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Suzanne Collins and “*Divergent*” by Veronica Roth**

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**Portrayal of Women in the novel “Hunger Games” by
Suzanne Collins and “Divergent” by Veronica Roth**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracovala samostatně a použila jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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1 Introduction

This bachelor's thesis is concerned with a portrayal of women in literature. Its aim is to introduce female authors and heroines of their novels, and analyze the portrayal of women characters using examples from the novels by female novelists Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth. More specifically, this work attempts to analyze Katniss Everdeen and Beatrice Prior, heroines of dystopian novels *Hunger Games* and *Divergent*. In addition, it aims to search for similarities and differences between these two female characters and to categorize them in accordance with Marie Anne Ferguson's concept of "stereotypical female characters" described in her work *Images of Women in Literature*.

Dystopian novels have nowadays enjoyed a great interest among readers. They offer a particular vision of future as seen through the eyes of female writers. It may be argued that the female prism of view differs in a significant way from the male view. For example, Suzanne Collins depicts the life of her female protagonists with understanding and sympathy. In her novel, elements of war and civil disobedience, Greek mythology and the real world occur and mix together. Every part of the novel has its own meaning and explanation, and its story is conceived to the smallest detail. The heroine created by the writer attracts attention by her nature, courage and determination, the sense of justice and her inner strength. She becomes a good example for female readers who have a chance to identify with her while reading the novel and, possibly, in real life as well. The latter is greatly appreciated mainly because this genre of literature is primarily intended for young adult readers. Although there are more strong female characters in Suzanne Collin's novel, this bachelor's thesis focuses mainly on Katniss, who represents determination, courage and strength. In addition, she resembles Veronica Roth's character Beatrice Prior in a number of ways, which will be analyzed further in this work.

Although Veronica Roth has not had such an extensive experience in writing as Suzanne Collins, she was able to create a novel that became a bestseller. Furthermore, both novels *Hunger Games*, and *Divergent* were filmed and became very popular. Roth's dystopian novel shows one a view of the world, which is organized in a completely new and unconventional way, in which a young teenage girl must decide on her own future, and gradually discovers her own identity. Like Katniss, Beatrice is a very strong personality who has the courage to face injustice.

Having read both novels, I found similarities in the characters of both main characters and, as previously mentioned, my aim is to analyze them and focus on their common character traits. My next goal is to explain the concept of a dystopian novel and to describe the essentials contains. The thesis is divided into 5 main chapters. The first one is a theoretical introduction to gender stereotypes and their categorization. Subsequent second section deals with dystopian fiction, its definition and a basic portrayal of dystopian heroine. The third chapter is further focused on a portrayal of women in *Hunger Games* with subchapters including information about the author and a brief summary of the novel in order to expand the context of the whole work and analyses of both main heroines supported by direct quotations from the novels. Fourth section has a similar structure as the second one but focused on the novel *Divergent*. The last chapter of the thesis is practical and consists of a comparative analysis of Katniss and Beatrice and their "categorization" according to the theoretical concept of stereotypical female archetypes provided by Marie Anne Ferguson.

2 Gender Stereotypes in Literature

As stated by C. N. Macrae in *Stereotypes and stereotyping* (1996) there exist two types of stereotypes, which help to better and fully understand the whole process of stereotyping. One is based on thinking of an individual and the second one is formed by an entire group of people or society. [1] As some psychologists declare, there is a difference between levels of stereotyping where the prejudices formed by entire group have more extensive impact on society in contrast with produced by an individual. [2]

An individual is influenced by many factors, which influence the formation of particular stereotypes. He/she imagines particular situations, persons, and things in particular ways and uses these views to shape his/her opinion on these things. [3] Macrae presents some examples, such as pattern given to the people according to their nationality, i. g. the Irish drink too much, the Greeks are cheerful, etc. Although he declares that stereotypes are acquired from parents, leaders or the media, they can be changed during recognising specific stereotyped subjects and introducing with them. [4]

When the gender is taken into consideration, the dominance of men is often mentioned. While men are considered to be a model of success, strength and power, women are shown in a different way. [5] They are perceived as dependent on men and described as passive. Being passive generally indicates a lower value. The women's position is thus degraded, which subsequently affects both private and work life. [6]

As a bridging across the limits of these stereotypes the rise of number of female, or rather girl, protagonists as heroines of dystopian novels can be considered as a tool for reducing these stereotypes. Needless to say that dystopian novels have become very popular nowadays. As will be mentioned in the next

chapter, the common characteristic of these main characters is an effort to reform the society in which they live. Their reason to change the society is whether intentional or gained through the gradual detection of the malfunction of the system. Heroines may be able to surrender their own needs at the expense of the greater good. They want to be free, live their own lives and want to understand their own identities. [7] These aspects are portrayed in *Hunger Games*'s heroine Katniss and the courageous Beatrice portrayed in the *Divergent* series.

Prior to specifying characters of two main heroines with respect to the dystopian genre by providing examples from the novels, there is an explanation of some typical archetypes of women. The interpretation draws upon the book *Images of Women in Literature* (1991), in which Marie Anne Ferguson describes several portrayals of women in literature based on her research in anthologies of literary works, stories, plays, and poems that illustrate traditional images of women, where no image is merely a stereotype but an outline of the images often used.

As already mentioned, opinions and stereotypes are created in people's minds. Judgments are based both on experiences and knowledge and on the opinions of others, which can be highly influencing. It is worth mentioning that stereotypes change over time, within society and under various external circumstances. According to Marie Anne Ferguson, the image of a woman reflects on the image of men about women. The norm, according to which a woman should behave and into which she should fit is often very unclear. As mentioned, a woman is considered as a passive and a man as an active individual, which is generally perceived more positively. But if a woman acts self-assertively, she is considered as insufficiently feminine.[8] Another example may be possessiveness. If a woman is wealthy, it indicates her profligacy unlike a rich man who symbolises success and responsibility. The question of female role is also discussed in terms of her intimate life. While a woman has to keep her chastity and should not be desirous of sex, she should not seem frigid at the same

time. As Ferguson describes in her book: "...women are bewildered about their identity: they feel damned if they do and damned if they do not." [9]

As it was already stated, Marie Anne Ferguson describes several portrayals of women in literature based on literal research, and one of them is a portrayal of the mother. The woman bringing child into the world is considered to be the bearer of life, caretaker of the child's comfort. However, a "motherly role" is also related to denying demands, admonishing, and sometimes excessive care putting the role of the mother in both the positive and the negative position, often referred to as an ungrateful role. People struggle with a sense of self-development and independence, but, on the other, hand they want to be ensured by mother's protectiveness. [10]

As related to the role of a caretaker there is a character with a similar characteristics – a wife. Examples given by Marie Anne Ferguson portray several subgroups to the role of a wife. There are several ways to look at the functions that a proper wife should perform and that are expected from her. The role of a wife is very close to the role of a mother. Wife taking care of her husband tries to replace the man's addiction to his mother. The task of a good wife is to cook, clean up, organise, and take care of the overall functioning of the household. On the other hand, there is a tendency for the husband to be admonished by his woman who provides family environment and sometimes is not satisfied with her husband's behaviour. Then the husband can be as negative and angry as a child, which creates resemblance with mother's role. [11] The so-called submissive wife is a type of woman who is, by becoming wife, losing and pushing her own self-development into the interest of the husband's concern and comfort, whose main task is obedience and devotion: these women regard men as an authority, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. Their thinking depends on the environment where they grew up, the social status, but also on what they expect from their own lives. Likewise a romantic idea about the husband's concerns that the good

of a husband is also the welfare of a wife. This is often ruled out because dependent women are often unhappy and unfulfilled. [12]

Another type of a character is a “woman on a pedestal”, a type of woman that is the object of admiration, inspiration, and can be also considered as a reward for men. [13] She becomes a heroine due to her magical and unbelievable appearance tempting men who become her victims. [14] Unlike the male heroes, her behaviour often ends disastrously. As an example Ferguson presents ancient Greek epic poem *Iliad* where “Helen of Troy’s decision to run away with Paris brought death to thousands of men, the destruction of Troy, and the enslavement of the Trojan women”. [15] The image of a woman is often associated with the theme of life, birth and death. A beautiful woman is usually portrayed as a magical, incredible person that can attract by her appearance innocent men. [16]

Another archetype described by Ferguson is therefore the woman presented as a sex object. As previously mentioned, a woman can enchant a man by her appearance and becomes thus the object of his desire. Naturally, there is a question of whether a woman should be inaccessible or whether she should let her sexual imagination work as well as the men’s one to whom this characteristic is not unknown. The society apologises men for such behaviour and considers it as a part of a male character. The woman regards intimacy as more emotional, and the sign of behaviour where a man uses her only as a sexual object to satisfy him, can be considered as a rape. [17] Heroines often find themselves abused only for the purpose of realisation of men’s needs. For example, virgins are often considered to be suitable for men because of the possibility of future marriages and it means a sexual comfort for them. [18]

As the opposite to the woman described as a sexual object- the young girl- is represented like an innocent girl in literature. Common features may be interest in fashion, appearance and cosmetics, with a hint of a stereotypical definition as a silly and simple girls intending to engage men’s attention. [19] On the contrary, the idea of young educated women is also very unflattering. The studying girl

was not very attractive in appearance and was usually described as wearing almost a male suit. Girls often hid their success and learning skills, as the cleverness of the girl was underestimated and her knowledge and good results, though identical to men, were ridiculed. [20]

The type of woman who is not bound to the role related to man is a lonely woman. Her life was not destined to be a mother, a sexual object or a wife. Although she could be married, she is divorced, widowed or an old virgin, which is a derogatively named woman about thirty years of age who was not in relationship with a man yet. Marie Anne Ferguson also explains the terms “mistress” or “madame”, often used for a single woman, and says that “the title miss is an ironically apt reflection of the opinion that they have missed out on living.” [21] These women are ridiculed and are considered to be on the edge of society. In this respect Ferguson mentions the work *The Call* by Edna O’Brien that portrays the stereotype of a lonely woman, a woman who is waiting for a man to take the first step in communication as society and conventions demand. The main heroine waits for a phone call from her lover, the married man for so long, with the tension and imagination of their common future, that when the phone finally rings, she decides not to pick it up. Her reaction to resist his influence on her, however, is not described as foolish, on the contrary, she is able to start again and to resist being dependent on men’s interest. [22] As Marie Anne Ferguson declares, women will cease to feel like sacrifices until they realise that their personal quality is not conditional on the relationship with men. [23]

3 Dystopian Fiction

The term dystopia was created as the opposite meaning to the world utopia. The original word utopia is taken from Greek and in a literal translation means “nowhere, in no place”. This neologism was created by the English humanist and thinker Thomas Moore, who thus named his work in 1516. Utopia represents an ideal and fanciful world. According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, it is “an imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect.” [24]. In contrast, dystopia describes any “alarmingly unpleasant imaginary world, usually of the projected future.” [25] The dystopian world is mostly ruled by a group of people who, using false information, implements power to oppress people for keeping their obedience. An individual is considered as a part of the whole, not as a separate personality, and the government runs every aspect of life to avoid even the slightest hint of revolt. [26] Dystopian fiction displays fears or potential danger and warns against making wrong decisions. Although the future cannot be predicted, in a sense, dystopian fiction may help people to deal with problems emerging in totalitarian regimes.

In Harley Ferris’s essay entitled *A Study in Dystopian Fiction* (2012), five distinctive features of dystopian fiction are identified, i. e. pluralism versus individualism, chaos versus order, the precision of language, and war versus peace and humanity. These motifs occur also in the novels *Hunger Games* and *Divergent* and confirm that they belong to the dystopian genre.

The concept of pluralism and individualism is based on collectivism, where the person itself is not so important and represents only a part of a unit. The reason of individual's existence is to be beneficial for a state. Needs of a person are provided by an exchange for services and work, often assigned to a person, for a state. [27] War versus peace means that citizens stand against all kinds of war or, on the contrary, they are prepared to fight and risk their lives to create a more secure world. This behavior is driven by the fear that keeps them in

obedience to their leader and the consequent tranquillity, which creates an advantage for society. It is a tool for maintaining peace in society. Chaos versus order means that a “phenomenon of the stories” is a premise of the future. In the view of Ferris, there is often a theme of mathematics showing some sort of order. The appearance of the buildings is simple, the life is specified by the schedule, which means there is no place for something unexpected and citizens do not have time to think too much. Moreover, nature is very rare and citizens prefer it mainly because of relaxation and due to the fact that nature is not restricted by rules. Humanity in stories has signs of suppression in the development of one’s own identity. Characters are focused on one task, which means they cannot think deeply about something that may be functionless in a society, as it is mentioned in the context of order in society. Also, the dystopian form of language can be specific and often contains specific phrases, slang expressions, or a completely new language as, for instance, in George Orwell’s dystopian novel *1984* (1949). The phenomenon often presented not only in dystopian novels is the issue of love and romance which is not, however, developed into a separate theme and is not emphasized. [28]

As Balaka Basu, Katherine R. Broad and Carrie Hintz note in their book on the *Contemporary Dystopian Fiction for Young Adults* (2013), attention is paid to the presentation of a dystopian novel for young adult readers, which includes not only the environment and the background in which citizens live but also certain development, self-expression, and self-determination, as opposed to adult readers. [29] The young adult dystopia offers readers an opportunity to think about real life with the intention to motivate them not to be passive but to be more active, think independently, and have their own opinions. [30]

4 Portrayal of Women in Hunger Games

4.1. Suzanne Collins

For analyzing heroines such as themselves is important to focus on the author- person who gave existence to characters and creates a new story. As it was said in the previous chapter, understanding of literary images is based on interpretation or context of a certain object. Suzanne Collins caught her inspiration for writing the *Hunger Games* during watching television. She connected the theme of a reality show with war footage. [31] Motive of war was close to her because she grew up in American military family and her childhood influenced her writing in many ways. Her father was a veteran and doctor of political sciences, her grandfather had been gassed in the Great War and her uncle suffered shrapnel wounds during the Second World War. The analogy to her father is represented by a father of Katniss who died and represents separation when writer's own father left as a soldier to war. Also, the stress disorder which affects Katniss in the last part of the trilogy- *Mockingjay* is based on Collins's father's nightmares caused by terrifying scenes from the war. [32]

An influence of the war was very strong and a whole Collins's family was informed about the events from the battlefield. Since her childhood, she was well-informed about the reversed side of a good world and her father was trying to keep his children in touch with the reality of these events. As a child, she was the youngest of her four siblings and she visited with her father places connected to war also in Europe as a result of their frequent moving because of her father's job. Relation of the real stories with a real war places she has visited became familiarized in writers mind. [33] Already the High School gave her the opportunity to study the literature more deeply. At the same time, her interest in mythology increased. Her knowledge of Greek mythology built a base for the *Hunger Games* story. The myth of the Theseus and the Minotaur, where "as a

punishment for displeasing Crete, Athens periodically had to send seven youths and seven maidens to Crete, where they were thrown into the labyrinth and devoured by the Minotaur, a monster that's half-man and half-bull" [34], inspired her to create a Panem based on the same principles.

She graduated from New York University as a Master of Fine Arts in dramatic writing and her career was at the beginnings. She worked for a children's television and her works were appreciated by spectators. By reason of this success, she decided to write her own children's book and the first one *Gregor The Overlander* was published in 2003. The novel *The Hunger Games* was published in 2008 and from the beginning became a bestseller. At the end of the year 2010, there were 800,000 copies sold and had been translated into 26 languages worldwide. [35] The novel was popular with not only by critics but also famous writers such as John Green¹ who describes the novel as "...brilliantly plotted and perfectly paced". [36] Furthermore, *Hunger Games* were filmed in 2012 and became very popular as same as *Divergent* filmed two years later.

As the author said in the interview for the website *School Library Journal*, she felt that people are more desensitized about what they see on a television and it is also the reason why she intended to create this story. [37] Her interest in literature is displayed by her advise to students who wanted to become writers to "write about the things you love and feel passionately about". [38]

1 John Green is an author of bestsellers *Looking for Alaska* (2005), *An Abundance of Katherines* (2006), *Paper Towns* (2008) and *The Fault in our Stars*(2012). He was 2006 recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award, a 2009 Edgar Award winner, and has twice been a finalist of the Los Angeles Times Book.

4.2. The Hunger Games

Worldwide the trilogy has twenty-six million copies in print and had sold to thirty-eight countries. [39] Suzanne Collins has won many awards for her work, including California Young Reader medal in 2011 in a category for a book for young adults. [40] The tremendous success of this trilogy is caused by the story, reminding teenagers of their own lives. Although the primary objective was to introduce young people to the reality of the war, the fearless Katniss was a model for many adolescents who struggled with a variety of issues such as bullying, taunting or even self-development and provides them courage to face these issues. [41]

The *Hunger Games*, young adult dystopian science-fiction series consist of three books by Suzanne Collins: *The Hunger Games* (2008), *Catching Fire* (2009), and *Mockingjay* (2010). All three books are narrated in the first person by the female protagonist, Katniss Everdeen. The first book- *Hunger Games*, focuses on Katniss's survival in the games. In further sequels, she fights with totalitarian leaders President Snow and President Coin- leader of new created District 13.

The first novel takes place in a dystopian society of Panem- ancient North America, with the city Capitol, surrounded by 12 districts. Every district is determined to provide goods for those who live in the developed capital city Capitol. The government of Panem is run by President Snow who during annual public Reaping ceremony, takes two male and female teenagers, between the ages of 12 and 18 from each district as tributes to compete in the Hunger Games- television spectacle created as a symbol of punishment caused by lost rebellion for reinforce the power of the Capitol and for entertain its citizens.

Games are created on the basis of a reality show- teenagers compete to the death in an arena created by game makers, supervising on contestants and

creating hard and inhuman conditions for them. Only one contestant comes back alive from the arena and as a survivor is surrounded by luxury.

Katniss lives with her mother and her little sister Primrose. Her father died tragically in an explosion in a pit where he worked as a miner. Since her mother had not been able to recover enough from the death of her husband, Katniss took over the role of breadwinner and secures food for her family. Every day she goes hunting to the woods, although it is forbidden and the companion makes her a good friend Gale. She applies the advantage of her talent for hunting with a bow and arrow made by her father when she was a small girl. He also learned her how to use it and how to survive in the woods and therefore she is capable of hunting and eventually shared her quarry with Gale to feed their families.

The annual event in each region is a Reaping Day, the day when two children - a girl and a boy older than twelve years - are randomly drawn to compete for life and death in the Hunger Games, where only one will always win. The whole event is broadcast live for Panem. This day is very dreadful for Katniss, not only because her sister is included in the draw for the first time. When all the District Twelve children are picked up and are waiting for the first competitor to be drawn, Katniss hears the name of her sister Primrose and at that moment presents herself as a volunteer instead of her without hesitating. After the choosing ceremony, the two competitors are taken by train to Panem. Here Katniss meets the second competitor, Peeta Mellark and a mentor Haymitch Abernathy, the winner of the previous Hunger Games, who will help them and gave them advice how to survive in the games. Upon arriving at Panem, they are both overwhelmed by the splendor and wealth of the inhabitants, which is so different from the ones from District Twelve. Before the games, the competitors demonstrate their skills and they are trained, but also makeup and specially dressed. Everything is made to get as many rich sponsors from the audience as possible who can help them to send the necessary gifts they need to survive in the arena. During televised interview of contestants from each region, Peeta

confesses his love to Katniss to the audience, as advice from Haymitch, in order to create an attractive story for the sponsors. Katniss, who is from the beginning rather reclusive and self-sufficient is against it at first, but then agrees and presents her-self with Peeta as a couple.

When the games break out and contestants are launched into the arena, specially created by game makers, everyone tries to hide as quickly as possible. Katniss uses her skills she has gained in her secret hunting in the woods and survives for a few days in tree top while less experienced contestants die either by the hands of their opponents from the richer regions who have been specially trained for the games or because of the hostile conditions of the arena. She faces several attacks from other contestants, suffers severe leg injuries, but she manages everything with her perseverance, skilfulness, and necessity to survive. She also meets Rue, a competitor in her sister's age, with whom she is making an alliance and trying to get food supplies from a stronger group of allies. But when attacking the second group, Rue is killed, and Katniss for the first time disagrees with games by rebellious act when she covers Rue's dead body with flowers and creates a temporary funeral that ends with the gesture of three fingers pointing to the camera as a sign of peace and regrets over unnecessary and inhuman killing of children. Soon she meets Peeta, whom she finds heavily injured. She decides to hide him in the cave where she cares about him and tries to heal his injuries. Katniss continues a play to be his girlfriend, which seems very profitable and the sponsors really send them gifts but she begins to be uncertain about the feelings to Peeta and compares them with the feelings to Gale. When the last few contestants remain and Katniss and Peeta are among them, the game makers announced to change the rules where two competitors from the same district are possible to win. Both of them try to survive and kill the rest of their strongest opponents in which they are successful. Both are very happy to survive, but this does not last long because game makers are announcing another new rule that says the winner may be just one of them. Both of them are facing a decision on the killing of each other but Peeta whose feelings for Katniss are real is giving up

and persuades Katniss to kill him. But Katniss does not hesitate and takes out poisonous nightlock berries out of a pocket and shares them with Peeta to eat them together and do not let a Capitol have a single game winner. At the moment both are decided to eat them and commit suicide, another rule change is announced, which ultimately allows two Hunger Games winners.

Following this act, the authorities and Coriolanus Snow, president of Panem, are very angry and consider Katniss's act as a sign of defiance and disobedience. They are therefore forced, together with Peeta, continue to pretend their relationship and explain their behavior and deeds as a manifestation of love, not as a system defiance.

4.3. Katniss Everdeen

For more thorough and precise analysis of the characters, direct quotes from selected passages of the novels are used to provide a description of the main heroines. Furthermore, together with brief explanatory commentaries based on the author's own experience, an outline of Katniss's and Beatrice's behaviour in crucial moments of their lives is also offered. Extracts are chosen to show a relationship of heroines to other female and male characters, their view on themselves and their behaviour in extreme situations. At the very beginning of the novel there is a look at Katniss's everyday routine that she executes after her father's death. By the side of her best friend Gale she hunts illegally in the woods, despite the risk of death. Katniss takes this risk not only because of the need to feed her family but she also considers the forest to be a place to escape from the reality of the daily struggle of survival in the poorest region where she lives. "The woods became our savior, and each day I went a bit farther into its arms. It was slow-going at first, but I was determined to feed us." [42]

Katniss uses the bow made by her father to hunt. She is very skilful in shooting not only because her father has taught her how to do it, but also due to everyday practice. "My bow is a rarity, crafted by my father along with a few others that I keep well hidden in the woods, carefully wrapped in waterproof covers." [43]

Life in the District twelve is very dangerous. Therefore, she needs to be very careful both in her behaviour and also when communicating with other people. It is obvious that Katniss is forced to learn to act very wisely, or more precisely, carefully not only to her surrounding but also to her family. "I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts. Even at home, where I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics. Like the reaping, or food shortages, or the Hunger Games." [44]

Since she spends most of the time in the woods with Gale, she thinks about the relationship with him. Although Katniss feels very well when they are together she does not consider him as anything more than just a friend. “There’s never been anything romantic between Gale and me.”[45] “Finally, Gale is here and maybe there is nothing romantic between us, but when he opens his arms I don’t hesitate to go into them.” [46]

The relationship with her mother is just as reserved as the one with Gale. Since her father’s death, her mother has not been able to fulfil her role of “food provider”. Thus, Katniss has to take care of the family and cannot forgive her mother her inability to go back to life and care of her family and particularly of her little sister, Prim. “I try to remember that when all I can see is the woman who sat by, blank and unreachable, while her children turned to skin and bones. I try to forgive her for my father’s sake. But to be honest, I’m not the forgiving type.” [47] Katniss assumes the role of both father and mother and that is one of the reasons why she does not want to have her own children. She does not want to bring them into a world where everyday survival and fear of the death in Games is presents. “I never want to have kids.” [48] “I know I’ll never marry, never risk bringing a child into the world. Because if there’s one thing being a victor doesn’t guarantee, it’s your children’s safety.” [49] She resists any relationship not only because of herself but also because she does not feel like someone who deserves love because she does not fulfil the need of others. “That it’s no good loving me because I’m never going to get married anyway and he’d just end up hating me later instead of sooner. That if I do have feelings for him, it doesn’t matter because I’ll never be able to afford the kind of love that leads to a family, to children.” [50]

In her unstable life she has to struggle with the upcoming reaping day especially dangerous for her because there is an option to add a name more times to drawing in exchange for some necessity and it is thus more probable to be chosen as a “competitor” in the games. Obviously, there is a difference between

children from poor and rich districts where people do not starve and children are trained for the games. “Kids from wealthier districts, where winning is a huge honor, who’ve been trained their whole lives for this. Boys who are two to three times my size. Girls who know twenty different ways to kill you with a knife.” [51] When the reaping day comes, she is not interested in herself but she takes care just of her sister. Katniss knows that it is the only place where she cannot protect her. “I protect Prim in every way I can, but I’m powerless against the reaping.” [52]

When her sister Prim was chosen in reaping, everything has changed for Katniss. Without any hesitations she volunteers instead of her. “I volunteer!” I gasp. “I volunteer as tribute!” [53] As it is a habit for her to think about her public behaviour she knows she cannot cry because of live broadcast which could make an easy target from her. She still maintains an inaccessible attitude. “When they televise the replay of the reapings tonight, everyone will make note of my tears, and I’ll be marked as an easy target. A weakling. I will give no one that satisfaction.” [54] When she meets her companion Peeta, who was also chosen, she suddenly realises that he is a baker’s son who secretly threw her burned bread when she was starving to death. Her gratitude for it will later be reflected in the games. “I feel like I owe him something, and I hate owing people.” [55]

After reaping, Katniss has a time for saying goodbye to her family. Unexpectedly, a daughter of a man, to whom Katniss sold her quarry, comes and gives her a gift. “Here, I’ll put it on your dress, all right?” Madge doesn’t wait for an answer, she just leans in and fixes the bird to my dress. “Promise you’ll wear it into the arena, Katniss?” she asks.” [56] The girl supports her and gives her a pin with a Mockingjay, a bird that was genetically modified by Panem’s government to be able to reproduce human’s sound. It is probably not surprising that a Mockingjay has become not only a symbol of Katniss but also a symbol the Collins’s trilogy. [57, see Appendix 1] “For the first time, I get a good look at it. It’s as if someone fashioned a small golden bird and then attached a ring around

it. The bird is connected to the ring only by its wing tips. I suddenly recognize it. A Mockingjay.” [58] “They’re funny birds and something of a slap in the face to the Capitol. During the rebellion, the Capitol bred a series of genetically altered animals as weapons. The common term for them was muttations, or sometimes mutts for short. One was a special bird called a jabberjay that had the ability to memorize and repeat whole human conversations. They were homing birds, exclusively male, that were released into regions where the Capitol’s enemies were known to be hiding. After the birds gathered words, they’d fly back to centres to be recorded. It took people awhile to realize what was going on in the districts, how private conversations were being transmitted.”[59] Although Katniss does not wear any accessories she gets to like a symbol of Mockingjay. “I fasten the pin onto my shirt, and with the dark green fabric as a background, I can almost imagine the Mockingjay flying through the trees.” [60]

After reaping both contestants are moved to Panem where they participate in procedures preparing them for the games including stylization of their appearance. Extravagant clothing and make-up are typical of the futuristic Panem yet for Katniss this transformation is unusual and unpleasant. She does not like it at all. “My legs, arms, torso, underarms, and parts of my eyebrows have been stripped of the Muff, leaving me like a plucked bird, ready for roasting. I don’t like it.” [61] For Katniss, who prefers her natural look, any transformations or stylisations are unnatural and unwelcome. “No fancy hair and clothes, no flaming capes. Just me. Looking like I could be headed for the woods. It calms me.” [62]

Katniss presents her strength, adolescent impudence and anger in a private session intended for demonstrating competitors’ skills in front of the games coordinators. Since they do not pay any attention to her, she launches an arrow at their banquet table. “Without thinking, I pull an arrow from my quiver and send it straight at the Game makers’ table. I hear shouts of alarm as people stumble back. The arrow skewers the apple in the pig’s mouth and pins it to the wall behind it. Everyone stares at me in disbelief.” [63]

During the games Katniss survives the first few days. Even though she might die of thirst at any moment she resists and presents her cleverness and persistence when she climbs a tree and hides herself from other competitors. Her knowledge of forest cover saves her life. “I feel like an old piece of leather, drying and cracking in the heat. Every step is an effort, but I refuse to stop. I refuse to sit down.” [64] Based on her knowledge of the forest she is able to recognise edible forest fruit. “What I thought were blueberries have a slightly different shape, and when I break one open the insides are blood red.” [65]

Katniss moreover proves her courage when she tries to steal food supplies from the other group of allies, secured by hidden mines. Although Katniss manages to steal the food she becomes deaf to one ear as a result of explosion. “The dizziness has subsided and while my left ear is still deafened, I can hear a ringing in my right, which seems a good sign.” [66] One of the first Katniss’s rebellious acts is a temporary funeral for her 12 years old ally Rue as a sign of disagreement with senseless murders of young people in the arena. “I want to do something, right here, right now, to shame them, to make them accountable, to show the Capitol that whatever they do or force us to do there is a part of every tribute they can’t own.” She uses flowers to decorate her dead body. “Slowly, one stem at a time, I decorate her body in the flowers.” [67]

When most of the competitors were killed a new rule change was announced by game organizers. “Under the new rule, both tributes from the same district will be declared winners if they are the last two alive.” [68] It means for Katniss to find Peeta despite her initial hesitance about Peeta’s attitude to her. “A warning bell goes off in my head. Don’t be so stupid. Peeta is planning how to kill you, I remind myself. He is luring you in to make you easy prey. The more likeable he is, the more deadly he is.” [69] When she finds him seriously injured, she takes care of him and changes her point of view beginning to wonder if she does feel love to him. “Peeta, it turns out, has never been a danger to me.” [70] Having always focused on surviving, she never considered any romance but their

relationship of star-crossed lovers gains sympathy from Panem sponsors, which provide them needed supply. "I spend the night half-sitting, half-lying next to Peeta, refreshing the bandage, and trying not to dwell on the fact that by teaming up with him, I've made myself far more vulnerable than when I was alone." [71] "If I want to keep Peeta alive, I've got to give the audience something more to care about. Star-crossed lovers desperate to get home together. Two hearts beating as one. Romance." [72] Though Katniss is not sure about her feelings she is sure that she does not want Peeta to die. "And while I was talking, the idea of actually losing Peeta hit me again and I realized how much I don't want him to die." [73] When Katniss and Peeta are playing the role of lovers Katniss realises that maybe there is more feeling than just pretending. "This is the first kiss that makes me want another." [74]

The pair competes in the games together. Katniss uses her knowledge of hunting and archery to survive, and the two become the victors. After their success the rule about two winners is cancelled and the winner could be just one person. As they do not want to kill each other they are prepared to commit a suicide by eating poisonous night-lock berries. "I spread out my fingers, and the dark berries glisten in the sun. I give Peeta's hand one last squeeze as a signal, as a goodbye, and we begin counting. "One." Maybe I'm wrong. "Two." Maybe they don't care if we both die. "Three!" [75] The ploy works and they are both declared victors of the Hunger Games but this act is a real prove of rebellion and Katniss becomes a symbol of revolution against the Capitol. "Listen up. You're in trouble. Word is the Capitol's furious about you showing them up in the arena. The one thing they can't stand is being laughed at and they're the joke of Panem." [76]

5 Portrayal of Women in *Divergent*

5.1. Veronica Roth

Veronica Roth was born in New York City in 1988 and despite her young age, she became a bestseller author of her first novel *Divergent* in 2010. Her success was enormous and she has received many awards for her book, for example, Goodreads 2011 Award, best of 2012 in the category of Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction and was named Best Goodreads Author in 2012. She graduated from Barrington High School. After attending a year of college at Carleton College, she transferred to Northwestern University for its creative writing program. Her parents divorced when she was five years old and her grandparents were concentration camp survivors. These days she lives with her husband in New Jersey. At the time she was studying the last year in college she was writing the novel *Divergent* and as she herself said, she has managed both of her activities because writing is a passion for her and she is always preferring things she really likes. [77]

By using her own words from her website blog she was inspired by several elements. There exist several aspects that have led Veronica Roth to create a theme of her novel. In the time of writing came to her thoughts and ideas which she gradually realized in the novel. While studying at the University, she was interested in social psychology, psychology, personality tests, and she found interesting the subject of exposure therapy in the treatment of phobias, which is intended for people suffering from anxiety disorder or phobias and is based on exposing a person to his fears to face them. This phenomenon was reflected in the initiation tests for Dauntless members, using the brain serum to create an illusion of their biggest fears and obstacles that they must overcome in simulations. Besides it she was interested in differentiation into classes, castes and governmental systems, which try to arrange people into groups. Last but not least, the author wanted to create a strong character who will not tolerate

injustice, will be smart and in a certain direction will be a leading type. All these characteristics led to the creation of Beatrice Prior.[78]

5.2. Divergent

Divergent series consists of three books by Veronica Roth: *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012) and *Allegiant* (2013). All three books are narrated in the first person by the female protagonist Beatrice Prior. The story is set in the post apocalyptic future of dystopian Chicago where society is divided into five factions related to a specific moral value. These factions follow the rules and strict principles where people are ostensibly free but under the supervision of the state and were created because people's thoughts were considered as dangerous. When thoughts are limited to one sector it leads to a peace. The motto of this society, faction before blood, means decision between citizens preferences- not to be dependent on family and be loyal to chosen faction. A faction called Candor consists qualities such as to be the honest and their function is to control law and justice. Among the Abnegation belong the selflessness and they take control of the government. Dauntless are the brave ones, they are in charge of security both inside the city and at the city walls. Amity is peaceful, which is the faction that provides food to the other factions and fills the role of caregivers and Erudite are intelligent, they are in charge of education and research.

Although a child is born to a faction, all sixteen-year-olds must participate at the annual ceremony, where they select the faction in which they will stay for the rest of their lives. Leaving a native faction is possible on condition that the person leaves his own family and becomes devoted only to his new faction. Before their choosing day, they are given an aptitude test. The test will decide which faction their minds are compatible with and could help them decide which faction they will live in. Main heroine Beatrice, a sixteen- years old girl born in Abnegation faction, fits for three different factions, Abnegation, Erudite, and Dauntless and discovers she is a Divergent. Divergents are dangerous for society because their thinking is developed and they cannot be controlled, they do not necessarily follow the rules and could break out of the norms. Between the desire

to choose Dauntless and expectation she will choose Abnegation faction where she grew up, Tris chooses to change her native faction. After choosing, members of Dauntless faction must prove their courage and strength and be successful in initiations including various types of fighting. Participants who fail will become factionless. To be factionless means that people become homeless, without any protection. Since Beatrice is small and inexperienced in fighting she becomes an outsider among the others however by gradual training, she manages to succeed. She makes a good impression on her leader Four by her diligence and their sympathies grow into a relationship. When disagreements between Erudite and Abnegation faction arise, there is a plan to start a war where Dauntless are supposed to be used as soldiers, injected by simulation serum. Because of Beatrice's divergence, she resists the stimulation and with Four they fight against the inventor of the serum Jeanine, the Erudite leader. Both turn off the simulation and are running away from the city with hope to find a refuge in the peaceful Amity faction.

The story begins when 16 years old Beatrice is preparing for the aptitude test which precedes the Choosing Ceremony. She lives with her brother and her parents in the Abnegation faction, where people are modest and selfless. Beatrice always felt she does not belong to the Abnegation faction and as a little girl she admired brave and fearless Dauntless. The aptitude test is based on a simulation where a person proves his character by decisions in particular situations and depending on how the person acts is joined to matching faction and it helps with choosing a faction where they want to belong for the rest of their life. Beatrice's result is very unclear because Tori, a girl who prepares these tests tells Beatrice that she suits to multiple factions and she is a Divergent. Also, she warns her to not to tell anyone and send her home. Later Tris learns that Tori's brother was murdered because he was Divergent too. Beatrice doesn't know what the Divergent means and she are very confused about her result. At the day of Choosing ceremony, she hesitates if she will stay with her parents in Abnegation faction where she is not happy or if she will leave her family and will be

Dauntless. The surprise for her is that her brother has decided to left too and he is Erudite now. Beatrice chooses Dauntless. During the shift to the Dauntless place, she meets Christina and Will who become her good friends but also Peter who insults her. Beatrice also changes her name to Tris because she wants to start from the total beginning and become to live a new life. When they arrive at Dauntless all new members are surprised by information that they have to participate in Initiation where they will compete with each other and those who succeed became members. Those who will not manage it become factionless. The Initiation has several stages and the first one is a lesson learning how to fight where she meets an instructor Four and the awkward leader Eric. Tris is small and weak and at the beginning, she belongs to the newcomers with the worst results. As a result of her persistence and extra training, she manages to raise her ranking. Her accomplishments include a fighting game organized by leaders Four and Eric, where they compete against each other in the pursuit of the winning flag. Thanks to her cleverness and intelligent thinking, her team wins and Tris gets Four's affection, which she gradually getting back to him.

Among the initiations, there is also the mission to a fear simulation, where initiators struggle with their worst fears in a fear area. For initiators is this simulation very difficult except Tris, she is successful because of her divergence and she is capable of thinking closely and outwit the simulation which leads Four to find out that Tris is Divergent. Because simulation is one of the final exams to become Dauntless and leaders could find out that Tris is Divergent Four helps her to overcome the simulation as if she was a regular Dauntless by his own fear area. Tris finds out there that a real name of Four is Tobias Eaton and is a son of an abusive Council of Abnegation. They become closer and begin their secret relationship.

Because of Tris's good results she got to higher rankings and pushed Peter out of the top and he angrily decided with his companions to drop her over the edge of the pit and kill her. Four rescues her and offers her to stay at his place.

Tobias shares with Tris a secret that Erudite is planning a war against Abnegation and that they will use Dauntless to fight.

Tris successfully passes the final exam and simulation test and becomes Dauntless. In the evening celebrations, Dauntless leaders injected everyone with a serum, called tracking device which is, in fact, a serum that can control people thus the leaders can give them orders they have to execute. To Divergents the serum is functionless so Tris and surprisingly also Four pretend to be paralyzed such as others which are heading to Abnegation to kill the civilians. At the Abnegation place are Tris and Tobias revealed and separated. Tris is taken away to Jeanine, the leader of Erudite and when she finds out that Tris is Divergent she wants to kill her. Tris's mother, surprisingly originated from Dauntless too, saves her and they are running to find the rest of the family. On the way to the place where the rest of the family is hidden is Tris's mother killed. When Tris finds them they are decided to go back to Dauntless control room from where all the commands to kill civilians come. On the way also Tris's father dies. Tris finds Four still under the simulation, managing the simulation of the others on the computer. After fighting with him he finally recognizes her and quits the simulation. They are running away from the city without faction and without any plans for the future because Dauntless and Abnegation are broken.

5.3. Beatrice Prior

Beatrice Prior is a sixteen-year old girl. Although she was born in Abnegation, a faction where people are selfless and forget themselves for the sake of others, she does not feel that this is the place where she wants to live. Beatrice is dutiful but her intention is not to serve people for the rest of her life. She is not sure if she belongs to the Abnegation faction and whether the system works as it should.

Gradually, Beatrice feels she is changing. She is an adolescent young girl and her in-terest in appearance is obvious although her faction does not allow young people to be engaged with these concerns. Perhaps not surprisingly, she starts to feel her “divergence” during her adolescence. “I sneak a look at my reflection when she isn’t paying attention- not for the sake of vanity, but out of curiosity. A lot can happen to a person’s appearance in three months. In my reflection, I see a narrow face, wide, round eyes, and a long, thin nose- I still look like a little girl, though sometime in the last few months I turned sixteen.” [79] However, the Abnegation faction does not consider ordinary events or celebrations as important. On the contrary, they are seen as useful and selfish, producing vanity and over-focusing on oneself. Beatrice understands these habits but she does not think she should conform to the strict rules. “The other factions celebrate birthdays, but we don’t. It would be self-indulgent.” [80] During her way to school Beatrice is supposed to leave her seat in the train to a man from the Candor faction as gesture of helpfulness, affability and some kind of inferiority to the Abnegation faction. Despite the rules she refuses to let him sit on her seat and demonstrates thus her resistance to habits and behaviour commanded by her faction. “I have tried to explain to him that my instincts are not the same as his- it didn’t even enter my mind to give my seat to the Candor man on the bus- but he doesn’t understand.” [81] In her thinking and acting there are many doubts about the functionality of the faction system. “I think of the motto I read in my Faction

History textbook: Faction before blood. More than family, our factions are where we belong. Can that possibly be right? ” [82] Beatrice is more focused on the Dauntless faction, almost opposite to the Abnegation where people are fearless and try to protect the city and face the problems of society. She is excited about this faction but does not show her excitement openly. On the other hand, she is reserved because her faction does not approve of it. “Then there’s Dauntless. They’re our protectors, our soldiers, our police. I always thought they were amazing. Brave, fearless, and free. Some people think Dauntless are crazy, which they kind of are. They should perplex me. I should wonder what courage—which is the virtue they most value—has to do with a metal ring through your nostril. Instead my eyes cling to them wherever they go.” [83] The common feature of the Dauntless is a body modification ranging from tattoos to piercings on different parts of the body, which evokes freedom and the ability to do things at one’s own discretion, which is not possible for Beatrice in her faction and seems to be somewhat incomprehensible to her. “My father calls the Dauntless ‘hellions’. They are pierced, tattooed, and black-clothed. Their primary purpose is to guard the fence that surrounds our city. From what, I don’t know.” [84] During the choosing ceremony, she is trying to decide as to whether she should stay in Abnegation or whether she should switch factions and choose the Dauntless. “My eyes shift to the bowls in the centre of the room. What do I believe? I do not know; I do not know; I do not know. But I am not selfless enough. Sixteen years of trying and I am not enough.” [85]

After the ceremony her life as a Dauntless begins with a dangerous command for the new Dauntless group to jump off a ledge to a black hole. Yet no one knows what is in the hole. Beatrice proves her courage and chooses to jump first. “I don’t think. I just bend my knees and jump.” [86] Her enthusiasm and character suddenly come out and Tris begins to feel like a fully fledged member of the Dauntless. During a competitive initiation, Beatrice renames herself Tris as a sign of beginning of a new life. ““Tris,”” I say firmly.” [87] “A new place, a new name. I can be remade here.” [88] She feels free when living with the

Dauntless. In contrast to her present life, in her old faction she was not herself, she had to pretend she was “someone else”. She is sure about her decision without any hesitation. “If my entire life is like this, loud laughter and bold action and the kind of exhaustion you feel after a hard but satisfying day, I will be content.” [89] Prior to her final decision, Beatrice also considered other factions where she could transfer to but her preference was still the Dauntless. “I always knew I couldn’t be Candor. I mean, I try to be honest, but some things you just don’t want people to know. Plus, I like to be in control of my own mind.” [90] Beatrice is conscious that her stay in the Dauntless faction will not be easy, but she is willing to accept it because she is sure she will be there. “I am proud. It will get me into trouble someday, but today it makes me brave.” [91] As mentioned previously, in her previous faction she did not feel to be herself and could not develop as she would like to. She was unable to conform to all the rules and did not want to be controlled. “At home, I could never do what I wanted, not even for an evening. I had to think of other people’s needs first. I don’t even know what I like to do.” [92] After her change of factions she manifests what she had to conceal in Abnegation. She is more self-confident, determined but also audacious and is able to defend her opinions. “What makes you think I want to go home?” I ask, my cheeks hot. “You think I can’t handle this or something?” “This is what I chose. This is it.” [93] “I’m brave,” I say, staring into her eyes. The other factions see the Dauntless a certain way. Brash, aggressive, impulsive. Cocky. I should be what she expects. I smirk at her. ‘I’m the best initiate they’ve got.’ [94]

Even though she has to go through highly challenging initiations to test her physical and mental skills, she does not give up. Despite her initial disadvantages such as weakness, small body height and no condition she tries hard to overcome these obstacles. She proves her cleverness in initiation tradition of capturing the flag. Competition is run by two leaders, Eric and Four. The point of this competition is to find a hidden flag of the other team. The leaders choose the members of their teams, which leads to Tris’s first interaction with Four when he

chooses her to his team despite she is an outsider in a group. “He scans the group of transfer initiates briefly, without calculation, and says, ‘I want the Stiff.’ ‘Whatever Four’s strategy is, it’s based on the idea that I am weaker than the other initiates. And it gives me a bitter taste in my mouth. I have to prove him wrong- I have to.’” [95]

While other members of Tris’s team are thinking unsuccessfully about the strategy, she decides to act alone and with her quickness she manages to find the flag. “I look over my shoulder to make sure no one is watching. None of them looks at me, so I walk toward the Ferris wheel with light, quiet footsteps, pressing my gun to my back with one hand to keep it from making noise. (...) it isn’t the height that scares me—the height makes me feel alive with energy, every organ and vessel and muscle in my body singing at the same pitch.” [96] Thanks to her fearlessness, self-confidence and ability to act independently she gains admiration from the leader Four. ““Yes, while the rest of you were twiddling your thumbs, Tris climbed the Ferris wheel to look for the other team,”” he says.” [97]

Beatrice perceives his behaviour in a rather negative way because she is not sure about his intentions. As she remarks later: “I’m not trying to be self-deprecating,’ I say, ‘I just don’t get it. I’m younger. I’m not pretty. I-.”” [98] Nevertheless, she feels comfortable near him. “Four lifts his hand and keeps walking. I feel the pressure of his palm even after he’s gone. It’s strange, but I have to stop and breathe for a few seconds before I can keep practicing again.” [99] “Then I realize what it is. It’s him. Something about him makes me feel like I am about to fall. Or turn to liquid. Or burst into flames.”[100]

When her results improve and she begins to overshadow the others, she is attacked by some of the games companions but she deals with it with courage. “The blade doesn’t stick, but I’m the first person to hit the target.” [101] “The only thing worse than letting Peter put me in the hospital would be letting him put me there overnight.” [102]

During the boxing fights she tries to succeed despite her disadvantages against others. “I thrash, but the arms holding me are too strong, and I bite down on one of the fingers.” [103] The longer Tris trains, the more changes she is noticing. “I step to the side so I stand in front of the mirror. I see muscles that I couldn’t see before in my arms, legs, and stomach. I pinch my side, where a layer of fat used to hint at curves to come. Nothing. Dauntless initiation has stolen whatever softness my body had. Is that good, or bad? At least I am stronger than I was.” [104] She becomes stronger both physically and mentally and when her friend is unjustly abused by one of the leaders, she stands by him despite the risk of expulsion of her from faction. “‘Any idiot can stand in front of a target,’ I say. ‘It doesn’t prove anything except that you’re bullying us. Which, as I recall, is a sign of cowardice.’” [105] The more Tris trains, the more she feels self confident. “I stare at my eyes in the mirror. I want to, so I will.” [106]

When the government finds out that Tris is Divergent, it tries to kill her. Yet, she resists. However, she is injured when she is trying to save the rest of her family. “Of all the pain I have suffered today—the pain of getting shot and almost drowning and taking the bullet out again, the pain of finding and losing my mother and Tobias, this is the easiest to bear.” [107] In an extreme situation she manifests herself as wise, fearless and brave because of her character and also because her duty to act like a Dauntless member. “Because of that, and because I am Dauntless, it’s my duty to lead now.” [108] Although her mother was killed and she was shot, her strong belief in “power and intransigence” forced her to try to protect the others. “I wipe the tears from my face. This is the first time I will see my father since I left him, and I don’t want him to see me half-collapsed and sobbing.” [109]

6 A Comparative Analysis

Veronica Roth and Suzanne Collins create a dystopian image of the world inhabited, among others, by adolescent female heroines who have to face authoritarian societies which do not provide any space for freedom. Compared to the real world where a teenager can develop and search for his/her identity, Katniss and Beatrice/Tris face the situations where they have to act and decide as if they were adults. Both main characters are sixteen-years old. In the real world, it is the age of both mental and physical changes and one is not yet ready for full engagement to, for example, political life. In contrast, Katniss and Tris are supposed to be involved in the political system since their early age. In Panem, where Katniss lives in the poorest district, her life is determined without a chance to change her future or status. Obviously, she cannot, or more precisely, she is not allowed to choose how to grow up. In District 12, the only aim is to survive and try to keep alive the family. Yet, Katniss cannot rely on her family background or help from her parents what is often seen in real life. Katniss must also adopt the role of both parents, the father who died and the mother who still cannot act as a full-fledged parent after the loss of her husband. Altogether, she takes on the role of a teenage girl, a breadwinner, and a mother for her little sister. In addition, she must be an obedient citizen of the state. It is evident that her character develops under the influence of all these factors. Her main idea is to keep her own family alive. Her personal development is inferior to her as it is evident from her relationship with her friend Gale. She is not sure what she feels or what she should feel to him and she pushes away any such idea for the sake of knowing that it is most important to take care of the family. She adopts the same stance towards her future when she declares she is not interested in motherhood and does not want to bring a child into a world where no favourable future expects them. Katniss's courage and awareness are proved when she volunteers for her sister in reaping day. It is obvious that she is prepared to die to rescue her family not only by hunting illegally in the forest, which is illegal and for which the death

penalty could be imposed, but by volunteering as a tribute to the Hunger Games which is a direct way to death.

Tris is of the same age as Katniss. Unlike her she does not suffer from hunger but she lives with her family in accordance with the commands of the factions. In Panem, the main device for obedience of people are the annual Hunger Games. In Tris's life it is a division into factions that limits people's scope of thought. They do not interfere into more virtues than necessary and, in result, there is no social disintegration. The difference is that in Chicago people believe the faction system helps avert the danger from overly profound thinking unlike the society in districts ruled by Panem where people are not satisfied with the system.

Tris's family environment is different from the Katniss's. Tris has both parents who take care of her. From the beginning her main problem seems to be the fact that the faction does not allow for her self-development and forces her to do something that is not self-sustained. Moreover, the society forces her to choose only a few options for her future life without any other possibility. This limited choice is underscored by the generally proclaimed "motto" that faction is more important than family. Both girls gradually become aware of the fact that their lives are driven by the system, which is, however, too authoritative. Both girls rebel against the system. In the case of Katniss, such a moment of rebellion comes when she honors her fallen ally Rue or when she wants to commit suicide as a punishment for Panem which which wants to have the only winner of the game. For Tris, it is a transfer from her native faction to the Dauntless and an attempt to fight against manipulation of the Dauntless by the leader Jeanine.

Another element to be considered with respect to both girls is their physical appearance. For Katniss "stylisation" is rather an impractical element. Her personal stylist prepares her for live broadcasting before the games and dresses her to the best clothes to interest sponsors but for her this presentation is false. She would rather be in the woods without any make up. Tris's faction does

not allow its members to take care about their look because it is considered as self-indulgent. Not with standing the faction's orders, Beatrice gradually becomes interested in her appearance. Moreover, after her transfer to Dauntless her freedom enables her to search for her own identity. Consequently, she gets tattoo, which is typical of the Dauntless. The tattoo most probably represents a collective identity of the community.

Both Katniss and Tris show some male elements in their behaviour. Katniss goes hunting animals and provides her family with food, which is often perceived as a male domain. Likewise her attitude is more of a male one since the dystopian world depicted in *Hunger Games* does not make a difference between men and women. Everyone has the same rights and duties, women and children must fight as well as men whether for survival in District 12 or in the arena. On the contrary, in the world of Tris, there are more female positions, such as in the faction of Amity or even Abnegation, where peace-fulness and taking care of the others are properties often attributed to women. Yet Tris prefers Dauntless where - like Katniss in the games - she has to fight just like men.

Character of both heroines is presented during their "encounters" with new circumstances of their lives. Katniss proves her ability of adaptation to a new environment and proves her skills and cleverness in the arena. Her intelligence and toughness save her life from death caused by inhospitable arena. Even if she is confronted with dangerous enemies she is not scared and she fights against them. Her courage is evident in the part where she risks her life and wants to commit a suicide. Tris proves her courage when she transfers from her family faction to an unknown faction where she does not know what to expect. Her diligence and effort to get higher ranks in fighting in Dauntless helps her gain more self-confidence. Even when she fights against the political system she is not afraid to face the death and become a soldier who protects rights of citizens.

When comparing Katniss and Tris with archetypes described by Marie Anne Ferguson there are obviously similarities and differences as well. It is

evident that Katniss falls into a category of a mother mainly because of her relationship to her sister. When her mother failed to take care of their family, Katniss replaced her successfully. She also takes on the role of a wife. In fact, this role is very close to her relationship with Peeta in the arena. Even though she only pretends to be his girlfriend she takes care of him when he is injured and does not even consider leaving him. Both heroines can be depicted as women on a pedestal due to their charm and ability to influence other people. Katniss's cleverness and unintentional influence to others is evident when she is capable to persuade sponsors to send her gifts by her behaviour in the arena. Tris's ability to improve herself during training and her cleverness has engaged Four's attention. Depiction of the young girls is highly different from Tris's and Katniss's characterisation because none of the girls are silly and flirtatious types. Both are very active young ladies who are not afraid to die for what they think is right.

Both girls have features that are typical of stereotypical female archetypes described by Marie Anne Ferguson. Yet, neither Katniss nor Beatrice represents one single archetype. Rather, they represent a combination of various archetypes. On one side, they are fearless, courageous and rebellious against any tyranny or autocracy. On the other one they are caring, tender and loving. In this respect it can be argued that Katniss and Beatrice represent an archetype of a strong and smart female leader, who is nevertheless capable of human feelings. No need to add that Katniss and Beatrice are brave and able to face the social system. Both protagonists are obviously active and energetic and their physical (as well as mental) qualities are, in fact, equivalent to those displayed by men. Their characters include both feminine and masculine attributes that they can use to their advantage. Their main and common features include determination, fearlessness, endurance and desire to prove justice. Intelligence and strength, both mental and physical, are demonstrated by Katniss in the games and by Tris in the fight against Jeanine and her attempt to take control over the Dauntless.

7 Conclusion

This bachelor thesis dealt with a portrayal of women in literature. Its aim was to present female authors with heroines of their novels and analyze and compare portrayal of women with direct examples and characterizations from the books of Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth. This work was meant to analyze Katniss Everdeen and Beatrice Prior, heroines of dystopian novels *Hunger Games* and *Divergent* and find similarities and differences between them. In addition, the thesis aimed to compare these characterizations with a concept of “stereotypical female characters” described in the book *Images of Women in Literature* by Marie Anne Ferguson.

The beginning of the thesis was determined to a brief explanation of stereotypes in literature. According to this knowledge, the presentation of female archetypes was clearer and more comprehensible. Subsequent chapter, dealing with an explanation of the term dystopia and also with a definition of a dystopian heroine, represented an introduction to both of the novels. Subsequent sections were aimed to detailed analyze of both novels, including information about the authors Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth. This part of a work also introduced the plot of the novels and was used as a preparing part for the last chapter dealing with comparative analysis where all of this acquired information was applied.

Direct quotes from the books helped to complete the characters of both heroines and then compared them not only with each other but also with the archetypes described by Mary Anne Ferguson. The aim was successfully fulfilled and between the two heroines, there were found both similar and different characteristics that gave rise to a new stereotype of women depicted in these two dystopian novels.

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10 Abstract

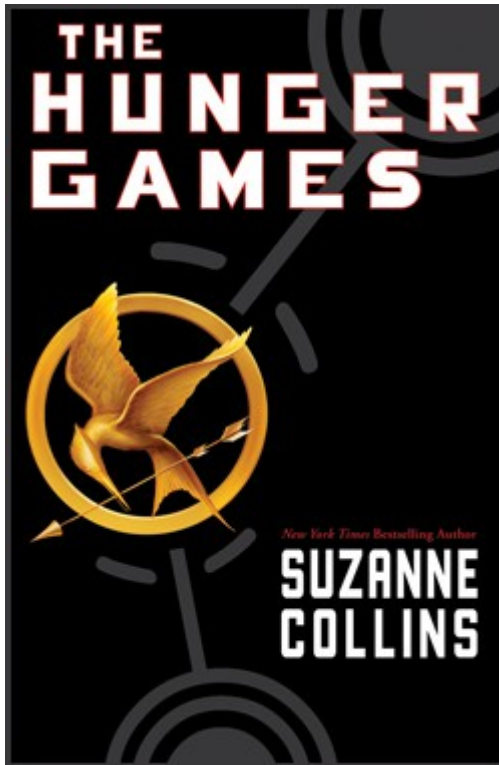
This bachelor thesis is concerned with a portrayal of women in literature. Its aim is to present female authors with heroines of their novels and analyze dystopian portrayal of women with direct examples and characterizations from the books of Suzanne Collins and Veronica Roth based on reader's own experience. This work is meant to analyze and find similarities and differences of Katniss Everdeen and Beatrice Prior, heroines of dystopian novels *Hunger Games* and *Divergent*.

11 Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá zobrazením ženy v literatuře. Jejím cílem je představit spisovatelky s hrdinkami jejich románů a analyzovat dystopické zobrazení ženy pomocí přímých příkladů a charakterizací z knih Suzanne Collinsové a Veroniky Rothové, zakládající se na čtenářském prožitku. Tato práce si klade za cíl analyzovat a vyhledat podobnosti a rozdílnosti Katniss Everdeenové a Beatrice Priorové, hrdinek dystopických románů *Hunger Games* a *Divergent*.

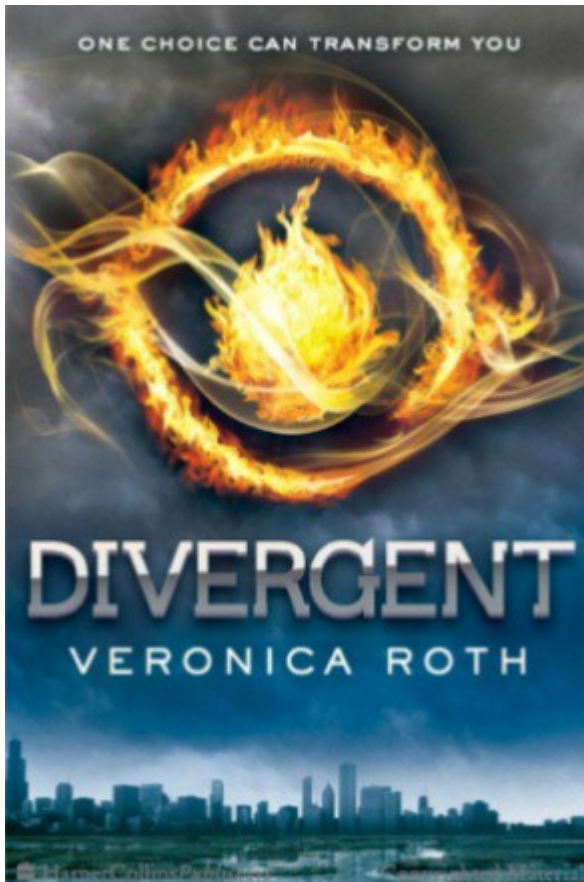
12 Appendices

Cover of the book “Hunger Games” with a Mockingjay symbol.



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Cover of the book “Divergent” with a Dauntless faction symbol.



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