

**ANALYZING HEGEMONY: FACTION SYSTEM IN VERONICA ROTH'S  
*DIVERGENT***

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**ABSTRACT**

This thesis entitled *Analyzing Hegemony: Factions System in Veronica Roth's Divergent* has purpose to analyze the concept of hegemony by Antonio Gramsci and the formula of science fiction in Faction System that happens in a novel entitled *Divergent* by Veronica Roth. The method that is used in this research is contextual method by analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story through the library research. The analysis of intrinsic elements is used to analyze the formula of science fiction, while the analysis of extrinsic elements is used to apply the concept of hegemony by Antonio Gramsci. The Faction System is a kind of system that controls the life of people in the story. The people are divided into five categories that include five kinds of virtues; there is selflessness, honest, peaceful, intelligent, and fearless. The result of this thesis shows that the author of the novel reveals the two anomalies or the mysteries of the story into linear order. This thesis also concludes that the effect of hegemony that is done by the dominant group in the story causes people to live with the stereotype. The stereotype that is found in each category of people in the Faction System will cause the people to war. The conclusion shows that the Faction System cannot bring peace to society, because there is still discrepancy that creates opposition between people in the story.

**Keywords:**Hegemony, contextual method, formula of science fiction, Antonio Gramsci, stereotype.

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the imitation of life. Through reading literary works, readers can learn about the condition of a society in a particular time. As De Bonald said in Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* that “literature is an expression of society” (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 95); It means that literature may reflect a situation or condition such as politics, economics, and social life of some people in some certain period of time. By reading literature, the readers may learn and then probably imitate the norms such as the way people dress, act or socialize in real life.

Literature may give influence on the ways people think or believe into something. For example, in science fiction, the author will enchantingly create the plot where the setting of place has higher technology and the time is usually happening in the future. The story, however, should be able to draw the attention of the readers. Thus, when reading science fiction, the readers can imagine about living in the future, and probably believe that the world the author created is somewhat real and might be happening someday.

*Divergent* is a science fiction written by Veronica Roth. It is a fiction which tells about the futuristic society in Chicago. *Divergent* is about the story of divided society into five categories according to their priority of choices in life called factions, they are “Abnegation” for selflessness, “Candor” for honesty, “Erudite” for knowledge, “Amity” for peacefulness or compassion, and “Dauntless” for bravery. The system of dividing society into five factions in the novel is called the “Faction System”. The society believes that the “Faction System” has purposed to protect people from the disarray of the world.

In *Divergent*, there is some kind of domination between two factions over other five factions which are “Abnegation” and “Erudite”. “Abnegation” has their domination in government, while “Erudite” has their knowledge and intelligent to make a development on the “Faction System”. This kind of domination is known as hegemony; According to *the Routledge Dictionary of Literary Terms* stated about the definition of hegemony, “it has come to mean power exercised by creating the belief in the majority of people in a society that power is the prerogative of a group or class as a ‘natural’ or otherwise justified right” (Childs and Fowler, 1973: 102).

The interest toward the concept of hegemony that is applied in science fiction, the writer wants to give much attention to further analyze the formula of science fiction and the concept of hegemony in *Divergent*. Therefore, for that reason, the writer wants to present the analysis of hegemony that occurs in “Faction System” in *Divergent* through a study entitled “Analyzing Hegemony: Faction System in Veronica Roth’s *Divergent*”.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The followings are the specific purpose of the study:

1. to explain how the formula of science fiction is applied the story in Veronica Roth's *Divergent*
2. to discover how the application of the concept of hegemony in Veronica Roth's *Divergent*
3. to find the effect of hegemony in Veronica Roth's *Divergent*

## **1.3 Method of the Study**

The method that the writer used in this study is contextual method; according to Hull, contextual learning “occurs only when students process new information or knowledge in such a way that it makes sense to them in their frame of reference (their own inner world of memory, experience, and response)” (Hull, 1993: 41). In using contextual method, the writer needs to analyze both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel.

## **1.4 Anomaly and Linear Retrospective**

There are two anomalies in *Divergent* which are “Faction System” and “Divergent”. The details of “Faction System” and “Divergent” are explained in a linear order in an event called the “aptitude test” and “Choosing Ceremony”.

## **1.5 The Hero or Heroine**

The protagonist of the story, Beatrice Prior, is considered as the heroine of the story. Beatrice should have the features of the heroine. As the heroine of the story, Beatrice has insecure feelings, presents as shrewd, has curiosity to analyze her situation, and feels responsible to overcome the danger.

## **1.6 The Dominant Group and the Subordinate Group in Veronica Roth's *Divergent***

### **1.6.1 The Dominant Group**

In *Divergent*, the dominant group is shown in the leaders of each faction and in the image of parents to their children. In the story, mother is considered to be superior to their children, because mother has the knowledge and culture of “Faction System” in the story. As the story goes, it can be found that there are two factions that become dominant over the other factions. There are the “Abnegation” and the “Erudite”. The leaders of “Erudite” namely

Jeanine Matthew is superior to the faction people, because she is the only scientist who creates the simulation that is used in “Faction System”. Jeanine has the power to control the teenagers by the means of education.

### **1.6.2 The Subordinate Group**

In the story of *Divergent*, the subordinate group can be found in the image of the member in each faction (faction people) and in the image of “faction-less” people. The member in each faction can be represented in the image of sixteen year old teenagers. As sixteen year old, Beatrice has no chance to express what she really wants. She cannot act freely means that she has to be careful of her action. It can be concluded that Beatrice becomes the object of “Faction System”. The same thing happens to the “faction-less” people or a group of people who does not belong to any faction.

## **1.7 Levels of Hegemony in Veronica Roth’s *Divergent***

### **1.7.1 Integral Hegemony**

In this level of hegemony, the subordinate group put their trust on the dominant group wholeheartedly. If they do not follow the rules, they will suffer. The dominant group is shown in the “Erudite” and the “Abnegation”. The leaders of these two factions have control over the people in the story. On the other hand, the subordinate group can be look at the image of member in each faction (faction people) and the “faction-less” people. In the daily life of the community in the story, factions are a kind of binding system. The rules that set out by the leader of each faction have caused faction people to live in homogeneity. They have to wear the uniform, they should have the same hairstyles, and they have to build their house in the same shape. Even though it is binding, the people did not object. The reason for their obedience is based on their beliefs that they have to conform to the custom of their faction; otherwise they have to live “faction-less”.

### **1.7.2 Decadent Hegemony**

In the story, “decadent hegemony” can be seen in the domination of the “Abnegation” over other factions. At first, the society believes that people from the “Abnegation” are selfless. Thus, the society gives the “Abnegation” responsibility to lead the government. However, as the time goes by, the “Abnegation” is considered to be unable to fulfill the interest of the faction people. In order to keep their domination, the “Abnegation” people only do what they believe as selfless.

### **1.8 The Effect of Hegemony in Veronica Roth's *Divergent***

The effect of the hegemony in the story has created stereotype in each group. The stereotype makes a person who comes from a certain group being look as a whole. In *Divergent*, the faction people see a person who comes from a certain faction based on the characteristics of a faction. The people were blinded by the stereotype, and it closes the story ended by war.

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