

**THE ANALYSIS OF CLASS STRUGGLE AMONG FACTIONS IN  
VERONICA ROTH'S NOVEL, "DIVERGENT"**

Presented as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Undergraduate Program

**LIVIA JEANNE SAPUTRA**

**20170600024**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES**

**UNIVERSITAS BUDDHI DHARMA**

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**FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL**


Name : Livia Jeanne Saputra  
Student Number : 20170600024  
Faculty : Social Sciences and Humanities  
Study Program : English Department Strata-1  
Final Project Title : **“The Analysis of Class Struggle among Factions in Veronica Roth’s Novel, titled *Divergent*”**

The Final Project Proposal has been approved.


12 August, 2021

Approved by,  
Supervisor

Acknowledge by,  
Head of Department

  
Irpan Ali Rahman, S.S., M.Pd.

NIDN: 0405027807

  
Riris Mutiara P.S., S.Pd., M.Hum.

NIDN: 0427068703

UBD



FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Final Project Title : "The Analysis of Class Struggle among Factions in Veronica Roth's Novel, titled *Divergent*"

Name : Livia Jeanne Saputra

Student Number : 20170600024

Faculty : Social Sciences and Humanities


Study Program : English Department Strata-1

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Irpan Aji Rahman, S.S., M.Pd.

NIDN: 0405027807

  
Riris Mutiara P.S., S.Pd., M.Hum.

NIDN: 0427068703



RECOMMENDATION FOR ELLIGIBILITY OF FINAL PROJECT  
EXAMINATION

The Undersigned

Name : Irpan Ali Rahman, S.S., M.Pd.

Position : Supervisor

Certify that

Name : Livia Jeanne Saputra

Student Number : 20170600024

Faculty : Social Sciences and Humanities

Study Program : English Department Strata-1

Title of Final Project : "The Analysis of Class Struggle among Factions in Veronica Roth's  
Novel, titled *Divergent*"

It has been eligible to take the final project examination.

Tangerang, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Approved by,  
Supervisor

Acknowledged by,  
Head of Department

  
Irpan Ali Rahman, S.S., M.Pd.

NIDN: 0405027807

  
Riris Mutiara P.S., S.Pd., M.Hum.

NIDN: 0427068703



**THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

Name : Livia Jeanne Saputra  
Student Number : 2017060024  
Faculty : Social Sciences and Humanities  
Study Program : English Department Strata-1  
Title of Final Project : **“The Analysis of Class Struggle among Factions in Veronica Roth’s Novel, titled *Divergent*”**

This thesis examined by the board of examiners on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Name of Examiners

1. Chair : Hot Saut Halomoan, S.Pd., M.Hum.  
NIDN: 0320046101
2. Examiner I : Dr. Lilie Suratminto, M.A.  
NIDN: 8875430017
3. Examiner II : Sonya Ayu Kumala, M.Hum.  
NIDN: 0418128601



Acknowledge by,



**Dr. Lilie Suratminto, M.A.**  
**SOSIAL DAN HUMANIORA**  
**NIDN: 8875430017**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I declare that this thesis is entirely my own work, and it is true and correct that I did not steal any scholarly ideas or work from others. That all cited works were cited in accordance with the academic writing ethical code.

Tangerang, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Livia Jeanne Saputra

2017060024

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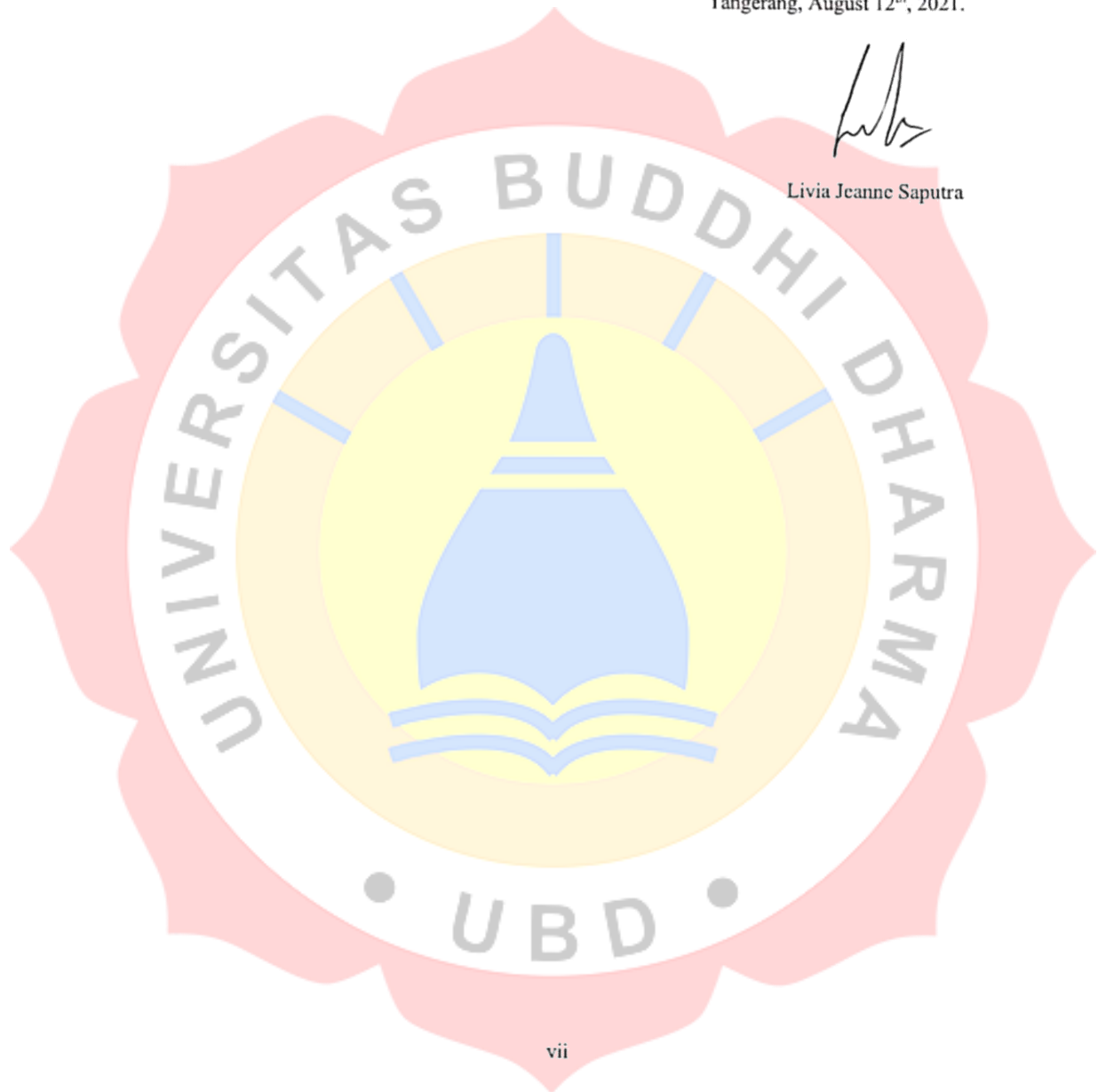
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Livia Jeanné Saputra





## ABSTRACT

This thesis is titled "An Analysis of Class Struggle among Factions in Veronica Roth's *Divergent* Novel." Karl Marx, Marxist Theory, is the theory used in this thesis. Literature, in general, is a scientific material or source that is commonly used to create a paper or other scientific activities. Novels, poetry, essays, and even film and drama are examples of imaginative works of literature. The Marxist theory is a social, political, and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx. It examines the effect of capitalism on labour, productivity, and economic development and argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favour of communism. The author drew on secondary data sources. The secondary data are information sources that support this research, such as websites, journals, and novel-related articles. This research is descriptive qualitative research which is content analysis. The result of this study is to show the class struggle among faction in the plot and character in *Divergent* novel. Class struggle is the ongoing struggle for economic and political power between the capitalist and working classes. Beatrice Prior and Tobias Eaton/Four are the two main characters who face the class struggle. Until the end of the novel, the plot explains how the two main characters fight for the class of each faction in order to achieve justice and equality. After read the novel, the Marxist theory of class struggle among factions experienced by characters was chosen by the author.

*Keyword: Literature, Novel, Marxist Theory, Class Struggle, Divergent.*

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

What exactly does literary work imply? Many people believed that it was only an artist's work, but if we dig deeper, we can discover the true meaning of literary work. According to Webster (2005), literature is a collection of writings on a specific subject. Express life more ambiguously, implying that literature is derived from societal events as a result, the writer presents work to convey his/her ideas to the reader; many works have their own distinct author's objective. Of course, the writer's ideas in a work have a significant impact on the reader's mindset. Furthermore, definitions of literature cannot be limited to one person's opinion.

Literature is divided into various works such as movies, poems, songs, novels, and so on. According to Eagleton's Article, a novel is a short work of prose fiction. Even a toothless definition like this is still too limited. *Divergent* is one of the best novels of 2011, written by Veronica Roth. *Divergent* has a worldwide following. Novels contain intrinsic elements such as theme, plot, event, conflict, climax, and characters. Each element is divided into several parts, such as a round character and a flat character. Veronica Roth created the *Divergent* novel based on her imagination. A unique theme and character for each, making the novel one of the best novels of 2011. She valued her experience, imagination, or perhaps a problem to create *Divergent*.

Every person who lives in this world would demand justice and equality. Everyone wants a decent job, a good life, and also a good social status to fulfill their daily

requirements, but everyone isn't the same, they have a different social status. Everyone has a different social status, which is why discrimination occurs in our lives. They compare their lives to those above them and discriminate against those below them because they believe their social status is superior to others.

Because there is discrimination in our lives, everyone fights for their social class to live a better life. Everyone has a social class, regardless of their social status. People of high social class have an advantage over those of low social class. As a result, people from lower social classes live by fighting for their social class in order to live a better life.

Marx stated that "all societies that have ever existed are class societies of one kind or another" (Saunders, 1990: 5). And it is because of this difference that discrimination occurs. Ansel said that Discrimination refers to unfair treatment. (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 290), Ansel also states that "discrimination is detrimental to both individuals and society" (Ansel, ET all, 1988: 304).

Veronica Roth, the author of the *Divergent* novel, published in 2011, reflected on the class struggle between factions in her novel. The *Divergent* novel is about a post-apocalyptic country called Chicago. The government of Chicago decided to divide society into five factions in the hopes of creating a better life and a more peaceful world than existed previously. Chicago's city is said to be abandoned and in ruins due to the collapse of the last society. All in this book is about society who have different five factions including Abnegation (Selfless), Erudite (Genius), Dauntless (Brave), Amity (lovers of peace), and Candor (Honest).

Beatrice Prior begins to live and adjust to the Dauntless faction and find out the truth about *Divergent*. In the process of adjusting herself, Beatrice received a lot of discrimination because she was a woman who joined the faction and was considered

weak. Even after Beatrice moved from the Abnegation faction she still had to fight for her social status in the Dauntless faction. The class struggle and discrimination that she through make her stronger.

The writer is interested and chooses to analyze this novel because the story of the novel is different and unique from the other. This novel also has an interesting point to analyze about the class struggle. After the writer read the novel, the writer chose to analyze this novel by Marxist Theory about class struggle among factions.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem emphasizes the plot line of the *Divergent* novel about class struggle. The Abnegation faction led the Erudite, Dauntless, Amity, and Candor factions. However, discrimination against other factions occurred as a result of the Erudite Faction's greed in wanting to lead and dominate the entire faction. Especially in the Dauntless faction. Beatrice as the main character in this novel faces discrimination against the faction she belongs to and fights for her social class as a result of the discrimination and seeks social equality for all existing factions. Therefore, the statement of the problem of this research is the class struggle that happened by the main character in the novel.

## **1.3. Research Question**

Reading clearly is the most important way of identifying a good research question. It is probably to keep up to date with recent advancements and identify certain issues. So, the writer proposed the research question:

1.3.1. How does class struggle among factions in *Divergent* novel through Marxism Theory?

#### **1.4. Goal and Function**

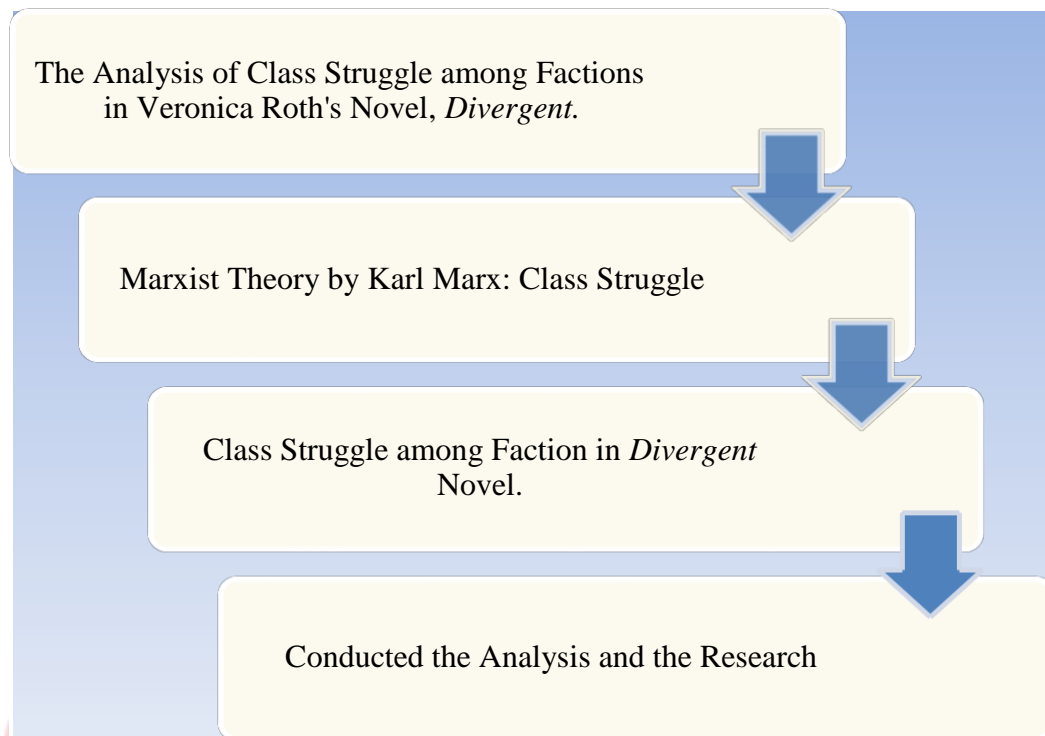
The goal of this research is to learn more about class struggle. *Divergent*, the novel also fits perfectly with what is happening these days. Class struggle is common in real life and affects many people. People will discriminate against others if they believe their social class is higher than theirs. The function is to serve resource for those who want to do research on the class struggle and Marxism Theory.

#### **1.5. Scope and Limitation**

The writer reflects on the novel thesis in the literature scope in this review. It is hoped that by undertaking this study, readers can gain more insight into the Class Struggle conveyed in the *Divergent* novel. The writer also hoped it can increase students' enthusiasm for literature and to inspire them to come up with fresh, more creative, and innovative ideas in the future. And also for the writer, to add insight and knowledge about the novel, especially about the moral values it contains.

#### **1.6. Conceptual Framework**

The main problem in the novel *Divergent* is about the Erudite faction who wants to fight the government led by the Abnegation faction. Jeanine from Erudite wants to control and take over the government by taking advantage of other factions which according to her have a lower social class by making projects using his intelligence. Therefore, the main character in the novel *Divergent* finds out about this and prepares to fight for his social class.



Picture Graphic 1.1

The conceptual framework above can explained as follow:

1. The writer found the novel *Divergent* by Veronica Roth.
2. After the writer read the novel, the writer uses the Marxist theory of Karl Marx in this thesis, especially about Class Struggle.
3. The writer is going to describe about the Class Struggle that the writer got and put them in context.
4. Finally, through the plot and the character in *Divergent* novel, the writer discovers the results of her research about Class Struggle.



## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. Previous Study

The first research entitled “Class Struggle as the Impact of Capitalism Seen Through Faction” was done by Mentari Handoko from Sanata Dharma University in Yogyakarta on 2016. In this study, she examined how the factions in the *Divergent* novel are described through the setting, as well as how class struggle and discrimination as the impact of capitalism are revealed through factions in the novel. She examined the social struggle as well as capitalism. She used Marxism as a critical theory by Karl Marx where as Barry explained that “the aim of Marxism is to bring about a classless society based on the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange (2002: 156).”

Barry (2002: 157) also states in her research that “Marxism sees progress as the result of a struggle for power among different social classes. This view of class struggle history (rather than seeing it as a succession of dynasties or as gradual progress toward national identity and sovereignty) sees it as “motored” by competition for economic, social, and political advantage. The exploitation of one social class by another is most visible in modern industrial capitalism, especially in its unrestricted nineteenth-century form.”

The second academic writing is a thesis that used a different object of research but the same theory. The title of this thesis is “Class Conflict in Film in Time” which was done by Yudaris Octian from Islamic State University in Jakarta in 2015. In his thesis, he focused on the representation of the class conflict in that film. Sylvia Weis was the

main character who came from bourgeoisie class but she helped the proletariat. His thesis has similar form and method with this research which is focus on the main character and the class conflict and class struggle of Marxism that seen by character Beatrice Prior's experience. Even though this thesis research has different objects, the method and the theories are the same and also focused on the main character.

Those researches had a similar point with this research but have a different characteristic. The first research has the same object, theory, and method of analysis with this research. The second research has different objects but has the same method, and theory with this research. Despite the same object, theory, or method, this research has different focus to analyze and different conclusions from those researches.

## **2.2. Literature**

In today's world, literature is becoming increasingly important. In addition to providing inner enjoyment and fulfillment, literature serves as a means of communicating moral messages to the public about social reality.

According to Millar (1970:18), it also enhances human intelligence or intuition, enriches souls, and makes people more civilized. It will assist them in comprehending the circumstances and qualities of others. As a result, literature aids human growth on both a personal and intellectual level. It offers a solid foundation for insight and comprehension. It connects them to the larger cultural, philosophical, and religious world in which they find themselves.

Literature according to Budianta, et al (2002: 3-4) is composed of those books, and of those books only, which in the first, by reason of their subject matter and their mode of treating it, are of genial human interest; and in which in the second place, the

element of form and the pleasure which focus give are to be as essential. Henry Van Dyke defines “literature as writings 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.”

Klarer (2004:1) also says that in most cases, “literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word”. Klarer added literature usually include additional adjectives such as aesthetic or artistic to distinguish literary works from texts such as the author expression newspapers, scientific textbooks, magazines, legal documents, brochures, novel, and many more. There are five intrinsic elements in Novel such as plot, character, theme, setting and point of view. In literature, characters take an important role because characters are the first thing to do while the author writes a novel.

Luken (Luken, 2003) defines literature as "the writer of man's spirit of thought, feeling, and language in the world of truth and beauty." Literature has traditionally been defined as a body of work that exists because of its creative artistic qualities. According to the Collins English Dictionary, literature is "written material such as poetry, novels, essays, and so on, especially works of imagination characterized by excellence of style and a general or enduring interest in the theme." Another definition of literature is an essay that tells stories, dramatizes situations, expresses thoughts or feelings, analyzes, and issues opinions.

From the preceding concept, the writer deduced that literature is a type of work of art that demonstrates the writer's creative imagination, whether fiction or nonfiction. The reader will read the artist's imagination, which will broaden their awareness and perspectives on human issues such as beliefs, morality, cultures, and human interests.

### 2.3. Novel

The novel is a type of literature. A novel is a relatively long work of narrative fiction written in prose and published as a book. It provides more opportunities for reflection than a film. In order to imagine what is happening in the book, we must use our imaginations.

Gill (2006) said if plot is the author's most powerful device to make the story, in addition Gill said if plot is the order of events and the reader's knowledge that follows all story. But plot needs specific features in order to be created such as situation and disjunction. Sumardjo (1998: 29) says that "novel is a story with the prose form in long shape, this long shape means the story including the complex plot, many characters and various setting".

The literary work is the result of a contemplative exercise on human life. The author writes literary works to depict the complexities of real-life human life. The novel is an epic set in a time when the vast totality of life is no longer directly given, when the immanence of life's value has become a challenge, but when people continue to think in terms of totality (Lukacs:1998).

A novel is one form of literary work that depicts human life. A novel is a narrative that depicts various aspects of human life. A novella is a term used in Italian for a book. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, a novella simply means "fresh tiny things" and is then translated as a short story in prose (2005). The novel is divided into two parts: intrinsic and extrinsic elements. According to Nurgiyantoro (2009:23), intrinsic elements are the building blocks of literary works that emerge from within the work itself.

The author chooses to explain the *Divergent* novel's plot using several intrinsic and extrinsic elements in the novel. The *Divergent* novel's plot is the most influential in

writing about Class Struggle. As a result, the author decided to go into greater detail about the plot.

### 2.3.1. Plot

A plot, according to Stanton (2007:26), is a series of events in a novel. The impact of one case on another cannot be overlooked, as the events will have ramifications in the plot. The plot is very similar to the character's life. If there are only a few characters in the story, the plot will be closer and simpler; however, if there are multiple characters in the story, the plot will be more complex.

In fiction, the plot is the structure of interconnected actions chosen and arranged by the author. According to E.M. Forster in *Aspects of the Novel* (1927), a story is a "narrative of events arranged in their time-sequence," where as the plot organizes the events according to a "sense of causality." According to Russel (2009) plot is a series of interconnected events in which every occurrence has a specific purpose. A plot is all about establishing connections, suggesting causes, and showing relationships. Russel adds if there are four types of plot structure such as:

#### A. A Dramatic or Progressive Plot:

This is a chronological structure which first establishes the setting and conflict, then follows the rising action through to a climax (the peak of the action and turning point), and concludes with a denouement (a wrapping up of loose ends).

#### B. An Episodic Plot:

This is also a chronological structure, but it consists of a series of loosely related incidents, usually of chapter length, tied together by a common theme and/or characters. Episodic plots work best when the writer wishes to explore the personalities of the characters, the nature of their existence, and the flavour of an era.

#### C. A Parallel Plot:

The writer weaves two or more dramatic plots that are usually linked by a common character and a similar theme.

#### D. A Flashback:

This structure conveys information about events that occurred earlier. It permits authors to begin the story in the midst of the action but later fill in the background for full understanding of the present events. Flashbacks can occur more than once and in different parts of a story.

### 2.3.2. Character and Characterization

According to Taylor (1980:62), a character can be used to convey an interpretation or a point of view on a situation, and it must be considered in comparison to other aspects of the story's composition. Character and characterization are created by the writer in literary works. In literary works such as novels, movies, and dramas, a character is a person who can think, talk, and act.

According to DG Mandikdasmen Ministry of National Education, the character is a way of thinking and behaving that characterizes each individual to live and work, both within the family, community, nation and state. Individual of good

character is an individual who can make decisions and be ready to account for any consequences of decisions he made. W.B. Saunders (1977: 126) also explains that the characters are real and distinct properties shown by individuals, a number of attributes that can be observed in individuals.

#### **2.4. Marxism Theory**

Marxism is a social, political, and economic philosophy named after Karl Marx. It examines the effect of capitalism on labour, productivity, and economic development and argues for a worker revolution to overturn capitalism in favour of communism. Marxism posits that the struggle between social classes specifically between the bourgeoisie, or capitalists, and the proletariat, or workers defines economic relations in a capitalist economy and will inevitably lead to revolutionary communism.

Karl Marx puts an interest toleration between people, especially relation between people based on Social economic condition. According to Marx, this relation is an antagonistic relation between human in differentiate class, a struggle between one class owned the means of production, while the other class owned nothing but their labour power, which they were obligate to sell in order to survive."

Based on Karl Marx's writings, it is claimed that literary works are essentially political because they either challenge or support the dominant social class's economic oppression. On the other hand, literary works frequently criticize the practice of human exploitation in the modes of production, distribution, and exchange, which serves as a major source of inspiration for the working class in its fight against exploitation.

Marxist theory is more concerned with the content and themes of literature than with its form. Furthermore, Marxist critics frequently examine literature in search of "hidden" messages, particularly those that reflect class struggle, reinforce ideas of a dominant class, and create illusions about reality.

According to Henry B. Mayo (1960: 30) in Introduction to Marxist Theory that the most enlightening approach of Marxist theories in general is through Marx's philosophy of materialism. Materialism itself is a view in which Marx sees that matter existed independently from ideas, and that ideas are merely the reflection or embodiment of matter.

Peter Barry states that the aim of Marxism is to accomplish a classless society based on the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. Struggle between classes to get a position in society is triggered by the competition for economic, social, and political advantage. In this capitalism society, the exploitation of one social class by another is inevitable, particularly in the nineteenth-century (2002: 156-157).

In this research, the writer concerns about the class struggle. So, the writer decides to use two theories in Marxism (1848), which are social class, and class struggle. The writer will more explain about the Class Struggle more deeply.

#### 2.4.1. Theory of Class Struggle

The second goal of the Divergent novel is class struggle among factions. The Abnegation faction, as an oppressed faction, is aware of their situation and position in society prior to reaching the stage of class struggle. The realization drives the act of class struggle, or the struggle against capitalism and oppression. In this case, the Abnegation, as an opposing faction to the Erudite,



fighters against the Erudite in order to be free of capitalism. Finally, the struggle of the Abnegation faction not only frees them from capitalism, but also causes Divergent society to transition from faction society to factionless society.

Heredity is the only factor used to classify people into social groups. As a result, nobility, clergy, and commoners exist (Day, 2001:2). Class divisions have been blamed on labor-management relations, market access, a status hierarchy, and culture. They appear to be difficult to differentiate from other types of division, such as racial, gendered, regional, ethnic, religious, and many more.

Class societies can be classified as either stable or conflicted. Historical trends have an impact on classes. As a result of this tendency, society is divided into two opposing classes. Thus, the assertion of the historical tendency of class struggles establishes the assertion of the polarization of struggles between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

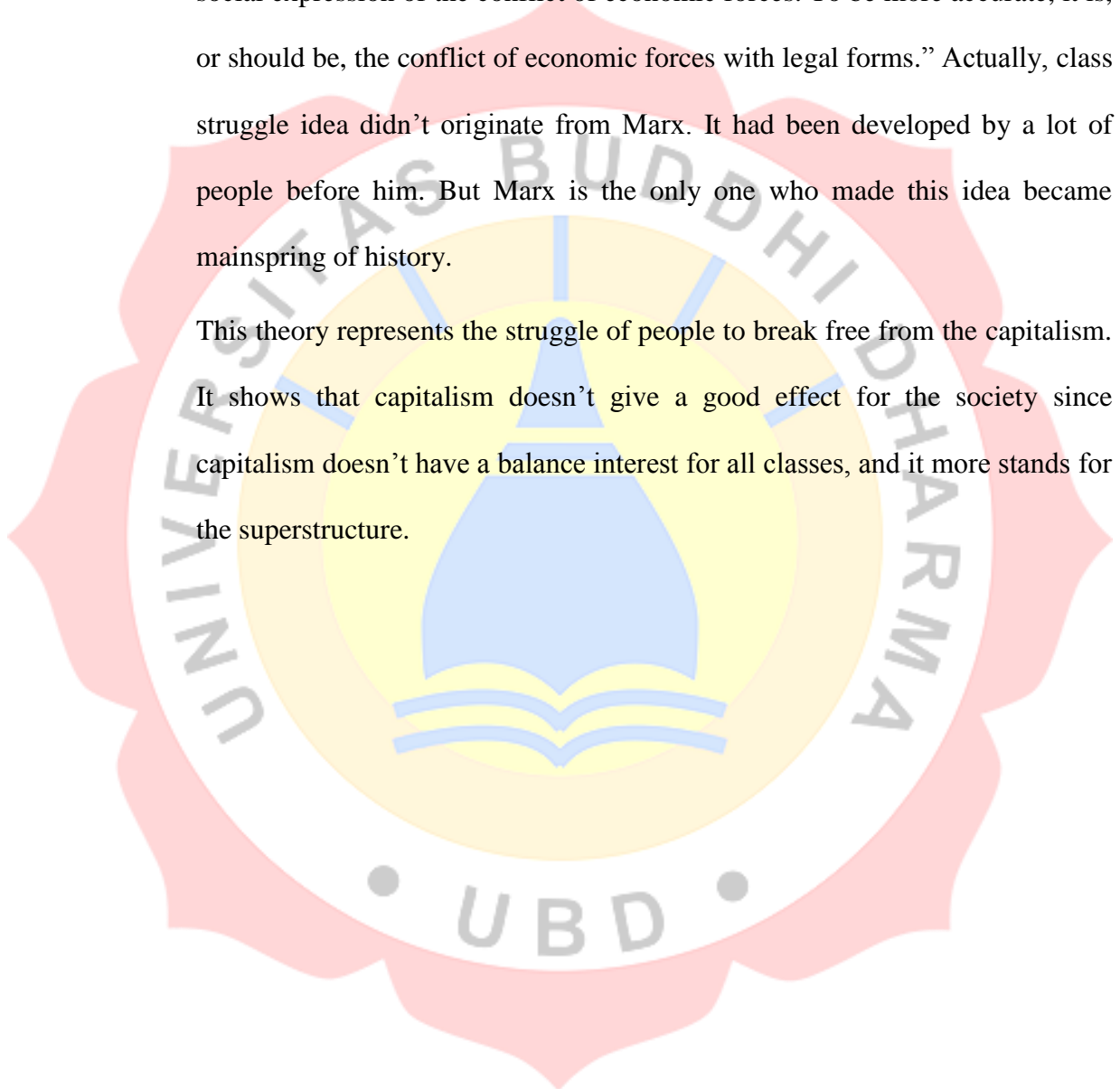
According to Marx in Martha's research (2011: 20), class struggle is the ongoing struggle for economic and political power between the capitalist and working classes. It is also referred to as a class war. People from lower social classes engage in a variety of modes of class struggle to advance in their social standing. The most common methods of class struggle in the modern era are violence, proletarian revolution, and proletarian dictatorship (Wilczynski: 1984).

According to de Kadt (1965: 471), we should have learned from Hegel and Marx that we can only contribute to the understanding of consensus, conflict, and power by approaching our subject matter critically. A situation marked by the absence of manifest social conflict may contain significant latent conflicts

of interest; the latter may have a relatively high potential to serve as the focal point of manifest conflict crystallization. Given this, we cannot, in sociology or peace research, focus solely on what "is," but must also be concerned with what "could be."

According to Henry B. Mayo states that, "the class struggle is the human or social expression of the conflict of economic forces. To be more accurate, it is, or should be, the conflict of economic forces with legal forms." Actually, class struggle idea didn't originate from Marx. It had been developed by a lot of people before him. But Marx is the only one who made this idea became mainspring of history.

This theory represents the struggle of people to break free from the capitalism. It shows that capitalism doesn't give a good effect for the society since capitalism doesn't have a balance interest for all classes, and it more stands for the superstructure.



## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1. Subject Material

The writer chose the novel "*Divergent*" as the subject of this study. *Divergent* was written by Veronica Roth and published in 2011. It is the first in a trilogy of novels that includes *Insurgent*, *Allegiant*, and *Four*. The series is connected, but the author mainly uses *Divergent* because the fundamental problem of this story is engaging and relevant to what is happening today, when people desire to control the environment. Erudite faction, the faction seeking to seize power, decides to massacre Abnegation, the faction in charge of the government. Erudite uses Dauntless (The Powerful Faction) to wipe out Abnegation using their intelligence skill. Erudite injects a serum into Dauntless, causing the Dauntless faction mentality to focus solely on killing Abnegation.

#### 3.2. Subject Matter

The writer used secondary data from a variety of data sources linked to the class struggle, including articles, theses, and e-book from the internet, as well as extensive research into the history of the class struggle. Both pieces of information assist the writer in analyzing this thesis.

### 3.3. Approach

The approach of this thesis takes a qualitative research approach. This style of research, according to Walliman (2011), is based on data expressed largely in the form of words descriptions, accounts, views, feelings, and so on, rather than figures. However, wherever people are the subject of a study, whether in social groups or as individuals, this type of data is widespread. The focus of this study is on picture, words, sound, and feeling.

### 3.4. Procedure

The procedure of collecting, measuring, and analyzing accurate insights for research using standard approved procedure is referred to as data collection. In collecting the data, the writer has done some procedures.

1. First, the writer selected the *Divergent* novel to examine and read the novel to fully understand it.
2. The second procedure, after the writer understands the novel, the writer finds the theory which relevant to the novel *Divergent*.
3. After that, the third step, the writer read the research, understand other relevant research as an illustration to examine this thesis.
4. Then, the writer analyse the theory with the subject research and make a conclusion based on the analysis research.

### 3.5. Analysis

The writer analyse this thesis by read the *Divergent* novel by Veronica Roth and understands the novel. After the writer understands the plot of the novel, the writer uses Marxist theory by Karl Marx. The writer analyse the plot about the main character who is struggled because of the discrimination happened in her faction and her parents faction. By analyzing the plot of the novel, the writer looks for Class Struggle theory that still one of Marxist theory by Karl Marx and describe more in this thesis.

