beatrice suited more than one faction. Someone who has more than one faction is called a divergent. In other factions a Divergent must be killed because it is considered dangerous to other factions. Beatrice choose the Dauntless Faction to cover up her Divergent identity. When Beatrice joined the Dauntless faction and she experienced some oppression carried out by her dorm friends. The oppression she always gets from her group of friends and also the leader of the Dauntless group named Eric. Because of the oppression that happened to Beatrice because she was Divergent.

The oppression that happened to Beatrice is originally due to rules set in Chicago which stated that teenagers aged 17 years are required to attend the Election Ceremony. And a teenager who is 17 years old must choose a faction that suits her. Ceremonies for selecting factions or skills tests are usually conducted for teenagers who are 17 years old. The test will then choose one faction among the five factions. One faction will later become her lifetime identity. One faction which is the result of a proficiency test will determine Beatrice to live with her family in the same faction or even leave her family by being in a different faction. For Beatrice leaving her family is the hardest thing she had ever imagined before. But leaving or staying with his family later is the result of the skills test.

“So today is the day,” she says.

“Yes,” I reply.

“Are you nervous?”

I stare into my own eyes for a moment. Today is the day of the aptitude test that will show me which of the five factions I belong in. And tomorrow, at the Choosing Ceremony, I will decide on a faction; I will decide the rest of my life; I will decide to stay with my family or abandon them. (Roth, 2011:2)

The results of the proficiency test showed that Beatrice did not only fit into one faction but for three factions. it means that Beatrice has some personality traits. This shows that Beatrice is a Divergent. Having more than one factions is characteristic of the divergent. Beatrice's body there was an eagle symbol. It means that at the time someone who at the time of a proficiency test has

an eagle symbol, she belong to divergent. In ancient times the eagle symbolized of the sun. it means that she will not be afraid of darkness.

It can be sed in the following quotation In real life a lot of people have to leave their families for their own sake and it must be accepted with grace. Sometimes the separation of a person from a close relative makes a mental and heart disturbed. But that did not happen with Beatrice. Beatrice feels that this is a struggle that must be overcome. Beatrice believes that this will all be okay with her current choice.

Beatrice shows divergent when tori who helped the skills test, gave Beatrice a glass of liquid to drink. The liquid is used to determine someone in choosing one faction. But the liquid did not work well on Beatrice's body. Then Tori told Beatrice that she fit into three factions, Abnegation, Erudite, and Dauntless.

Beatrice began to feel confused about what was happening to him at this time. She must choose one faction among the three. Choosing is the most difficult thing in her life and this choice will become her lifetime identity. Beatrice is a woman who can determine her choice well and she chooses based on her conscience. Apparently Beatrice's choice is the Dauntless faction. She will join the Dauntless faction. Beatrice has to change her personality, which initially she lived with both parents who were the famous Abnegation faction with a selfless nature to be a brave Dauntless faction with all challenges and obstacles. Changing the nature of the human personality is not easy for her but she tries to change her personality traits. This idea can be seen in the following quotation.

She stands behind me. I squeeze the armrests so tightly the redness pulls away from my knuckles. She tugs wires toward her, attaching them to me, to her, to the machine behind her. Then she passes me a vial of clear liquid.

"Drink this," she says.

"What is it?" My throat feels swollen. I swallow hard.

"What's going to happen?"

"Can't tell you that. Just trust me."

I press air from my lungs and tip the contents of the vial into my mouth. My eyes close.  
(Roth,2011:13)

From quotation about the skill test that Beatrice is undergoing does not run as a general skill test because many oddities occur in it. The skills test doesn't work as usual. Tori says that the proficiency test really didn't work on Beatrice. Tori was confused by the results in Beatrice. Then Tori explained to Beatrice that she was Divergent. The result that Beatrice is divergent is a big secret. Tori explained that being a divergent was the biggest threat in her life. Tori hopes Beatrice

keep this big secret and didn't talk about it with anyone else. According to many people a Divergent is a dangerous person because she has more than one human personality trait. To keep this biggest secret Beatrice must prepare mentally and tries to cover up that she is a Divergent among other Dauntless members. She feels depressed. She feels uncomfortable with the surrounding. She feels insecure about his current situation.

### **The Oppression Faced by Beatrice in *Divergent***

The oppression that happened to Beatrice began when she joined the Dauntless faction. Beatrice came from the family of the Abnegation faction which is known as the weakest faction because they are considered to be only able to help selflessly. That is one of the factors Beatrice experienced oppression. All Dauntless members thought that Beatrice is a weak woman. At Dauntless' dormitory, Eric and trainer conducts exercises that can be life-threatening. At that time the practice of training and Beatrice was appointed to fight a male friend named Peter. Peter really hates Beatrice because she is from the Abnegation family. In the battle arena Peter tried to defeat Beatrice, Peter did not feel sorry for Beatrice who is a woman because he continued to hit Beatrice to make her bruised and feel helpless.

The Dauntless sprawl across the street, blocking the path of a bus, and I sprint to catch up to the back of the crowd. My confusion dissipates as I run. I have not run anywhere in a long time. Abnegation discourages anything done strictly for my own enjoyment, and that is what this is: my lungs burning, my muscles aching, the fierce pleasure of a flat-out sprint. I follow the Dauntless down the street and around the corner and hear a familiar sound: the train horn.

“Oh no,” mumbles the Erudite boy.

“Are we supposed to hop on that thing?”

“Yes,” I say, breathless. (Roth, 2011:50)

Oppression does not have to be hitting, but also in conversations that hurt others. As in the novel the chairman and Dauntless coaches told Triss to do the exercise that is supposed to be done by a man. For Tris it is an obstacle or challenge that she must overcome to get her wish. There is some violence that occurs in the novel. Triss always experienced violence by her friends and also the leader of the Dauntless group. Like when Triss finally chose to become the Dauntless faction. All Dauntless must run to get on a fast moving train. Likewise, when getting off the train and crossing a tall building Beatrice must jump with Christina. Christina is the first person she knew when she is in the Dauntless group. Such a thing should not be done by a woman, but in the Triss novel must force herself to dare to do activities that are not appropriate.

In the surrounding, not everyone has to like our personality or ourselves, and therefore many do not like it. As in Triss's life in the Dauntless dormitory all new Dauntless members who really didn't like Tris and always wanted to bring down Triss in various ways. He is Peter from the start when Tris joined Dauntless, he always underestimated Triss only because she came from an Abnegation family which was considered a group of people who were rigid. Peter felt that Triss is only a rival to him. Peter also felt that Triss is a weak woman and a mild rival to be ousted. This opinion of Peter was based on Triss's reason that she was only a woman from the Abnegation family who is considered a weak faction who could only help someone unconditionally.

“Ooh. Scandalous! A Stiff’s flashing some skin!”

I lift my head. “Stiff” is slang for Abnegation, and I’m the only one here. Peter points at me, smirking. I hear laughter. My cheeks heat up, and I let my sleeve fall. (Roth,2011:56)

It was not only Beatrice's physicality that received the effects of the oppression that had taken place on him. But also Beatrice's mentality was disturbed and made her always think about what her friends were doing. Peter also did not believe when Beatrice became the first jumper and he considered Beatrice unable to do all that because Beatrice was a weak woman from the Abnegation family.

Not only oppression experienced by Tris. It's not just the oppression that Tris gets. Tris is only considered someone who is funny and often others underestimate Tris who only comes from Abnegation family. Eric would not believe Tris is able to survive with the Dauntless faction. The woman is weak in Eric's heart when she saw Tris. Eric considers that Tris will give up with all the training in the dormitory.

“Ooh, a Stiff,” says Eric, smirking at me.

His smile pulls at the piercings in his lips, making the holes they occupy wider, and I wince.

“We’ll see how long you last.” (Roth,2011:67)

Oppression experienced by someone will always be looming in his mind to be able to make mentally or psychologically disturbed. Victims will feel fear and trauma and even feel insecure in the surrounding. The trauma or incident can make the victim become a nightmare or the event is always in her mind because she feels depressed. Various kinds of oppression faced by Tris made her dream and all Tris dreams contained violence that happened to her. That is carried away in Tris's dream because she is traumatized by the incident. Tris is not a woman who is easily discouraged because she continues to train in the Dauntless dormitory with all the risks.

I dreamt that Peter tied me to a chair and asked me if I was Divergent. I answered no, and he punched me until I said yes. I woke up with wet cheeks. I mean to say something, but all I can do is groan. My body aches so badly it hurts to breathe. (Roth,2011:118)

When Tris does something Eric is always displeased and unhappy. Like when Tris will replace Al to be the target of a knife. Although Tris can pass it well even to the point that the knife hits her ear. All people only consider Tris to replace Al to attract the attention of many people.

### **The Effect of Oppression on Beatrice in *Divergent***

Oppression is certainly very influential for someone. Someone who experiences oppression will definitely have a result that is in her. Oppression that happens to someone is usually bad for the person himself. But it doesn't always have bad consequences, because sometimes someone who experiences oppression feels he wants to be even stronger. Like Tris, who always wants to fight for what is rightfully his. Tris has been principled in his life that the faction she choose now is a new life for her. Tris would rather die than he did not choose any faction in his life because the faction has a degree above the family. "I don't agree with him, I would rather be dead than empty, like the factionless. (Roth,2011:54)

At first Tris felt that she would give up and is unable to take all the tests given by Dauntless's chairman. Tris is traumatized by what happened to her friend named Al. Al felt he is unable to continue the exam to become a member of Dauntless. Tris then thought that if she gave up on this test she would become factionless and would not be accepted again in any faction.

His feet are just inches from my head. I should comfort him-I should want to comfort him, because I was raised that way. Instead I feel disgust. Someone who looks so strong shouldn't act so weak why can't he just keep his crying quiet like the rest of us ? (Roth,2011:74)

Oppression by someone causes victims of oppression to feel traumatized and always be shadowed by the oppression they experience. Likewise with Tris who always feels traumatized and always imagines oppression in her dream. If she sees Al, Tris always thinks he wants to give up all the time. Al is a person who also feels that he is incapable and wants to give up. Because of that Tris always averted his eyes to not see Al. and Tris wants to continue his struggle unlike Al who will surrender and withdraw from the Dauntless faction.

Victims of oppression will experience mental disorders that can cause stress and depression. But if the victim can fight the stress or depression she experienced, it will recover. Just like Tris who always thinks that she can get through everything even though she is always ridiculed, and done improperly by Dauntless's friends and coaches. Everyone assumed that Tris is weak and she could not take the initiation test given by Eric. Considered weak for reasons because she is a

woman who comes from an Abnegation family. Beatrice always tries to prove that she is capable of undergoing any given training even though it can threaten her life.

Victims of oppression will experience severe mental disorders. Mental disorders are usually like stress, depression, disturbed thinking, and feel his heart is always calm and scared. Just as experienced by Tris is always overshadowed by the violence that is always done by Eric as Dauntless chairman to its members, including Tris. And Tris thought of something that scared him when he saw Al and Will fighting. But on the other hand Tris thought that he would stand strong in battles like Al or even she would lay weak in battles like Will.

Beatrice always dreamed of strange events related to her divergent self. Until one night she dreamed that her friend named Christina was hanged by someone. But who can help Christina is just a different person, meaning that someone who has more than one personality or commonly referred to as a divergent.

In Dauntless's dormitory there are several exercises, one of which is fighting, but if one of the members loses in the battle then his name will be ranked below and will get a penalty that is hanged on a cliff. Beatrice's name is ranked below because when fighting with Peter and she lost. Then Al meets Beatrice and asks Beatrice to take a few blows from Peter without fighting back and pretends to be unconscious. But Beatrice felt unable to take some of Peter's punches but she thought of trying to do it because she did not want her name to be ranked below and had to get punished.

Maybe Al is right, and I should just take a few hits and pretend to be unconscious.

But I can't afford not to try. I can't be ranked last. (Roth,2011:108)

The taunts and scorns Peter said to Tris were very influential when they were about to fight. But that only affected Tris. When Tris entered the arena she was confused about what to do. When Peter also entered the arena, suddenly the courage of Tris became small, as if his courage is lost on him. Peter always considered himself winning against Tris and Peter thought that Tris would cry for losing against him.

Moisture from oppression not only has a mental disorder but also disruption of the physical health of the victim such as experiencing bruises on her body. Something like that is experienced by Triss when she became an opponent of Peter. All Peter's blows made Triss's body uncomfortable. Triss felt a lump in his body because Peter is very hard to hit Triss. It made Triss imagine that his body is always hurting and in pain all the time.

## CONCLUSION

In this study, researchers analyzed two questions in the formulation of existing problems. Each problem statement was answered by the researcher in the previous chapter. Therefore, this chapter consists of conclusions from the analysis that has been discussed. This research only focuses on the causes and effects of oppression on Beatrice.

Oppression that occurs in a woman is very influential for her life. Considered the weakness of a woman sometimes becomes one of the factors occurring oppression. Cause of oppression against women is often done by a man. Dissent between the two individuals can also be a factor of oppression. Not only the cause but later victims of oppression experience several effects. The effects of oppression are very much like the mentality of victims of oppression can be disrupted and victims become easily sad and become irritable. The mental disruption of a victim of oppression can also cause prolonged stress and also the victim feels insecure around him. Not only is the mental condition of the victim disturbed, but physical health is also affected. Physical health experienced by victims of oppression such as bruises on his body, even victims will also experience disability throughout their lives, and also if the victim is very weak it will die.

Researcher found that the oppression that occurred on Beatrice occurred due to several factors such as Beatrice was considered a weak woman and came from the Abnegation family. But not only that but because Beatrice is someone who has more than one personality and Beatrice actually fits with three factions namely Abnegation, Erudite, and Dauntless or something like that commonly referred to as Divergent.

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