

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of this research. It begins with the background of research, statement of problem, research purpose, research significance, and end with definition of key term of this study.

### 1.1 Background of Research

Veronica Roth in her debut work *Divergent* combining a strong characters, an action-packed story, Roth builds a unique concept of society that provides a connection to real life, The novel explores relevant themes, such as identity, choice, courage, friendship, love, and resistance to authoritarian systems. Through its story, *Divergent* raises relevant questions about individual rights, social conformity, and the values held by society. Roth's compelling writing and cultural influences make *Divergent* have advantages that make it appealing and popular among readers. *Divergent* is a story about identity, choice, rebellion, and courage in the face of a corrupt social system. The book is full of action, mystery, and strong characters, making it one of the most acclaimed dystopian novel series of its time.

Roth also provides a strong concept of social stratification in the society depicted. The society is divided into five factions, each of which represents a certain virtue: Abnegation (sincerity), Amity (peace), Candor (honesty), Dauntless (courage), and Erudite (intelligence).

This social stratification means that each individual must choose one of the

five factions when they turn 16. This choice is based on the virtues they consider most important. Each faction has their own roles and responsibilities in society, and they live by the principles and values of that faction. However, what makes this system complicated is the existence of Divergents. Divergents are individuals who possess qualities from several factions at once, which means they cannot be easily categorized into one particular faction. The society in this novel sees Divergents as a threat to the existing social order.

Social stratification refers to the division or categorization of community members in a vertical manner, involving different layers or classes. In the words of Pitirim A. Sorokin (2005:60), social stratification signifies the differentiation of a population or society into stratified classes or hierarchical layers. In his essay titled "Social Stratification," Sorokin asserts that the presence of a stratification system is a common characteristic of stable and structured social life.

Social stratification in *Divergent* reflects issues that are often present in real societies, such as stereotyping, discrimination, and the tendency to limit individual freedom. It also illustrates the conflicts that arise when individuals do not want to be limited by the boundaries set by society or when they violate the norms that are strictly guarded by the system. Through the concept of social stratification in *Divergent*, Veronica Roth raises questions about justice, individual rights, and the importance of courage to fight against an unjust system. This illustrates how important it is to question authority and seek a path that is in line with our own values and identity.

The novel *Divergent* was chosen as the object of this study because based on

comparison with several other novels, this novel reflects the issue of social stratification quite completely in modern society, the existence of factions is a reflection of social stratification in the realm of politics, economics, social, and even education. in “Pengetahuan, Kekuasaan, dan Mobilitas Sosial dalam Novel Divergent“ by (Miftah Nurul, 2016) The knowledge described in this paper emphasizes the use of discourse and technology as tools to maintain power as reflected in the novel Divergent. The system of social stratification and mobility in Divergent reflects the reality of modern society.

In the novel Divergent, elements such as the faction system that divides society, social hierarchy, inter-factional conflicts, and issues of social stratification reflect the social reality in the fictional society. Through an extrinsic approach, researchers can examine how the concept of social stratification in this fictional society reflects or criticizes the phenomenon of social stratification in the real world.

In addition, extrinsic research can also involve analyzing how the story and characters in Divergent are reflected in the social, political or cultural context in which the novel was written. This could involve research into social trends or events at the time of the novel's publication, the influence of the author's experiences, or reflections on relevant social issues at the time.

Literature consists of those writing which interpret the meanings of nature and life, in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest (Dyke, 1911) From Henry Van Dyke's opinion,

literature is described as a representation of life, such as nature, depictions of social life, human- to-human interaction and more broadly. Literary work is an imaginative world formed by the author, which is a reflection of the environment and social events in his life.

Swingewood argues that literary works are positioned as a direct reflection of various social structures, family relationships, class conflicts, and others. With regard to society, Swingewood in Laurenson provides 3 concepts in the sociology of literature, namely; literature as a mirror of the times, literature is seen from the process of production and authorship, and literature in relation to history. Conceptually, literature is an imitation or reflection of society's social life, however, literature is still recognized as a form of imagination, fiction, and fantasy. Therefore, the world formed in a literary work is an interpretation of the social conditions of a society, and literature is a social institution that uses language as its medium.(Diana Laurenson, 1972)

Sociology of literature cannot be separated from the concept of social class. Social class is a concept that combines social science and political theory in which a group of people or society is categorized into several classes in a social hierarchical order. In the Theory of Social Class brought by Karl Marx in (Panda, 2015), social order in society is like a production system that produces classes in it, that one class controls and directs the production process, while other classes become producers and service providers, which in turn results from production reaches the highest social class that is more dominant. Which is then divided into

two main classes, namely the bourgeoisie or the capitalists, and the proletariat which is the workers. Marx's view is that social classes are the main actors who are an important key in the survival of a society.

Sociology of literature or problems of social classes can often be found in a literary work, especially novels. Novel is part of prose, which is one of three types of literary works. Novels have a wider scope than other types of literary works, because novels can express themes and aesthetic values more clearly and easily understood. The novel more or less gives a description of the conditions or problems of a society.

There are many writers did analysis of Social Stratification and Social Class in the literary works, either in the same novel or in a different one, such as Nungkiastuti (2018) entitled *Social Stratification Reflected In Kiera Cass's The Selection Novel (2012): A Marxist Theory*. She argue that social aspect in the community will create some dynamic. Some community ignoring some different level in their environment in the one place where they live together and became united, but there is some precious thing in community that sometimes isn't realize its existence, dividing or coating in community itself. In the community there are some individuals who have dignity because of their influence. That situation can be fact when some community is more complex accordingly social stratification became more complex too.

The previous study that connected with Divergent novel is a Social Class Discrimination Derived from Power to the Abnegation Faction in Veronica Roth's *Divergent* research by (Triawan, 2017) . The difference between that research and

this research is the previous one is discusses in more detail the relations and social stratification that occur between the Abnegation faction and other factions, especially the Erudite. While this research examines the social class that occurs in all factions, how the relationship between one faction to another, and the relationship of the faction to factionless people. This study provides an overview of the social discrimination that occurs in the novel *Divergent* in another perspective and focuses on the Abnegation faction.

And the other previous study written by Mentari Dwi Putri (2017) entitled “The Representation of Social Class in Charles Dickens *Great Expectation*”. In her research, is analyze about the social condition focusing on social classes and its effect towards the social condition in novel *Great Expectation* by Charles Dickens by using a Marxist theory. This research provides another perspective on class theory that is also used by the author with the object of other literary works as a comparison. (Putri, 2017)

The writer also includes several sources as previous studies which have the same object, one of which is *Rebellion In Divergent Novel By Veronica Roth (2011) : A Psychoanalytic Approach* by Ari Raharjo (2017). This research discusses Tris or Beatrice Prior’s rebellion against her faction so that she decided to switch factions from Abnegation to Dauntless. This study uses the theory of psychoanalysis as a reference. (Raharjo, 2017) This research is used as a reference to get to know the object through different themes so as to bring up new perspectives that are more detailed to support the work of this research.

The writer conducted this research to explore again how social stratification

is still very important in society, that in this advanced era there is still a lot of discrimination against groups that are considered lower. The writer chose the Divergent novel as the object of research because this novel explores general themes of young adult fiction, such as adult authority and the transition from childhood to adulthood, as well as broader themes such as humanity and social structure. This novel was also chosen because it has compatibility with the theme raised and wanted to be researched.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

This study discusses the social stratification that occurs in the novel Divergent, which is shown by the existence of factions that divide urban society in the novel and the social discrimination that portrayed in the society after the social stratification. The discussion in this study includes life within the factions in the Divergent novel which then shows the existence of social inequality in many ways which in turn causes problems.

From the background in this research above, the researcher concludes that there are two questions that will be the main focuses on this research, they are:

1. What is the process through which factions become symbols of social stratification in the novel Divergent by Veronica Roth?
2. What is the Social discrimination that portrayed in Veronica Roth's Divergent?

## **1.3 Research Purposes**

In this study, the author aims to provide a broader explanation of how social stratification influences social life in Veronica Roth's Divergent novel. In the future the results of this research can become a reference in the world of literature,

especially English literature, and help develop students who need guidance in future writing or research. To make it easier for the reader, the author formulates the real purpose of this research, namely:

1. To find out what is the process through which factions become symbols of social stratification in the novel *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
2. To analyze the portrayed of social discrimination in novel *Divergent* by Veronica Roth.

#### **1.4 Research Significances**

##### **Theoretically**

The result of this research can give a benefits for readers to appreciate a literary work as well as provide new experiences about various things around and how to react to them, especially in novel and sociology in literary product. This research is aim to give a new information and lesson to a readers, also the writer expect this to give a contribution of knowledge in academic research. Specifically in the area of sociology literature and social stratification issue in literary works. Researcher hope this paper will help the student in their research in the future.

##### **Practically**

This research is expected to give deeper understanding and enrich both experience and knowledge for the writer and other students, and also can be used as reference by other students who interest to doing a research about social class especially in novel *Divergent*.



## 1.5 Definition of Key Term

**Sociology of literature** is a study that combines the disciplines of sociology and literature. Literary sociology studies literature from a social perspective, considering how literary works are reflected in society and how society influences literary works

**Marxist Theory** is a socio-economic theory developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that analyzes society through the lens of class struggle and historical materialism. It contends that capitalist societies are characterized by the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class, who control the means of production.

**Social Stratification** refers to the division or categorization of community members in a vertical manner, involving different layers or classes. In the words of Pitirim A. Sorokin (2005:60), social stratification signifies the differentiation of a population or society into stratified classes or hierarchical layers.

**Social Discrimination** refers to the unfair treatment, exclusion, or disadvantage imposed on individuals or groups based on their characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or socioeconomic status.

**Factions** According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, a faction is a group within a political sphere. A political faction is a group of individuals who share the same political goals but differ in some ways throughout the entity.

**Novel Divergent by Veronica Roth** is the debut novel of Veronica Roth as an American novelist. This novel is published in 2011 by HarperCollins Children Books. *Divergent* is a dystopian fiction and the first book from trilogy, the sequel is

## Insurgent and Allegiant

The three books from the Divergent trilogy have been adapted to the big screen with the same title. Directed by Neil Burger and Robert Schwentke and starring Shailane Woodley, Theo James, and Kate Winslet.

