

**EMERGENCE AND DISSOLUTION OF
HIERARCHY: A POST-ANARCHIST
READING OF VERONICA ROTH'S FICTION**

By

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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES

ISLAMABAD

January, 2022

Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy: A Post-anarchist Reading of Veronica Roth's Fiction

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BS English, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, 2017

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

In English

To

FACULTY OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES, ISLAMABAD

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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MODERN LANGUAGES

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Thesis Title: Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy: A Post-anarchist Reading of Veronica Roth's Fiction

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ABSTRACT

Title: Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy: A Post-anarchist Reading of Veronica Roth's Fiction

Many works of contemporary young-adult fiction in English have the common themes of domination and violence as depicted in a panoptic world. The present research deals with Veronica Roth's three texts, *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012) and *Allegiant* (2013) representing dystopian Fiction. Out of the many attributes of dystopian fiction, the selected texts depict various aspects of a specific dimension of reality by highlighting the guiding beliefs and ideals of the society as portrayed in these novels. In this research, I explore the primary texts for the causes of hierarchal domination and the elements of freedom in a society and look at possible ways for improving the societal structures for their balanced sustenance. Using Bookchin's theorizing about the domination and oppression in hierarchical structures of a society, this study examines the recurring hostility between the multiple authority units which exercise power on other strata of society as portrayed in the selected trilogy. It also studies the represented use of subjective violence by various organizations of these novels and how they achieve and secure their political and economic interests. Applying a bricolage of selected lenses, this exploration critically studies the symbolic role of government and its institutions of the selected fiction with reference to the situation of violence and anarchy. This study also investigates how violence and insurgency on one hand, weakens and damages the society along with the lives of citizens, and on the other hand, it causes the peripheral voices of society to dismantle the authority. This qualitative study also examines the ruthless measures taken by the city to curb the violence created by dissident groups and how this insurgency impacts the fabric of society. Using textual analysis as a research tool, this investigation of the selected texts locates the reasons of domination and repression and the consequent subjugation and outbreaks due to this unchallenged authority.

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A NOTE FOR THE PRIMARY TEXTS

I have taken Divergent Trilogy as my primary texts thus I will be using its italicized names and page numbers of the respective novels as my in-text citation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Allah Almighty, for guiding me in the right path and without Allah's blessing I would not have been able to complete this difficult task. It is because of Him that I didn't lose hope during the somber moments of my thesis writing.

I would like to express my deepest thanks and love to my parents who induced in me the courage to continue my studies and take admission in M.Phil. They have encouraged me to work diligently on it and helped me in every step of it. It is due to their effort and belief in me that I am able to finish this task. I also give my sincerest thanks to my respected supervisor Dr. Rabia Aamir who has consistently challenged my ideas with the intent of bringing out the best in me and for being beacon of guidance throughout the dissertation. Despite having to read through screeds of incoherent sentences, she has always given positive and constructive advice and has been extremely helpful in times of need, I am sincerely grateful for this. I also extend my deepest thanks to my sister Zainab Tariq who guided me consistently during the whole research study. I would also like to thank my friends Hafsa and Kainat who kept me going and supported me throughout this journey. They have never let me feel lonely and have always pacified me.

I would also like to thank all my teachers during Bs (Hons) and Mphil course works time who taught me diligently and it is surely due to their commitment and dedication, that I am able to write my thesis. I owe thanks to Dr. Uzair, Dean Faculty of Arts & Humanities, Dr. Inayat Ullah, Head Department of English for their cooperation in the entire process.

Lastly, I would also like to Thank English Department of NUML for offering me the academic and creative space, to bring this thesis to life.

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my Family and friends for their love, endless support and encouragement.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Dystopia is defined as a community whose social values, besides being reduced to the minimum, become oppressive, unacceptable, and frightening for the people living in that very society. The dystopian genre paints a society where the living conditions are extremely unpleasant due to deprivation of rights and the prolonged oppression inflicted by the ruling power upon a common person. The society in a dystopian fiction represents severe economic, religious, and social class divides, moral degradation, destitution and ultimately anarchy (Green n.p.). *Divergent* trilogy that I have chosen to analyze in this thesis aptly represents social class divides, situation of violence and anarchy that ensues due to encounter between the state and anti-state elements in the society. The purpose of this study is to investigate the strategies of violence employed by the state as well as non-state actors as depicted in the selected trilogy of post-apocalyptic dystopian fiction.

The present study explores the sociological subjects as presented in the selected texts by Veronica Roth. In order to study human beings as social objects, their aims, achievements, and status in the society, this research explores the trilogy. This research studies the different forms of human emancipation from a world of subjugation, created to satisfy the power hunger nature of human beings as depicted in the selected narratives. The storylines of the novels show that sometimes human emancipation from a world of subjugation is inevitable. The narratives also bring forth the fact that human beings forestall any curtailments and shackles for a prolonged time and thus become instigators of the process of revolution. Progress of a society is always dependent on the freedom of the people living in it. Struggle for freedom serves as the focal point in freeing the society from tyranny and domination, thus paving way for an insurgency. This research uses a bricolage of theoretical lenses for studying the modes and behavior of the oppressed members of the fictional society of the selected texts.

This research studies the chain of events as appearing in the selected texts that lead to an insurgency which ultimately results in the fulfillment of post-anarchist perspective. Therefore, it is basically a study of anarchism along with humanism with reference to American fiction. The three novels of Veronica Roth that I have chosen to analyze in this thesis aptly represent the situation of violence and anarchy that has developed as a result of the destructive encounter between different factions that act as institutions and non-state actors of that society. The purpose of this study is to investigate the nature and outcomes of the objective and subjective violence employed by the institutions and non-state actors respectively, as depicted in the Dystopian Fiction under study. This research also investigates the repercussions and implications of subjugation along with the elements of self-realization of different characters against the system of factions. It further explains the impacts of anarchy on the community and disbandment of moral values thus leading to violence and disruption of the smooth functioning of the system. In addition to it, the study explores the idea that absolute power corrupts absolutely. It also examines how non-state actors challenge the authority of the state despite being the residents of marginalized peripheries. Hence the use of objective and subjective violence and calamitous effects of anarchist struggle steers the society towards a post-anarchist realisation of bringing a change through ethical and sensible means. Dystopian fiction is a way of educating and warning humanity about the dangers of current social and political structures (Atwood n.p). The oppressive powers and destruction in dystopian worlds often leave the inhabitants to fend for themselves. I have chosen dystopian fiction as it highlights environmental destruction, government control, technological control, survival and loss of individualism which could be seen and applied on contemporary world.

The selected theoretical lens of my research, Bookchin's anarchist perspective, Saul Newman's post anarchist perspective and Lamont's humanist perspective helps in investigating the dominant themes of the selected texts and therefore this bricolage of theoretical lenses is selected to study these works. These lenses also help in understanding the human behaviour as manifested in the selected trilogy that human beings of a given society should manifest the liberty, security, and freedom of self-expression while remaining in the given limits of natural laws. This study raises the

questions regarding the domination of human by human which leads to the development of social divisions which Bookchin identifies as “cleavages” (41) thus dividing citizens within the society into groups with differing political and social interests. It further examines the nature of such divisions and their implications and ramifications. It also discusses the anarchic situation that helps characters in attaining self-realization against the system of factions prevalent in the society. The three literary texts are steering the readers to believe that the society needs to be post-Anarchist which is supplemented by the lens that I am using. Through anarchism, society has to move towards post-anarchist society in order to thrive, sustain and flourish.

For clear and better understanding, the concept of Anarchism, humanism, and post-anarchism, needs to be explained in depth. The terms are interrelated to each other hence a deep understanding is required before comprehending the theory. World, society, community, agents, social and political change, culture, social interactions, hierarchy, social institutions, literature and language needs a contextual understanding. This research starts with a brief introduction of the origin and the importance of social structure, values and relationships and man’s role in defining and constructing them. It proceeds with a short introduction to anarchism, post-anarchism, humanism, concept of Panopticon and dystopian fiction. It also includes a brief introduction of the writer Veronica Roth as well as the statement of problem, delimitation of study, research questions, and the significance and rationale of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Society is seen as an entity having its own existence and individuality. It influences and shapes the thought process of an individual thus it holds utmost importance and acts as a pivotal point for the residents of the society to stay united. A society establishes its own laws of development and is deeply linked to its past. Individuals in a society are groomed through the process of socialization. They not only form the basic element of a society but also make up the small units of a society which includes the structures, institutions and the roles that are taken up by these individuals for the smooth running of the system. All these units are interrelated and thus, form the backbone of a society. Change in the role of one part of society may lead to the

undermining of another part of society and ultimately affect the whole system. When the functioning of institutions is interrupted, it causes the individuals linked to those institutions to suffer as well and thus unrest and disorder is observed (Ritzer 11). The customs, values and relationships of a society are termed as social constructs. Even though their establishment is a time taking process but once established, they become part and parcel of human life and act as a source of guidance as well.

Human beings are those social agents who are equipped with the knowledge and the innate sense to choose between right and wrong. However, the nature of their actions can only be judged after closely observing its effect upon the people around them. Decisions by them are mostly taken according to the previous knowledge about a given situation that forces an individual to act in a certain manner. Governments in the world with established laws believe that it is mandatory to maintain social law and order with a strict dictatorial approach but at the same time it is a well-known and undisputed fact that a social change always comes through revolution which might institute violence, destruction and anarchy in the process. An uprising against oppressive rule not only targets the government but the ordinary individuals of the society as well. Therefore, analyzing violence to be the means of resistance against the rule of government would be tantamount in understanding its nature. In order to examine the reasons behind the violent and rebellious acts carried out by non-state actors, one needs to analyze the different impacts of an oppressive rule on the society.

Before proceeding further, I would like to explain the term violence that takes the form of oppression as it establishes the core aspect of my research. There are two types of violence, “subjective and objective” as stated by Slavoj Zizek. Violence itself is defined as acts of “crime and terror, civil unrest and international conflict” (1). He states that subjective violence is performed by clearly identifiable agents. It is also experienced as such against the “non-violent zero level,” which is a subtle form of objective violence inherent in the system. On the contrary, objective violence is something inherent in the system, it is not only direct physical violence, but also the more subtle forms of coercion that sustain relations of domination and exploitation (2). Zizek has explained objective violence quite vividly by sub-categorizing it into two types; symbolic and systematic

violence. Symbolic violence is explained to be embodied in language and its forms whereas systematic violence is the catastrophic consequences of what otherwise seem to be a smooth functioning of our economic and political systems (Zizek 2). Symbolic Violence is basically a silent violence that penetrates through the soul and becomes part of it. It is termed as the social domination that becomes part of our habitual speech forms. On the other hand, Systematic violence is the undisrupted domination of economic power structures of the society. This also results in subjugation of masses and explains the irrational explosions of subjective violence thereby resulting in anarchy.

Anarchy is defined by Woodcock, in the article “What is Anarchism” by Clark, as the common element uniting all its form with the aim of replacing authoritarian state by some form of non-governmental co-operation by the free individuals (5). Anarchists refuse to accept any authoritative entity and thus fight against it. It leads to the termination of authority of the ruling group and therefore, cessation of the domination and exploitation of man by man. A rebellion is inevitable if humans are caged for a long time. Such circumstances can also lead to voluntarism and decentralization. Bookchin theorizes the anarchic uprising to be the solution to the overthrowing of the oppressive rule by a certain group. He explains his anarchist ideas especially the domination of human by human in his two books *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971). Bookchin lays out his critique of domination of human by human in *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and draws a direct link between non-state actors and the authority of ruler. In his other book *Post-scarcity Anarchism*, he discusses and highlights the hierarchical formations and the reasons of splits in the system of a society.

Economic and political organizations always have some relational structure in which the participants not only differ with respect to their individual characteristics but sometimes have different social positions too. Hierarchies are considered such structures in which there is a marked distinction among the society itself. It has been observed in history that feasible coalitions often arise in hierarchies that lead to polarization of the society. Hierarchical relations are usually between different types of agents (or agents having different roles) and thus are asymmetric relations. Hierarchies are believed by

some to lay foundation for constructing a social order in a community but on the contrary often lead to the promotion of totalitarianism.

In order to contextualize the key terms used in my dissertation, the following sections elaborate on the importance and relevance of the key terms, Anarchism, Post-Anarchism, and Humanism. The following sub-sections therefore contextualize these key terms with respect to my research dimensions.

1.2 Dystopian Fiction

Dystopian literature is a significant tool potentially used for the critique of existing social conditions and political systems. Dystopian literature sheds light on those social and cultural practices that create complications and difficulties for the masses (Booker 27). It also takes the liberty of pointing out the shortcomings of established social systems that were earlier considered ideal. Although, dystopian fiction is primarily written to engage the popular interests of the readers, but at the same time it orchestrates various attributes of another reality as it highlights the ethos of the society. Veronica Roth in her trilogy examines social as well as political structures of the society through her work, in order to highlight the problems for the sake of correction. Dystopian fiction offers advantages of looking at an imagined society which maintains its hierarchical control through social institutions. Dystopian fiction as penned by Veronica Roth in her trilogy, highlights social class divides and moral deterioration which, moving through anarchic conditions, paves its way to post anarchist realization for bringing a positive change through the system.

The Dystopian fictional writers have made their mark in contemporary times and are profusely acknowledged as the intellectualists of the world of science-fiction. Roth is an American novelist who is famous for her Divergent trilogy. An avid reader, Roth grew up in Barrington, Illinois and started writing at a very young age (Blumberg). She has also written other novels which include Carve the mark (2017), The Fates Decide (2013) and Hearken (2013).

1.3 Concept of Panoptic World

Panopticon is derived from a Greek word that consists of “Pan” which means everything and “Opticon” means vision about something. This idea was proposed by Jeremy Bentham, an English Philosopher and social theorist, in eighteenth century (Zafar 78). Michel Foucault in his book *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of Prison* (1995) explains Panopticon as a systematic confinement which is an organized and planned way to exercise power. Foucault in his book describes the major impact of Panopticon to be the induction of consciousness and vision in the individuals, living in a confined area, about the functioning of power. He depicts the impact of power and control on the inmates of a Panopticon. The individuals who are caught up in a power relation are also the agents to exercise that power. Panopticon in other words is explained as the machine which produces “homogenous effects of power” (Foucault 202). Panopticon is used as an apparatus to do surveillance of the individuals. This surveillance can be done by objectifying them or controlling them through some other agent. It induces fear in the individuals thus is an organized way to exercise authority on the residents. Panopticon assures a productive increase in power, exercised over the individuals, as it is a continuous and subtle process. My thesis views Roth’s work as literature on a panoptic city with its intricately designed and constructed system of factions.

1.4 Anarchism

The word Anarchy is derived from an ancient Greek word which means a state of disorder without a leader but is mostly misinterpreted as without a ruler (Marshall 3). In the contemporary understanding, anarchy is taken to be a state of chaos and nihilism but it can also be taken as a circumstance that supports change. Anarchism is linked to man and his relation to the society. Anarchism as expressed by Woodcock in his book *Anarchism: A History of Libertarian Ideas and Movement* is treated as a system based on social thought and it points out the fundamental changes needed in the society especially the replacement of authoritarian state by nongovernmental co-operation between free individuals (13). If the object of Capitalism or Socialism is to increase needs, the object of Anarchism is to increase choice (Bookchin, *The Ecology of Freedom* 70).

Anarchism is a political theory that suggests the critique of authority in all of its forms. It denounces the uncanny appearance of aggressive and threatening reassertion of authoritarian state under the doubtful pretext of security. Anarchists view democracy as a tool used to disguise state domination under the illusion of consent and elected government. They believe that the structural principle of state always remains the same that is violence and domination, no matter it is exercised in which form (Newman 3-5).

Althusser also discusses different modes of exploitation and domination through his concept of “ideological State Apparatus” by stating the functioning of multiple ideologies existing within a society; he explicates their working with the help of certain institutions of society. Althusser divided it into two types. RSA (Repressive State Apparatus) which refers to the institutions that maintain the monopoly of force in capitalist societies (81). This state apparatus consists of such institutions which are responsible for maintaining control and authority in a society that include Army, Police, Judiciary and Prison system. He explains another apparatus known as ISA (Ideological State Apparatus) that plays a vital role in sustaining capitalist structures. This Apparatus includes schools, family, religion and mass media which act as a medium to promote this ideology. These apparatuses aid in maintaining authority over a society (Althusser 81)

Anarchist critics agree on the stance that government simply infuriates potential social conflict rather than offering a cure for it (Marshall xi). Peter Marshall, in his book *Demanding the Impossible* (1992) mentions that governments themselves mostly stir up various conflicts among different groups in order to attain material and non-material sources, for the purpose of gaining command and control over the general public. Critics are also of the opinion that anarchy might cause restlessness or insurrection but at the same time it can act as a medium to restore humanity. Even though most Anarchists are opposed to all political authorities that may force them into submission, yet they are also of the opinion that in an anarchist world a person should be free from political but not moral constraints. Peter Marshall believes that morality should be the top priority of every ideological group in order to achieve peace.

Theorists argue that anarchism is the renunciation of the state authority of using force, coercion, and the unquestioned exploitation of masses. Therefore, in order to put

an end to exploitation of people, anarchists argue for the abolition of centralized structure of state along with its subordinate institutions. It proposes a reshaping of society along a non-hierarchical structure where power is not concentrated in the hands of few privileged ones. The imbalance of power structure creates chaos and violence in the society as depicted in the selected fiction which needs to be examined in terms of resistance to the centralized state authority by the peripheral forces of insurgence. Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate the anti-state elements that strategically employ violence as the means of resistance against centralized power structures as reflected in the selected dystopian fiction.

I have selected Anarchist perspective of Murray Bookchin, an American Communalist, as one of my theoretical lenses to analyze the situation of violence and chaos in the selected dystopian fiction. Bookchin discusses the ways through which one group exercises its dominion over the other group. He propounds his anarchist ideas about violent desecration of hierarchical groups in his two works *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971). Bookchin lays out his critique of social freedom in *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and draws a direct link between imbalanced social relations and economic exploitation. In *Post-scarcity Anarchism* (1971) he further explicates his critique of state and system and highlights the nature of system to be an oppressive apparatus in all its form. I have explained his theory in detail in chapter three of this dissertation.

Anarchism can be further explained by viewing two interpretations that are interwoven yet can be distinguished from each other. The first interpretation sees anarchism as a defined political and philosophical tradition- not just a statement or dogma, because it happens to be too diversified and assorted for that, but as a community of radicals united by their common belief of certain revolutionary principles, which has its own heritage of scholars, philosophers and reformers, that is shaped by a particular history and which makes some definite theoretical, analytical, political and ethical assertions. The second interpretation is a broader, deeper and more pre-eminent view of anarchism; anarchy-beyond-anarchism. It cannot entirely be considered a substitute theory for revolutionary practices but rather a type of examination of the basic principles

of anarchism itself, an analysis of its discursive limits and the exploration of its philosophical foundations. This perception of anarchy beyond anarchism is termed as post anarchism (19).

1.5 Post-Anarchism

Post-anarchism refers to the interrelation between ethics and politics in a productive way. On one hand, it refutes the idea of overshadowing politics in the name of ethics the way other humanitarian ideologies does but on the other hand, it refuses to supersede ethics with politics entirely. It also disapproves of the idea of politics constructed as a power game between different groups.

Post-Anarchism started in nineteenth century with anti-globalization movement. Post-Anarchist theory supports different forms of resistance, beyond just the scope of social ladder, with a radicalized subjectivity. On contrary to it, Anarchism revolves around class and state. Benjamin Franks critically states his ideas regarding post-Anarchism that it elucidates the conviction and essentialism found in classical anarchism but fails to give more importance to class system the way it has given priority to individual agendas (Evren 113).

Post-Anarchism is a form of anarchism that is understood as a way of looking at the world with certain ethos and sensibility. It is driven by the sense of realization that is already present within the man. Post-Anarchism begins and ends with anarchy but the difference lies in the fact that it has no set ideological shape and do not follow a set pattern but varies according to the course of an action The characters of the selected trilogy are seen attaining the same post-anarchist realization when at the end they become part of the system to play their due roles in laying down the foundations to bring about the necessary change.

I have selected the post-anarchist perspective of Saul Newman as one of my theoretical lenses to explore the concept of politics of anti-politics in relation to the divergent trilogy. Newman in his book *The Politics of Post-anarchism* (2010) argues that the central claim of anarchism – that life can be lived without a state, without centralized authority – has been an anathema not only to more mainstream understandings of politics,

but also to other radical and revolutionary forms of politics, which see the state as a useful tool for transforming society (Newman, *The Politics of Postanarchism* 1). He further explains the concept of post-anarchism as an ontological anarchism that has retained equal libertarian political ethos and a vision of society free from any alliance as stated in Classical Anarchism and at the same time it has questioned the very foundations of classical Anarchism. I have explained his theory in detail in chapter three of this dissertation.

1.6 Humanism

Humanist word first appeared in English language in 1589 and was borrowed from the Italian word “Umanista”. By nineteenth century, the horizon of the word broadened and it was used to describe human beings personally, intellectually, culturally and socially. Within academia, it was used to describe the Renaissance movement (Copson 5). Later humanism came to be known as a set of those values and beliefs that were non-religious in nature but equally important for the survival of man in a social system. It is also considered as the manifestation of reality with functional basis. Humanism reflects earthiness as the word itself implies soil and earth being. Humanism depicts that human beings are both object and subject of nature and have the potential to shape their own fate. James Hemming indicated that human beings can design ways of breaking the restrictions of biological and physical laws for the greater benefit of humanity. I have selected the humanist perspective of Corliss Lamont, an American socialist and humanist philosopher, as one of my theoretical lenses in order to analyze the social potential and agency of human being in aspiring towards the greater good. Corliss Lamont in his book, *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997) advocates that man is the shaper of his own destiny. He possesses freedom of choice and action regardless of his past activities. I have further explained his perspective in chapter three of my dissertation.

According to W.D Falk, humanism has a unique history that goes back in time. It emerged in several forms in different eras of time. Various civilizations made their contribution to humanism and aided in shaping the humanistic philosophy. The world first saw humanism as an overt and affirmed belief system through the humanism of Renaissance which was coined by the poets, scholars and courtiers of that time. The

humanism of antiquity which was expressed by Aristotle, Plato and Stoics provided the basics for the Humanism of Renaissance movement. In the nineteenth century, the idea of humanism conceived by Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill formed the foundation of classical utilitarianism. Falk in his article expresses his opinion that humanism is an independent force which does not allow man to uncritically submit to any authority whether it comes in the form of traditions or laws of state. He thinks that man is the maker of his own fortune and the shaper of his own destiny (W.D Falk 72)

One of the central propositions of humanism is that man is the evolutionary product of nature and is strong and capable enough to figure out his problems and solve them through reliance on scientific method and reasons. It also asserts that humans are not programmed to adopt any set of ideas and beliefs or to follow a doctrine which does not make sense or convince them personally. They aspire to take responsibility of their decisions and actions and this necessitates having control over them as depicted in the selected trilogy. This study investigates and explores the ways in which the characters deal with the propagation and repercussions of anarchism through various humanistic approaches and work for the betterment and welfare of fellow humans, thereby contributing to the reformation of society.

Humanism opposes the idea of predestination because it believes that a man can change the course of his destiny if he truly believes in himself. The true worldly happiness, freedom, economic and cultural progress is only attained by believing in ethics and morality that grounds all human values. A person can lead a purposeful life only by contributing to the welfare of his community. Hence humanism works for the establishment of peace, harmony and promotion of social order both nationally and internationally.

1.7 Further Description of the Research Project

This study is based on the series of her three novels, *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012) and *Allegiant* (2013). Divergent trilogy is based on an apocalyptic setting that is a sub-genre of science fiction. Apocalyptic literature focuses on a situation where the civilization has either undergone a nuclear war, some plague or any other major

catastrophe (Good reads). These conditions may lead to the formation of a disproportionate society in the post catastrophic period.

Veronica Roth's divergent trilogy portrays a dystopian society that applies Bentham's Panopticon model for conducting a social experiment to eliminate some evil traits of human nature like pride, self-conceit, jealousy, narcissistic personality disorders etc. to establish an ideal society. The story of the selected trilogy revolves around the character of a young spirited girl who does not fit easily into the factions created by the society and faces her fears head on. These factions are not separated by class but rather by values and virtues. This set of novels illustrates the struggles of major characters and their respective roles in the instigation of anarchy that is caused by the uprising against the government. This anarchic situation influences and reshapes the lives of characters thus helping them attain self-realization.

In the selected fiction, the emergence of hierarchical structure in the society and the suppression of one faction by another are directly linked to power hunger and domineering nature of humans. While these oppressive and violent elements at one hand are responsible for creating situation of chaos within the city, at the same time they pose a significant threat to the structures of governance. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the strategies of violence used by the suppressed factions to question uniform authority against the system of factions. The texts *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012), *Allegiant* (2013), by Veronica Roth that I have chosen to analyze in my thesis adequately represent the situation of violence and oppression that has arisen due to the power hunger nature of individuals and factions going against one another.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the repercussions of subjugation and the elements of self-realisation against the system of factions depicted in the selected fiction. This study also explores the threat that untamed intelligence poses to the society. It focuses on the impacts of anarchy on a community and disbandment of moral values thus leading to twilight of reason. It also investigates the methods used for surveillance in the form of a Panopticon and the totalitarian regime employed to control and subdue the people. The research also examines how non-state actors challenge the authority of the city despite being residents of marginalized peripheries. It surveys the tendency of human

nature to gain power and create class system through whatever means possible. In addition to it, the study also explores the idea that absolute power corrupts absolutely. It also sheds light on the sheer ignorance of government to timely comprehend the signs of an uprising against it and the fact that human minds cannot be caged for a long time. Lastly, this study explores and examines the struggles, hardships and devastations related to the process of anarchy which eventually inculcates a post-anarchist sense in the characters as portrayed in the trilogy.

In my thesis, I am going to analyze the subjective violence carried out by the individuals of the society and the objective violence perpetrated by the organization to maintain its centralized authority as depicted in the selected fiction. Keeping the conflict between state and violent agents in mind, I have explored their relationship with respect to anarchist theory proposed by Bookchin.

This research is exploratory and interpretive in nature. The research paradigm incorporated in this thesis is qualitative in nature and the method employed is textual analysis. The detail about the method is being expressed in chapter three of this thesis. Author's position in the society regarding his works is considered to be a significant one, similarly, the researcher's position and interpretation is also of importance regarding the text. Therefore, I have to explain my position as a researcher.

1.8 Delimitation

This study is delimited to the *Divergent* trilogy by Veronica Roth. The present study analyses the aforementioned trilogy through anarchist, post-anarchist and humanistic perspective in order to chalk out the dynamics of domination and attainment of self-realization against the system of factions prevalent in the society.

1.9 Thesis Statement

Exploring the impacts of an oppressive hierarchy that may cause insurgency, this research examines some possible counterbalancing humanistic elements that lead to post-anarchistic vision in the selected dystopian novels of Veronica Roth and provide a comparatively peaceful solution for a sustainable society.

1.10 Research Questions

1. How does Bookchin's idea of "Domination of human by human" leads to the cleavages that separate humanity from its nature as depicted in the selected dystopian fiction?
2. How does the anarchy portrayed in the three novels, *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012), and *Allegiant* (2013), help the characters to attain a post-anarchist vision against the system of factions prevalent in the society?

1.11 Significance of Study

This study, which attempts to investigate a connection between the rise in domination and oppression by the hegemonic group and the consequent counter rise of rebellions in the society by the non-state actors as depicted in the selected fiction, the societal imbalances are studied. It explores the effect of unequal power distribution on the inhabitants of marginalized areas of the city. My research explains the struggles of non-state actors while fighting their battles with the authoritarian regimes. The research is also significant as it critically evaluates the constructive and destructive effects of anarchist revolution and reveals that a post-anarchist approach is better in bringing about a desired change.

1.12 Rationale of Study

Through the selected dystopian fiction, I am analyzing the social structures that maintain their hegemony through the creation of hierarchies. My study also analyzes the use of subjective violence as a means of strategy to obliterate centralized state authority that leads to an anarchic situation. By integrating a post-anarchist vision in my study, I am able to extend the parameters of an anarchic/Marxist reading of a given text. Through a post-anarchist lens, I am also able to study an aspect that brings about a constructive and sustainable change in a given society, however, within the confinement of the system.

1.13 Research Plan

I have arranged my study in seven chapters. Chapter one discusses the introduction and background of my research. It also explicates the significance of my study along with rationale. This chapter also outlines the research questions which help in

analyzing the selected texts. Chapter two discusses the literature review. This chapter studies the existing literature and work done in my area of research. This chapter indicates the gap present in the already written literary works.

Chapter three of my research deals with the theoretical framework and research methodology incorporated in my thesis. I have used Murray Bookchin anarchist perspective, Saul Newman's post-anarchist perspective and Corliss Lamont's Humanistic perspective as my theoretical lens. I have integrated Textual Analysis as the research method in my study. Chapter 4, 5 and 6, deals with an anarchist, post-anarchist and humanistic analysis, of the Divergent trilogy. I have analyzed how the domination of human by human causes insurgency and anarchy in the society and how this anarchy positively and negatively affects the society in general and the people in particular. In chapter six, I have concluded the study and discussed the findings of my research.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the existing literature with respect to the selected topic of thesis. There are mainly two reasons for discussing the review of literature: the first and foremost reason for reviewing the already present literature is to locate my research and to indicate the significance of my study. The second reason is that the review of literature will help me in identifying the gap present in my area of study. This chapter holds significance as it helps me to understand how other researchers have incorporated anarchist and humanistic aspect in different literary contexts.

Before starting with the review of literature, a brief discussion of my research would be in order. In this thesis, I am going to analyze Veronica Roth's divergent trilogy from Anarchist and Humanist perspective in order to analyze the relationship between the state authority and its repercussions in the society. This study also focuses on the non-state actors and their role in limiting the authority. Review of literature will help me in establishing a link between my research and the research done prior to this study. I have reviewed the following works on theoretical aspect as well as literary aspect.

2.2 Selected Aspects of Literature Review

The following two sections discuss Review of Literature with respect to theory and selected novels

2.2.1 The Review of Literature in the light of Theory

Murray Bookchin an American philosopher and social theorist was a pioneer of ecology movement and critically analyzed ecological crisis that presented a challenge to the social order. Some researches that have already been explored on this idea and anarchism are discussed below.

Pierre Joseph Proudhon in his book "What is Property" draws the attention of readers towards the concept of property and the ill-treatment of non-propertyed. He

establishes a link between property and theft by explicating that the advantages showered on the superiors under the pretext of talent is purely robbery and great injustice. He even criticizes the revolution that was brought by the French revolution to be misapprehension because it didn't completely change the institutions. It only changed the state from monarchy to democracy but the nature of rule remained the same.

He defines monarchy as "Sovereignty of one man" and then he defines democracy as "The sovereignty of the nation of the national majority" (Proudhon 38). This explains that when a state shifts from monarchical rule to democratic rule, some progress is observed but in reality there is no such revolution because the rules and principles imposed by either a monarch or a democrat remains the same. There is no change whether one sovereign is ruling or more than one because there is no actual change in the system of governance. Proudhon explains that the representatives in democracy are elected by the public yet the people have no actual say in the matters of government and politics because the representatives implement their own policies. He believes that justice by the government has always been growing and progressing until it has achieved the "present stage". However, it should not be considered its last or evolutionary stage because the last hindrance to be dealt with is the "institution of property" (41). Hence this institution must be revolutionized in order to consummate the revolution.

Proudhon explains the right of property to be acquired because if it was innate, it would have been divided equally among the men. He states it to be antisocial and states its termination from the society. He explains its reason of abolition to be the exploitation of the ones who do not possess property. Thus property should not been given to the minority group of the society as it leads to the exploitation of the remaining men by the ones who are having the property.

Proudhon's book "what is property" throws light on the subjugation and exploitation that happens due to the unequal distribution of property. However it does not highlight the basis of rise of violence by the suppressed group of society. My research is likely to fill this gap in literature by developing a link between concentrations of power by the dominant group and rise of anarchic situation in the society as depicted in the selected fiction.

In this article, “The Concept of Free Nature in Murray Bookchin’s Philosophy of Social Ecology” (2016), Eirik Eigliad tries to investigate the concept of free nature and dialectical naturalism which explores the complex interrelationship between social problems and the direct consequences they have on the ecological impact of human society. He stresses contemporary ecological movements have much to learn from Bookchin’s social ecology especially from his social critique and generous ecological humanism. Eigliad points out that social ecology links with nature philosophy, anti-hierarchical social analysis, and political regeneration. From a humanist perspective, the natural world is chaotic, aimless and meaningless. Even though humans attempts to give meaning to the natural world but it causes existential angst. Human beings cannot find meaning in nature so it is constructed through civilization. Civilizations can never sustain forever and would ultimately be forced to face the demons. Zapfée contends humans to be monstrous outgrowth of biological evolution. Bookchin supports this idea by analyzing society to be ecologically destructive. Humanity, has its roots in the first nature but constitutes a distinct second nature that can help in becoming nature rendered self-conscious (Eigliad 88).Bookchin’s analysis about free nature provides insight that not only help sharpen our sensitivity to a deeper version but also offers a promise of human emancipation in a genuinely ecological society.

This article throws light on Murray Bookchin’s idea on human emancipation in an ecological society. He states that humans cannot be confined to civilizations thus man can also destroy nature. This article does not highlight the reason of destruction of nature by human beings. My thesis highlights the reason of destruction and man getting away from its true nature in order to grasp power.

The thought of distinction includes strongly in Murray Bookchin's social environment. Bookchin routinely offers an incentive to perceiving distinction inside the human social world, among the creatures possessing the more-than-human world, and (most dubiously) between people and different sorts of living creatures. In this article “Difference, Discourses, and Animism: A Critical Engagement with Murray Bookchin’s Social Ecology” (2016), Sean Wilson depends on Bookchin's accentuation on distinction and expands upon it in two different ways that are inchoately indicated in Bookchin's

works. Firstly, Wilson utilizes Bookchin's accentuation on contrast to break down and evaluate certain natural talks. Specifically, he opposes talks that suggest an undifferentiated supernatural humankind or overpopulation as the reason for the natural emergency. This natural emergency serves to move undue fault for the ecological emergency onto burdened social gatherings. Second, he ponders about Bookchin's emphasis on ontological distinction inside his undertaking of building up an animistic method for being on the planet (i.e., a perspective that uncovers a moral, holy or generally otherworldly embodiment in plants, creatures, and additionally protests). Following Bookchin, Wilson contends that perceiving ontological contrast among people and different sorts of living creatures is significant for maintaining a strategic distance from the potential perils in the improvement of animism and in guaranteeing that human-type substances are most certainly not favored or taken to be the extraordinary standard inside an animistic perspective. After contending for the benefit of perceiving ontological distinction in the advancement of animism, Wilson turns to the works of Luce Irigaray who is the French Feminist, philosopher and psychoanalyst readily recommend that wonder might be the correct demeanor to control the improvement of an animistic perspective (Wilson n.p.). Bookchin calls the outlook of organic societies which gives a clear indication of recognizing humans as well as non-humans as differentiated and unique. He states that the leveling down of all possibilities of being is reflected within both human and non-human world under contemporary western conditions. He accepts this notion that capitalism, patriarchy and white supremacy play a vital role in directly or indirectly advancing environmental crisis. The use of term humanity would act to downplay the role that various systems of oppressions play in driving environmental degradation itself or creating conditions of scarcity and the need that drives environmental degradation. Wilson redirects Bookchin's concern of ontological reductionism towards productive critique of animism. The qualities of animism are mostly reduced to humans. It implies that only similarity to human mattered. While the qualities that are more particular to animism are quickly forgotten (Wilson n.p.)

In this article Wilson incorporates Bookchin's approach on animistic method and the role of capitalism, patriarchy and white supremacy in leading towards environmental crisis. My thesis discusses the effects of domination of one group over the other in order

to grasp more power. This also leads towards the degradation of ethics and morals from the society.

In this research paper, “The Co-existence Substantiates Religious Humanism” (2019), Muhammad Rizwan proposes the religious humanism that challenges every form of creed and political extremism. He gives the example of Mark Twain who highlighted the uncivilized qualities that could be seen in the progressive human-race. Twain compared human with anaconda that kills only one calf out of seven to satisfy his hunger. Man, on the other hand, he argued, kills seventy buffaloes just for his joy and eats only a portion of it with his peers and leaves the rest to rot. Therefore, for Twain, man is more cruel and greedy than animal. In addition to quoting from Twain, Rizwan also draws his critique from Corliss Lamont. Citing Lamont, Rizwan explains that Lamont describes humanism as the philosophy that teaches to declare what we mean.

In the last pages of Rizwan’s article, he discusses from the idea of humanism from Lamont’s book in the context of coexistence and argues that coexistence is also manifesto of religious humanism. Gill advocates that man is responsible for brutalities and wars. Religious humanism advocates personal freedom and critical thinking. The story of religious humanism is the story of struggle of freedom of human race. It is also liberation of humans from the religious rules that spread hatred and intolerance. Gill tries to convey through coexistence that everyone is important and humans can only prosper through harmony. The religious humanism that is applied on Gill’s Coexistence concludes that humanism forbids killing and spreading terror (Rizwan n.p.)

In this research paper, Muhammad Rizwan tries to point out the cruel nature of man when it comes to pleasure. Man uses his power in pursuit of delights and happiness and in doing so, he becomes savage and cruel. My thesis focuses on two dominant aspects of human nature one that cause destruction and the other that becomes the reason of salvation of humanity.

A book review sheds light on *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997) by Corliss Lamont about the major theme that is established regarding humanism that it deracinates all kinds of beliefs in supernatural beings. Lamont takes up an atheist stance by stating

that God does not exist and it is sheer wastage of time to think and believe in any upper natural being. Religion evolved over time but now in modern society, it has not played any vital role thus has become irrelevant. The world does not need savior but human beings itself in order to create a better world. He asserts that rather than religious hope or teaching, advancement in science would solve all the problems. Humanism is far superior to capitalism or any kind of philosophy and ideology and it encompasses all other human related fields except religious faith. Human beings have the same root as that of animals but only evident difference is of mind. Humanism always stands for justice, good governance and scientific laws that govern them (Sichone n.p.)

My study is likely to fill the gap in literature by developing a link between advancement of science and logic with the decisions taken by humans in order to save their society from manipulation and domination.

2.2.2 Review of Literature with respect to the selected novels of this study

The term Dystopia was first coined by John Stuart Mill in the House of Commons in 1868. He reflected that all utopia's have built-in inevitability of failure. He dismissed all dystopian thinkers since he thought their ideas were flawed and not practical. Even though dystopia represents that society in which individuals are oppressed, freedom is lost, and creativity is stifled. It also represents the inhumanity of soulless state machine against the hopes and aspirations of humanity, a circumstance that is well understood and recognized by humanity. Anthony Burgess in his novel *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), predicts the worlds where the young generation have become sociopaths thus the government is forced to introduce a form of behavioral engineering in order to condition them. It also depicts the breakdown of society and its shift towards lawlessness and disorder (Asley n.p.). This novel brings forth the dystopian society where behavioral engineering led to the restlessness in the society. This research, expresses the outcome of restriction distinctively placed on human beings. Moreover, it portrays the self-actualization that is achieved by human beings as a result of anarchic conditions.

The novels *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012) and *Allegiant* (2013) have been explored with different aspects. Some of the researches that have been conducted on the

novels are mentioned below and assist in determining much more that is yet to be revealed.

The article, “What is your faction? Multidimensional Evidence for the Divergent Series as a basis for the new Model of Personality and Work Life” (2017), deals with the validity of faction system as described in the trilogy measured by faction quiz in terms of predicting specific combination of cognition in the present day world. The narrative depicts that the concept of personality is the very core of psychology. It involves cognitive and behavioral processes to produce consistent pattern of thought and action. Individual’s traits are both affected by pattern of thought and self-perception leading to thoughts and new ideas. These traits are somehow influenced by organization.

In this research article, “What is your faction? Multidimensional Evidence for the Divergent Series as a basis for the new Model of Personality and Work Life” (2017), people are divided according to big five model of personality traits that is proposed by Sir Raymond Cattell. It was later summed up by Goldberg and Digman and it had the traits of Openness to Experience which is intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a preference for novelty and variety, as well as an appreciation of art then was Conscientiousness which was about self-discipline, emphasis on duty and obligation, aim for achievement, and a preference for planned rather than spontaneous behavior. The third trait was Extraversion that is having a tendency toward positive emotions, assertiveness, sociability, talkativeness, and search for the company of others, its opposite being Introversion. The fourth one was Agreeableness which depicted inclination to being compassionate, cooperative, trusting, and helpful, having a concern for social harmony and getting along with others and the last one was Neuroticism that shows tendency toward states of anger, fear, and/or depression, vulnerability to anxiety, its opposite being Stability. Humans can be divided according to these traits in the society. The possibility of factions presented in Divergent Trilogy by Veronica Ruth can be to some extent applied in the society.

Souza and Roazii had tried to show the different faction system that was prevalent in the society on the basis of dominant traits present in a personality of an individual. They tried to show how abnegation faction is characterized to be having altruism, steering one’s actions towards effectively helping others. They have a strong bent of

mind towards religion and are supportive towards the needs of humans thus are tied to cultural tradition of focusing on community. Then faction of Amity can be explained as essentially oriented towards social harmony, individual happiness and hedonism. The faction of Candor also corresponds to Extroversion in the model of big five. The Dauntless are depicted as assertive, competitive, thrill seeking with greater attention towards physical prowess and feats. The last one is the faction of Erudite who have a commendable cognitive abilities and skills. They also have educational attainment and the relationship with technology and digital revolution. These factions are open to the experience according to the Big Five model. Another aim of this research article was to assess the practical usefulness of these factions particularly in the context of work life choices and experiences in organization (Roazzi 1-22).

Souza and Roazii established the idea of faction system with reference to the usefulness of these factions. These factions aid the society towards betterment yet the excess of dominant traits present in them can cause destruction as well. The article also discusses about the practical implementation of factions on the society for a smooth running of system. My research intends to take anarchist perspective on Divergent Trilogy that represents the chaotic political scene in the city. My research intends to see how far this violence and the resultant chaos are related to the anarchist tendencies present in the perpetrators of violence. In my thesis, I am going to fill the gap in literature by explaining how excess of few dominant traits can lead to anarchy and insurgency in a society.

Jasmine Lee and Jonathan Alexander in their article “We Are All Abnegation Now: Suffering Agency in the Divergent Series” (2017), explicate and trace the embodiment of choice and its repercussions throughout Divergent novel (Alexander). Jasmine and Jonathan argue that Roth has placed responsibility of the social structure on shoulders of young people while taking away agency from them. This article studies the related concepts such as “suffering agency” and “slow death” in order to understand the complicated sense of agency incorporated in the series. The starting of series show an act of agency in which the young people are given an opportunity to show their allegiance with any faction of the society. The divergent series prophesize about historical

background by explaining that without history, the individuals are left with no choice but to struggle towards their slow death. Divergent series actually signals the readers about the importance of history in one's life and leading the readers towards future building. Divergent series has its uniqueness in dystopian narratives as it depicts the physical and mental suffering of young people. They undergo such sufferings through the simulations designed in order to expose their fears and highlight their weaknesses. This helps in determining their roles in existing social structure of their society.

Agency has multiple connotations in the divergent series. It is taken as a choice and slow death. In agency as a choice, it is depicted that Beatrice's decision to choose in the entire series is a nexus between courage and cowardice. The characters are offered with many choices throughout the series few depicting their career choices and few about their relationships. However, these choices seldom grant any kind of security for those characters. The choice agency is linked with mental and somatic traumas that depict sharp limitations of the individuals. The testing simulation that aids the individual in selecting the appropriate faction basically induces a dream state and places that individual in a position where he has to make a choice, either to kill or to survive. This choice is going to determine their fitness for the suitable faction. In another important instance regarding choosing agency is observed during choosing ceremony where each year young people accept a knife and slice a slit in their palm in order to choose their respective faction. The choice that they make is according to their physical reaction to the simulation. This action explains the phrase used in the series "Faction before Blood". This slight gash in the palm of the individual explains the faction system. The blood family is replaced by the faction family according to their choice. This faction family matters a great deal to the individuals as Beatrice by her own choice turns herself over to Jeanine for her experiment. In this way Beatrice saves the life of her faction and suffers terribly.

The idea of "slow death" refers to the notion of radically reconsidered form of Agency (395). The characters are nudged closer to their end by the series of action happening in their life. Beatrice faces death a dozen times throughout the trilogy. Beatrice chooses to die in order to attain the fulfillment of struggle that she has done her

whole life. Beatrice faces many near to death experiences but all of them were the hurdles that came her way in achieving a goal. However, in the end when she faces a real death, it is a choice that she has made. The agency can help in political struggles and developing empathy as well. Another advantage of reading divergent series is to know the importance of future building and the struggles which help to avoid the slow death. The novel is written in such a way that it is cut off from history thus it focuses on the importance of history (Alexander 388-401).

Jasmine lee and Jonathan Alexander focus on the concept of agency to be the reason of slow death of the protagonist. The characters are given a free will to take the decisions related to their own lives according to their choice. My study is likely to fill the gap by giving freedom to the characters for choosing their own agency and destiny in unveiling the truth about their factions and society. This will help them to save their society from tyranny and subjugation of stronger ones.

In the research article, Sartaj Ahmed and Shahila Zafar “Manipulation of Mechanisms of Surveillance and Control: A critical Analysis of Veronica Roth’s Divergent Trilogy” (2019), explore totalitarian regime is discussed with respect to surveillance and ideology in sequence to subjugation and suppression on its subjects (Zafar 78). This study focuses on a gigantic panoptic world where people are confined to a social experimental project and US government creates a utopian society. This article explains the different tools of violence used in order to keep the experiment successfully running. Bureau of genetic welfare oversees the progress of the experiment and uses serums, discipline and enclosure in order to back up its rule over Chicago city. Panopticon is derived from a Greek word in which “Pan” means everything and “Opticon” means vision. Peter F. Fisher states that Panopticon should not be taken literally but also metaphorically for all types of surveillance that are linked with power relationships. Any type of surveillance would fall under the spectrum of Panopticon. The idea of Panopticon can be helpful in building other structures of society including schools, hospitals and prisons. Bart Simon views the institutions to be acting as Panopticon if they enforce certain norms that have got the power to command, discipline and observe its subjects. These panoptic institutions have different types of mechanisms

that impose set of rules and also the aftermath of not following this rule. Panopticon can be an ideology which acts as panoptic eye when there is a belief that an individual's every move and act is being watched by an authority. In the context of power, a sense of omnipresent nature is created and it leads to the unease and discomfort in an individual thus making Panopticon much more powerful. The working of Panopticon happens when an individual observes a materially intense and perceptible object that forces the individual to act submissively in front of it.

Panopticon is employed in Divergent trilogy as it incorporates "Ideological State Apparatus" the term coined by Althusser. ISA are used in order to exercise control through various institutions. The individuals are divided into five factions and each faction has a specific code of conduct which is followed by every individual residing in that faction. The characters of the trilogy face such circumstances throughout the series in which they believe that they are trapped in a panoptic society and there is no escape from it. Education institutions act as the ideological apparatus and instill prescribed norms in the citizens of the society. Abnegation faction is not allowed to indulge themselves in any activity that is going to give them pleasure even looking in the mirror for more than a minute falls in extravagance. Beatrice is shown sneaking a look in the mirror in the start of the novel and expecting a lecture from her mother on extravagance. The mirror here is acting as a surveillance mechanism and Beatrice's mother as panoptic inspector. Similarly Caleb also strictly follows the set rules and norms of the faction and e makes sure that his sister does the same. This also depicts the incorporation of ideological Apparatus which thrive in making the "culture of surveillance"(80) part of their society. The interaction between spatiality and ideological practice discloses the underlying mechanism of force of those who dominate others and those who are dominated by them. This spatial transition is evident as Beatrice switches her faction for freedom and liberty but finds out to be trapped in another prison. The difference of this transition is of values, norms and order. The panoptic nature of trilogy remains intact as all the events occur within the city walls and as stated by Simon "Society of prison metaphor" (81) is applicable as the city provides with the enclosure to dominate and control the people living in it. This intricate prison is expressed as the society in which people are first

enclosed by factions, then by the boundary walls of the city and lastly by the Bureau of Genetic Welfare.

The trilogy describes the panoptic world where control tendencies are seen every now and then by either individuals or by the institutions. This mechanism is not restricted to the society but is also observed in the homes of the individuals where parents are acting as guardians of imposing the control. It also unravels the fact that power corrupts the individual who is exercising it on the other individuals. Roth is trying to show that our world has also become a global Panopticon with the help of satellites. This Panopticon that surrounds the whole world has become a place that cannot be escaped. Veronica Roth suggests that the global Panopticon has given so much power to the global powers who are managing it through satellite that now the governments who are sponsored by them can survive only. The remaining governments of the world that do not survive are going to either get toppled down or crushed.

In this article, Sartaj and Shahila explain trilogy to be a panoptic experiment done in order to exert power of superior authority and usage of different tools of violence in order to keep the experiment running. My research study is likely to fill the gap by forming a link between panopticism and the chaotic political struggle that led to the self-realization of characters against the factions and surveillance environment created to subjugate and suppress them as depicted in the selected trilogy of Veronica Roth.

Anish Bhattacharya in his article “A Postmodern Reading of Veronica Roth’s Divergent Trilogy: Negotiating concerns of Dystopia and Seeking Egalitarianism” (2020) explicates the reconstruction of societal order and structure. The role of individuals is explained in tilting their society from dystopian Barbarism to the justice. It also focuses on the metanarrative of change which is essential for the growth of the society. The grievances and discomforts exist in contemporary society thus leading to conflicts and creating a totalitarian form of control in the society (Bhattacharya). This article focuses on the multiplicity of history, the genetic coding and the rule of totalitarianism. The protagonist’s observation and knowledge aids in depicting a society free from tyranny and equality. The city Chicago on which the whole series revolves is portrayed as fourth order simulacrum as the whole faction system is deception for the individuals living in it.

Everything about the city is a deception conjured up by the bureau for their experiment to thrive. Even the identity of Edith Prior who speaks about the reality of city is itself a second order simulacrum (164). The simulations justify the hegemonic position of power of bureau. This play of simulations is encouraged by the capital in order to increase the profit. Similarly, the bureau convinces this play because they have to convince the government about the enormosity of the experiment in order to make it significant.

In this article, Anish Bhattacharya explains genetic defect as a metanarrative. It is described that Edith Prior's narrative about genetic purity was itself a deception as it only led to the slaughtering of factions. It is her narrative that became the seed for the mass murders that happened in the city. The video aids Allegiants in defending the system of faction against the factionless which is beneficial to the bureau. The goal of the bureau is to achieve universal good by conducting the experiment but it fails to understand that universal good include the happiness and good conditions of human residing in the city and outside the city. All the bureau is concerned for is the master narrative in which they believe and try to even reset the memory of the people in city. Bureau is only working for their self-interest which is quite evident as the bureau only intervenes when the people of desired gene pool are at risk.

Another idea discussed is city turning into a Panopticon. It also indicates the farce that is portrayed in "Initiation Ceremony". The young initiates are divided into factions and are ordered to spend the rest of their lives living in those factions or faction less but they cannot come back to their parent faction. The city is separated by the walls and is guarded by the dauntless soldiers. The whole city is under surveillance and the faction areas are under observation too. The individuals cannot leave their faction without any genuine reason. The whole city is observed and controlled by bureau from the outside with factions and serums and simulations. The experiment itself is a prison that produces law abiding citizens who are restricted to their factions and on the other hand bureau intervenes every now and then and it aims to recruit pure men from a genetically damaged society. Soon Beatrice and everyone else realize that it is actually the marginalization of bureau under the pretense of "metanarrative of genetic purity" (166). After realizing the truth, the protagonist tries to use postmodern strategies to make sense

of truth and her world, finish the class and factions and try to spread equality in the city thus leading towards utopia.

This article explains the reconstruction of societal order and structure from totalitarian regime. It highlights the fourth order of simulacrum as the whole experiment is a deception for the individuals living in it. However it doesn't discuss the dynamics of violence required to reorganize the social hierarchy. My research is going to fill the gap in literature by mapping the dynamics of violence as depicted in the selected trilogy.

Maya Yttring in her project "Studying Veronica Roth's *Divergent* as a bildungsroman from a feminist perspective" (2020), shows the conventions of female Bildung process. In this project, Maya discusses conventions of female bildungsroman and the female journey in finding her identity despite of the hindrances that a female faces due to her gender (Yttring). Maya explores and investigates the struggles and choices of the female protagonist in *Divergent* trilogy. Beatrice is shown to be struggling from the very beginning of the novel where firstly she has to choose a faction for herself. Choosing a faction is a custom in the society but leaving a parent faction is a tough decision and ever tougher for females of the society. Beatrice takes a remarkable feminist decision by choosing a life that she has always aspired for. Beatrice faces humiliation at the hands of many initiates due to her gender role and belonging to Abnegation faction. Beatrice is shown following the trajectory of female bildungsroman and male's physical journey throughout the trilogy. Beatrice leaves her home and faces many physical challenges that are adventurous and quite different from her previous life. Beatrice is shown feeling guilt for leaving her parents and home. This feeling that leads to females being generous and nurturing can be categorized as traditional cultural narrative which explains the traits of women. However, she acts more of a liberal feminist as she takes a stand of choosing her own life. She is forced to accept the norms of society and the challenges they bring along with it for her.

Female protagonists portrayed in young adult dystopian fiction have to fight for their position or negotiate their position in order to agree with patriarchal rules of that society. However, in *Divergent* trilogy, Beatrice puts aside the people and societal wants and follows her own aspirations thus being active in finding her own identity. Throughout

the novel, Beatrice follows female Bildung conventions as she gets humiliated many times, loses her reputation initially, face a threat of losing her life and sexual assault. Beatrice is also shown not to conform to the typical female gender norms. She possesses the qualities of both male and female Bildung process.

In the above mentioned project of Maya Ytring, female protagonist's journey is being discussed of finding her identity and questioning the set norms of society. She is depicted as a liberal feminist who takes stand for her own self and stays firm on the decisions. It also investigates the struggle of female characters in the process of finding their identity. My research focuses on the anarchist aspect regarding the revolution that frees the society from trammels of domination and hierarchy. My research intends to bridge the gap between violence and social revolution.

In another article "Factions as Social Classes in Divergent novel" (2018), discuss the struggles of factions using Marxist theory. It explains the factions and their struggles to attain power in the society. The researchers in this article have stated Erudite and Abnegation to be bourgeois class while the remaining three have been tagged as proletarians as they are oppressed by the other factions. The factions described in the trilogy can be taken as a social class since it has a social structure that comprises of different institutions working for the betterment of society. Karl Marx has divided social class into two groups that are capitalists and proletariats (Suciati 4). Abnegation faction is portrayed to have authority in the beginning and is the one who controls the whole society. This quality is seen in the capitalists as they exercise power and oppress proletariats. Similarly, Erudite uses its intelligence to pursue knowledge and oppress the other factions in order to gain power. Bourgeois always oppress the weak with their power and riches. The same is done by Erudite. Jeanine Matthews uses her intellect in dominating and oppressing the weaker factions.

On the other hand, Dauntless, Candor and Amity are considered to be proletariats as they work under the dominant faction. Amity faction is described as a faction that lives in the village part of the city with huge farms and cracked roads. They all worked at farms and spent their days picking up the fruits and vegetables for the other factions. Dauntless is also termed as proletariat because they worked under Erudite and followed the orders

given by Jeanine. Even though Dauntless faction works as police in the society and has got skills in physical combat despite of it, they got manipulated by Erudite. Each faction has its distinguishable trait that builds their life in the society. However, all of these factions got played at the hands of Erudite as it tried to master all the factions. This shows that the factions portrayed in trilogy are the social classes fighting to get power and suppressing the weaker ones.

The above mentioned article discusses the concept of Karl Marx regarding the division of social classes in the Trilogy. The article also illustrates how capitalists exploit the proletariats. It also discusses the confrontation of dominant groups with respect to power. However, the article doesn't signify the importance of violence in subverting oppressive state authority and its detrimental effects on the well-being of humans. In the literature, I intend to fill this gap by carrying out an anarchist interpretation of Trilogy.

Another article, "Real and Metaphorical Hunger: The case of Divergent Trilogy" (2015), Portrays "hunger" in two different perspectives. Hunger is taken as the means of expressing and communicating personal and social identities (Paravano). It focuses on the association of each faction with specific kinds of food and eating habits which emphasize on their particular kind of features and traits. Food plays a vital role as the factionless are devoid of food and thus live in poverty and hunger. These two types of hunger help in mapping out the personalities of characters and their identities as single individual or as group. The protagonist, Tris' stomach is symbolized as the digester of feelings as well as regulator of her emotional health. Her perception of world is intertwined with food and eating habits (124). The description of meals introduces the reader to the faction system. The plain and simple food eaten in abnegation faction depicts the selfless attitude of its people. The food eaten in dauntless perfectly embodies rebellion. The junk food is symbolized as the violation of rules of healthy nutrition. Another peculiarity is the consumption of Alcohol. Erudite faction's hunger is not only for food but for the information as well. They perceive food in metaphorical terms as food for thought but also in scientific concern as they experiment on the food. Then Amity faction grows food in green houses, deals with the distribution of food in other factions. Despite of distributing food and interacting with other factions, their stance on war or dispute is

always neutral. The importance of symbolic value of apple trees is very complex and conflicting. At one end, it represents the fruit of forbidden tree, the tree of knowledge thus reinforcing the idea of Amity collaborating with Erudite. It also implies the concept of apple perceived as a metaphor for the gift of greeting prevalent in Chinese. In this regard, food is taken for metaphorical as well as for literal hunger. The real hunger that Faction-less have experienced for decades is to be regarded as outcasts worthy of nothing, neither attention nor food. Abnegation takes care of their well-being by providing them with food. The metaphorical hunger is observed in Erudite faction which makes them power hungry. Then metaphorical hunger can be seen in Faction-less which makes them thirsty for blood. In this trilogy, food is taken as a cultural metaphor which turns out to be an extraordinary means of self-representation. Hunger also effects character's choices and guides their actions. The death of Tris also symbolizes that one should never surrender and should always be hungry for life (134).

In this article, "Real and Metaphorical Hunger: The case of Divergent Trilogy" (2015), Paravano discusses hunger in two different perspectives. Metaphorical hunger which can be seen in dominant and power hungry group, guides their actions and affects their choices. However, the article doesn't explore the outcomes of power hunger of one group and how faction less overthrow the oppressive authority exercised by the dominant faction. My research also explains that the ones who are subjected to repressive rule, eventually become the leaders of tenacious resistance against authoritarian structures.

Similarly in another article, "Societies of Control in Young Adult Literature: The Panoptic world of Veronica Roth's Trilogy Divergent" (2015), equates the idea of containment in Veronica Roth's Divergent (2011), Insurgent (2012), and Allegiant (2013), with Foucault's idea of panopticism. The trilogy draws in with personality and potential inquiries that are of concern for young readers. Apparently, it proposes radical arrangements, while actually it holds layers of reconnaissance and control that pulverize any endeavors for change. Perusing the set of three from Foucauldian focal point exhibits how nobody can escape from the prison-with-prison world it offers. The paper outlines how the set of three closer views the ruinous ramifications for any type of defiance to the authoritarian what's more, panoptic guideline of the administration using dread interests

and punishment. Subsequently, as a young adult content, the set of three speaks to a harsh ideological plan that fortifies certain social request and personality on its characters. The trilogy proposes a culture of surveillance and a panoptic view from which there is no escape. According to Foucault, panopticism presents any modes of intervention of power implemented on the specific department of society. Those people are kept into an enclosure thus reinforcing culture of surveillance. Till the end it has been observed that characters are categorized and subcategorized labeling allows erudite to develop serums to control and modify the behaviors of genetic anomalies. The factions and faction-less face this endless fear. The resistance in trilogy represents and highlights its limitations as a young adult text with potential possibilities for political change. Throughout the trilogy, different panoptic techniques are employed in order to analyze with complete certainty the transformations that are obtained after using them. This article discusses the labeling of individuals identities on the basis of personality test (Eldoliefy 1-10).

The above mentioned article explains the Divergent Trilogy with Foucault's idea of Panopticism. It presents modes of intervention of power implemented in the society. The above mentioned article discusses idea of surveillance, power dynamics and individual's identities based on personality tests. However it doesn't discuss the strain of violence leading to anarchism due to the surveillance and divisions. My thesis intends to fill the gap by highlighting the role of constant scrutiny in perpetuating the violent tendencies found in Trilogy.

The article, "Dauntless" in the Face of Adversity: The Politics of Hope in Veronica Roth's Divergent Trilogy" (2015), uses Carl Jung's theory of integration and focuses on the gender representation found to be skewed favoring the male protagonist while lessening the effectiveness of female protagonist. The male protagonist is able to achieve self-realization but female protagonist could not hence compromise the responsibility of the choices given to her. Tobias is able to achieve syzygy and accomplishes a balanced unconscious sense of self but on the other hand Tris is unable to do so and thus keep on fighting with her demons till her death. Jung's theory of individualization is applied in order to investigate the components protagonist's gendered identities. Jung introduces this theory of differentiation by delineating the notion of

personal unconsciousness which is acquired during individual's lifetime. This is contradistinction of collective consciousness that consist of different archetypes. The most accessible of these archetypes is the shadow self and dimension of an individual's psyche which is a moral problem that challenges the whole ego personality which enables the individual to recognize the dark aspects of personality. The struggle of identity therefore, begins with identification of shadow and reconciliation with individual identifiers that can either lead to syzygy or an unbalanced and incomplete persona which leaves the person stranger to one's self. The real tragedy lies when Tris is unable to forgive herself for the decisions she took in inevitable circumstances. Jacob's philosophy about hope depicts that love plays as the nexus of pushing past disappointments. It also fuels human orientation towards bright future and the belief that change will happen. The death of Tris cannot be taken with the good intentions but rather to those unresolved decisions surrounding her identity. On the other hand, Tobias emerges with his demons largely in his past with a hopeful outlook about future. The element of agency is not only common but critical in Dystopian fiction. The characters are wrestling with the idea of control and how they resist it. This makes the protagonist search for their identity. The hope it conveys is limited to white, hetero normative culture and audience (Griffith 114).

Griffith discusses the struggle of identity among the characters especially in the female protagonist of novel. This struggle with individual's identifiers leads to an unbalanced and incomplete persona. The decisions of individuals are the reflection of their identities. My thesis discusses the struggles of the individuals living in a totalitarian regime.

2.3 Conclusion

The review of literature in the light of theory and the works of literature have helped me in understanding the different perspectives and angles that have been pondered upon by critics. This research aims in bringing forward a new perspective of the selected trilogy and explores the nature and outcomes of struggles that an individual of a society faces due to the imbalance of power. These consequences trigger an uprising and hence pave way towards post-anarchism. In the light of literature review, I am in a place to state

my theoretical framework and research methodology in the next chapter in order to study and critically analyze the selected texts.

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

Review of the existing literature on anarchist theory has helped me decide my theoretical framework for the ongoing study. The theoretical perspective that I have selected to apply on my primary texts is a bricolage of theoretical lenses. In this chapter, I discuss Bookchin's Anarchist perspective, Lamont's humanist perspective and Newman's post-Anarchist perspective in detail. Furthermore, in this chapter, I discuss the research methodology as well as research method employed in the upcoming analysis chapters.

Furthermore this chapter discusses the major features of Murray Bookchin's theory taken from his books *Post Scarcity Anarchism* (1971) and *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982), Saul Newman post-anarchist perspective taken from his book *The Politics of Post-Anarchism* (2010) and Corliss Lamont's theory extracted from his book *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997), which are used to analyze and achieve the main objectives stated to accomplish this research. The second part of this chapter discusses the research methodology that foregrounds the exploratory and interpretive nature of this research. In addition to it, it also describes the method and design used in this study.

3.2 Theoretical Framework

This research is positioned on the following theoretical assumptions of Murray Bookchin, Saul Newman and Corliss Lamont who were notable anarchist, post-anarchist and humanist respectively of their time. It is delimited to the following theoretical assumptions of Murray Bookchin's, Saul Newman and Corliss Lamont's theories.

Bookchin's concept of Anarchism as developed in his book *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971), Saul Newman's stance on post-anarchism as described in his book *The politics of post-anarchism* (2010) and Corliss Lamont's views on Humanism as discussed in his book, *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997), form the theoretical framework of this inquiry. Murray Bookchin's book, *The*

Ecology of Freedom (1982), focuses on the causes of hierarchal domination and the elements of freedom in a society. He discusses the factors that help in “domination of human by human” (Bookchin, *The Ecology of Freedom* 1). Human beings have a never ending thirst for power and are always eager to gain control for the purpose of dominating their subordinates. In other words, one dominant group exercises social repression in order to maintain unchallenged authority over the other groups of the society. Bookchin theorizes in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971) that the origin of such power lies in the “commodity nature of man under capitalism, a quality that is almost automatically transferred to the organized group—and which the group, in turn, reinforces on its members” (Bookchin, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* 69). They exercise power to enforce their control and might over the people who are dependent on them. The very idea of Freedom and liberation always entice humans since humans can never be confined for a long time and they try to find a way out of that imprisonment. Humans have a right to attain social freedom through any means possible, irrespective of the pathway used to achieve it. I have incorporated Murray Bookchin’s theory, as cited above, to analyze the ways through which one group establishes its dominion over the other group in the selected works of fiction. Furthermore, in the light of above mentioned statements, I have examined the means through which the oppressive group gets strengthened and cause chaos in the society. While analyzing the texts through Anarchist perspective, I have investigated the role of government in fueling violence and destruction in the society through the use of state machinery for their own personal benefit which in turn proves to be detrimental for the socio-political structure of the society. One needs to critically analyze the reasons that trigger the perpetration of violence against the ruling group of the society.

A corresponding theory to Bookchin, proposed by the American socialist philosopher, Corliss Lamont, argues that Humanism is a philosophy, a guiding principle of which is promotion of welfare, progress and happiness of all humanity in this one and only life (xiv). Humanism is the philosophy that endorses the betterment of all mankind and is concerned with its well-being. A Humanist’s top most priority is to attain freedom of all types for the mankind. Humanism is also described as an ideology of which “man is the center and sanction” (12). Man can either become a source of salvation or a dictatorial

being who puts restrictions on fellow humans just for the sake of exercising his control and power.

Besides the theoretical perspectives of Bookchin and Lamont, the third theoretical aspect is post-anarchism proposed by Saul Newman, a post-anarchist thinker. He explains that post-anarchism is not the term that leaves anarchism behind but rather works on the same change but by remaining in the given ethical societal limits (Newman 5).

In order to explain Bookchin Anarchist theory that I have applied on my primary texts, I would explain his ideas scattered across his two aforementioned works. Firstly I am going to explain his anarchist perspective as theorized in his book *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982). After it, I am going to explain his view of Anarchism in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971).

In *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) Bookchin takes up the stance that the ruling class has a more privileged social stratum and is more likely to exploit the less privileged classes of people. These exploitations create an imbalance in the social structure of society thus leading to formulation of hierarchies. The divisions within the society build an aura of supremacy of one class over the other that further leads to the ruling class having hegemony over society in general. He criticizes that social freedom may never be achieved as the society can never get free of domination and trammels of hierarchy.

According to Bookchin, the organic societies get disbanded into social classes and other small groups unpredictably and shift back and forth. He is of the view that hierarchies are formed as a result of such imbalanced social relations and economic exploitation (74). Hierarchical structures impose its domination and control through its institutions. When a society undergoes hierarchical differentiation, it leads to subjugation and oppression of general masses. Therefore, the oppressed groups master the art of war and plunder for their survival. In this research, I have explored the need to rebel that establishes the necessary conditions required for the social life to progress thus subverting the domination of a particular group. Even though rebellion can help in subverting the domination yet it can be anti-humanist in nature as it targets human life without any reservations.

Hierarchies are formed to ensure maintenance of order in a society. Human social hierarchies are reinforced by justifying the command and control of man or woman to be the inherent characteristics of the natural order (Bookchin 27). Man exercises his control over the environment and all the voluntary behavior and actions involve choice of man. The involuntary behavior can be brought forth with the environment's signs and cues. The analogy between hierarchies or groups and society is according to which our visions of nature are shaped. It also depends upon the man's self-serving social interest. Hierarchical structures bring forth the idea of domination and submission which is created by human beings but it is not fixed to one context. Hierarchy is guided by social order that is seen beyond individual interaction and inherent patterns of human behavior. However, these hierarchies not only form the basis of emergence of power domination but may sometimes lay the foundations of struggle for freedom as well.

Bookchin in his book *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982), voices his opinion that mastery of one human by another has eroded selfhood from humans. It has taken the form of repression and oppression resulting in the development of civilizations without the basic principles of humanity. The notion of man's domination results in usurpation of social administration and alteration of people's attitude towards each other (43). In this way, this proves to be the biggest hurdle in social development of humanity as ascendancy enslaves human minds in the shackles of subjugation.

Bookchin in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971), theorizes about the basic fundamental freedom that a society must offer to its inhabitants. The word post-scarcity essentially means more than a mere profusion of the means of living; it emphatically includes the quality of life that these means sustain. The psyche of an individual and his relationships with others in a community must completely manifest the liberty, security and freedom of self-expression that this profusion offers to an individual (13).

Bookchin credits the transcending of all the splits of the past to the occurrence of a revolution (11). This social revolution can help in reconstruction of the social values thereby making it possible for man to lead a better life than before. The authority that should be exercised on man is of nature only and all other forms of authority that undermine human freedom and dignity should be discarded.

Bookchin expresses the notion of dialectical irony, stating that poison is also its own antidote (14). The technology made and created for salvation and self-preservation is the one that ultimately causes destruction. Freedom can only be attained by going through an agonizing struggle of self-liberation. Bookchin believes that the system is in a way conspiring against itself. Hegel also elicits this point in another context by saying “The struggle is too late; and every means taken makes the disease worse” (14)

Bookchin takes up the stance that physical and civil freedom is the birthright of every human and all the resources in a society exist to promote social equality. Under these circumstances, nothing can be more criminal and appalling than subjugation (17). This inequality becomes a cause of various disruptions in the society. He also views anarchism as a stirring of social unconsciousness that reaches back under different names to the initial struggles of humanity against domination and authority (21).

Bookchin in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971) argues that imbalanced social and cultural system sows seeds of insecurity in the minds of individuals inhabiting that society. This insecurity and fear is further strengthened by the repressive and despotic limits instituted by an exploitative and intimidating class system (13). He further asserts that under such conditions, nothing can act more oppressive than privilege as the deepest recesses of a privileged and socially favored person’s psyche become fair game for exploitative, authoritarian and dictatorial tendencies of human nature (14). Hence, it is not only justice that is being demanded by the underprivileged classes of the society but rather freedom from this domination as well (17)

Murray Bookchin critically views the splits among human community, which must be explored in order to find the reasons of cleavages that separated humanity from nature and caused clefts within human society (42). The great historic splits that have destroyed early organic societies, also made man drift away from his true nature and divided man from man. Human beings are always power hungry and this trait can provoke opposition among different groups of society. Bookchin analyzes those reasons that lead to destruction and alienation in a society. He also examines the role of humanism in restoring peace and tranquility. Humanism helps in the allegiance of

humanity which then leads to reconstruction and restoration of social beliefs in a community.

Bookchin explicates in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971) Bakunin stance about the hierarchical societies. He states that these societies are believed to be “Historically necessary evil”. The main reason remains that institutions have lost their morality thus leading to immorality. The dissolution of such societies occurs with the social revolution that brings forth a society which transcends all the splits of the past. This helps in remaking of the society structure. Anarchist perspective also helps in the reconstruction of society, a society free of domination and authority.

Bookchin theorizes in his book that each and every attempt of capitalistic social structures to exploit and subdue the individuals and the environment, natural as well as social has some serious catastrophic consequences (13). As a result, all the means these structures employ to ensure their self-preservation ultimately seeds their destruction too (14). Therefore, Bookchin claims that in order to replace such tyrannical social system we need not only a class-free society as proposed by socialism but also a non-oppressive heaven as envisioned by anarchism (16).

Bookchin also argues that Anarchism is scientifically vindicated and presented as the only possible alternative to the threatening ecological extinction (Marshall 611). Every human being has a certain predestined role in the stage of life which if suppressed would lead to ecological disturbance. The species are reduced to low abundance and they no longer significantly interact with other species. This circumstance would go in support of anarchism in the society thus assisting those groups of people facing ecological extinction.

Bookchin stresses that anarchism is not only important but extremely realistic and most importantly more relevant now a days. Anarchists emphasize on a balanced community; a face-to-face democracy and humanistic technology that is not only practical but is preconditioned to human survival. Bookchin is inspired by the Rabelais, Charles Fourier and William Morris works who offer vision to a liberated society and stress upon sensuousness and creativity (604).

A differing view to Bookchin's vision of anarchism as anti-politics is the concept of post-anarchism examined and explored by Saul Newman in his book *The Politics of Post-Anarchism* (2010) in which he terms post-anarchism as a politics that is conceived outside of, and in opposition to the state (4)

Post-Anarchism as theorized by Saul Newman in his book *The Politics of Post-Anarchism* (2010) is not a contravention or a movement beyond the essentials of Anarchism; it does not completely disengage from anarchism but instead works within its sphere. It transforms the limits and "modifies the discursive field of anarchism without actually abandoning it" (5). Post-anarchism endorses the anti-authoritarianism goal set by the society but within the confinement of set limits. It is "a moment beyond anarchism" that encompasses both the anti-political and political approaches. Post-anarchism represents a limitless horizon which, on the one hand, accepts the anti-political utopian desire, but at the same time, also embodies an integral limit that talks about a certain dimension of politics (70).

Newman proposes that post anarchism encompasses both the moment of utopia (but within the system) and the moment of ethics. He claims that some utopian elements whether acknowledged or not are always an essential part of any type of radical politics. He further asserts that the importance of imagining an alternative to the current order is not to lay down a precise program for the future but rather to provide a point of alterity or exteriority as a way of interrogating the limits of this order, where alterity is an alternate mode, while exteriority may depend on exterior elements to achieve a post-anarchist realm. In other words, utopia should be thought upon in terms of actions in the immediate sense of creating alternatives within the present, at localized points, rather than waiting for the revolution.

Newman argues that while anarchism points to transcendence of the current authority or order, it cannot be a complete escape from it. It must involve an encounter with its limits, and this is where the role of politics comes in. He further explains that a transcendence of power involves an active engagement with power, not an avoidance of it and that realization of freedom require elaboration of new practices of freedom within the context of power relations.

Bookchin seconds Kropotkin's view about nature as the basis for objective ethics. Nature serves as the medium which enables the drawing of moral lessons from its ways. Nature also serves the purpose of providing grounds for human's eternal struggle for freedom. Corliss Lamont also advocates human freedom by opposing to all universal theories which include determinism, fatalism or predestination and implies the faith that human beings while conditioned with past, ought to practice freedom of choice and action while remaining within the given objective limits thereby making them the shapers of their own destiny (14). It also acts as a counter narrative giving humanism an upper hand in building and reshaping human destiny. Humans have been given the choice to make decisions and take stand for others thus freeing them from tyranny and oppression. Human beings can, at one end, use knowledge destructively for their own personal gain and at the same time can become the saviors of humanity.

The ethical aim of humanism as described in *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997) is the wellbeing of all humankind. This can only be attained by relying on the method of reason, science, democracy and love. Science helps in building a more stable foundation for faith. However, it seeks fulfillment of humanist philosophy by finding happiness in this world. Humanism is said to be the statement of belief for all the human beings to live a happy, contented and useful life. It helps in achieving this narrative by appreciating logic and recognizing the emotional side of human beings.

There are few central propositions in the humanist philosophy that help in understanding the real essence of the philosophy. Humanism believes in the basic nature of reality regarding universe and nature as a constantly changing system. He further believes that human beings are the revolutionary product of nature thus giving more importance to mind over any other thing. He believes that man has got the potential to solve any problem that might come to the forefront with the help of his mind. Man has to rely on scientific approach in order to solve his own problems. Reason and courage are primarily helpful in difficult situations. This makes humans shapers of their own fate and destiny as they completely rely on freedom of their creative choice and action.

Another important proposition of humanism is about believing in ethics and morality and taking stand for one another when the circumstances get tough. Humanism

has always given more importance to humankind irrespective of race, nation and religion. This makes a person a morally upright human being thus making him more inclined towards contributing for the welfare of the community. Humanism makes a person set up ideals to serve human kind as one of the ultimate goals. In this way, man is able to work on his self-development as well as attain a harmonious life.

Humanism can also be explained as a philosophy that promotes and supports the idea of a human working for the betterment and the happiness of fellow humans, within the laws of nature. Humanism is an ideology that emphasizes on the eternal thirst of human beings to find a significant meaning of their existence and to form a clearly defined grid of reliable methods that would help them in seeking solutions of their problems (Lamont 3). This many faceted philosophy is implicitly reflected in the actions of those selfless individuals who work for the greater good thus acting as a guiding torch for them. Humanism helps in setting free the emotions of man which aids him in taking wise and rational decisions in life. The concept of Humanism assists the man in understanding the fundamental nature of reality of the universe and man's responsibility towards it. It also helps him in accepting nature as the totality of being (13).

Humanism teaches humanity a selfless concern for the wellbeing of others. It rejects this idea that human beings are moved by only self-interest. It shows a pure concern and devotion towards the betterment of human beings. In my study, I am going to incorporate humanistic perspective as discussed above, to analyze the ways in which one human being takes stand for the others. I am going to incorporate Corliss Lamont's perspective that man is the shaper of his own destiny. Human beings can achieve their goals only if they remain persistent and focused on their strengths.

Althusser's theory of ideological state apparatuses also supports the theoretical framework of this study and may be employed occasionally to analyze the texts. Althusser's theory consists of two apparatuses; ideological state apparatus which functions ideologically (244) and includes institutions such as educational, religious, family, legal, political (242). On the other hand, repressive state apparatus "functions by violence" (Althusser 243). It includes institutions such as government, administration, the army, and police.

The above mentioned theories go hand in hand in understanding the actions done by human beings when there is anarchy and chaos.

3.3 Research Methodology

The research Methodology is “the approach taken to the research design as a whole in relation to reaching answers to the research question(s)” as explained by Elizabeth Jackson (Jackson 55). Research methodology is a comprehensive design which is followed by the researcher throughout his thesis in order to provide evidence for the posited knowledge that the research constructs. Research methodology basically chalks out the course and path taken by the researcher in order to find answers of the set questions posed in the beginning of research. This is a qualitative inquiry and uses interpretative research method of textual analysis. I have chosen anarchist, humanist, and post-anarchist lens to interpret the selected fiction. These theoretical lenses help me in constructing the meaning of Veronica Roth’s texts. I have tried to construct and search for answers to my research questions by applying anarchist, humanist, and post-anarchist themes and strains in the selected fiction.

3.4 Research Method

“Research methods explain how you carry out your research” and the method explains the kind of research a person wants to conduct (Griffin 5). They provide us with the tools to study the over-arching research methodology that is selected. I have chosen textual analysis as my research method to investigate Veronica Roth’s fiction in the light of anarchist, humanist, post-anarchist perspectives. This method helps in looking closely at the use of violence to challenge the authoritative structure of the society.

This study suits the qualitative nature as the findings of this study cannot be generalized to the other researches. Therefore, I try to draw an objective interpretation of the inlaid meaning of the selected texts. This helps in understanding the dynamics of violence and subjugation portrayed in the texts in a better way. I try to find an objective interpretation of the texts by not getting affected by affected fallacy.

This research is investigative and interpretive in nature. The exploratory research is an attempt to discover something new and unique from the works being analyzed. It is

also defined as the soul of good research (Swedberg 2). Exploration and inductive reasoning are important in order to uncover new ideas and observations. Interpretive research aims to uncover meanings towards better understanding. It is also a method to study human actions (Donna E Alverman). This research is studied under the research method of qualitative textual analysis. Textual analysis is an indispensable tool that focuses on text and seeks to understand the inscription of culture (Belsey 157-164). It also benefits in interpreting various outlooks through interpretive means. It develops a link between a reader and a text. Textual analysis is incorporated in a study in order to examine the text through variety of mediums. It is used to understand the interaction of individuals with other institutions with the help of text (Smith 1-2).

Catherine Belsey in her essay “Textual Analysis as a research Method” in Gabriele Griffin’s book, *Research Methods For English Studies* (2005) states “Textual Analysis as a research method involves a close encounter with the work itself, an examination of details without bringing to them more suppositions than we can help” (Griffin 160). The text is supporting what a person is trying to analyze. She is also of the view that “there is no such thing as ‘pure’ reading; interpretation always involves extra textual knowledge that constitutes a culture, some of it personal, a matter of one’s own interest or biography; and some of it is derived from secondary sources” (Griffin 163-164). Hence, these texts have helped me in finding the space for the signification of meaning and in that space I have chosen Anarchist leading to post-anarchist and Humanist perspective to support my analysis. The text has several meaning thus only one meaning can never be inferred. So the interpretation drawn by my subjective understanding may not be applied to other studies.

3.5 Conclusion

I have discussed my theoretical framework in this chapter that is going to be incorporated in the next chapter. The theoretical framework consists of Murray Bookchin as explained in his works *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971), Saul Newman perspective regarding post-anarchism as explained in his book *The Politics of Post-Anarchism* (2010) and Corliss Lamont perspective regarding *The Philosophy of Humanism* (1997). The research methodology followed in this study is

qualitative in nature due to interpretive nature of research. I have used textual analysis as the method of research. I have incorporated research methodology and theoretical framework in the analysis of my primary texts. I have carried out an Anarchist leading to post-anarchist and Humanist study of the selected fiction in the forthcoming chapter.

CHAPTER 4

FORMS OF CHOICES: TRANSFORMING, DESTROYING, AND REDEEMING

4.1 Introduction

“Nihilism is a natural consequence of a culture (or civilization) ruled and regulated by categories that mask manipulation, mastery and domination of peoples and nature.”

(West)

The essence of the above quoted words follows the idea of subjection of a common man by those in a position of authority and charge and its destructive consequences. The present position of society in contemporary world needs to be broadened by rich perspective in order to avoid the cataclysmic decline of values, morals and ideologies. The divergent trilogy depicts that state plays a major role in perpetuating violence in the society. This violence leads to the establishment of the post-anarchist vision in the minds of characters. In this study, I investigate how certain elements of the society portrayed in the trilogy use organized violence to attain and maintain autonomous power over the people and then subsequently, how individuals have to adopt similar strategies to subvert the authority in order to challenge the dominance of hegemonic group. Furthermore, the use of violence to eliminate hierarchical power relations manifested as state apparatus and its constructive as well as destructive outcomes requires critical examination because every violent crime committed in a given society has serious consequences for the state and society's well-being.

Murray Bookchin is seen contributing a lot to this field and hence has put forth his perspective of power domination and human nature. In his books *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) and *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* (1971), he explores the idea of domination of man by man and argues that a true movement for change must integrate ecological and utopian ideas with a libertarian theory of society. He pens down the necessary forms a reconstituted society may take but fails to analyze the ways to get there and the effects these ways or methods have on the psychological as well as social, political, and scientific progression of state subjects. Therefore, my research mainly focuses first on the

examination of the dynamic ways of surveillance and domination that on one hand aids in the systematic exercise of power and detrimentally affects the thought process of individuals, coercing them into voluntary servitude, but on the other hand, also paves way for the emergence of insurgency and anarchy. Secondly, I also investigate how instances of violence meant to threaten state dominance may appear beneficial in achieving the anarchist goal of abolition of authority but at the same time, may also prove counter-productive to the very structure of the society it claims to preserve. Thirdly, I explore how the deleterious effects of anarchist movement steer the society and its inhabitants to the post-anarchist realization of integrating change through sensible and ethical means. Textual analysis section has been divided into three chapters based on chain of events as appearing in the selected trilogy. In the first chapter, surveillance and domination can be seen thus resulting in objective violence and anarchy. In the second chapter, purpose and outcome of violence is studied that prompts self-realisation against system of factions. In the third chapter, constructive and destructive impacts of anarchy can be seen that steers the society towards a post-anarchist realisation of bringing a lasting change through non-destructive means.

4.2 What Makes You Different Makes You Dangerous: A Textual Analysis of *Divergent*

“I think it only makes sense to seek out and identify structures of authority, hierarchy, and domination in every aspect of life, and to challenge them; unless a justification for them can be given, they are illegitimate, and should be dismantled, to increase the scope of human freedom” (Chomsky, Notable Quotes).

The above-mentioned statement of Noam Chomsky depicts not only the identification of domination but also its dismantling to provide a sustainable society that provides freedom to the individuals. Domination of humans by humans is not a new concept but rather has flared up in different bursts of sparks many a time in the history of humanity. It stems from the general tendency of human nature to seize control and subdue his fellow beings whenever such an opportunity presents itself. This chapter largely deals with the different ways employed to dominate and hegemonize a certain group of people and the impacts of such acts of oppression on the precipitation of an

insurgency in the society. In line with my intention stated above, I would like to discuss *Divergent* (2011) under the following headings.

- State as a hegemon
- Eric and Jeanine, agents of extortion
- An Abrupt change in political Alliance of the city
- Man, an evolutionary product of nature

Herein lays an anarchist and humanist analysis that locates as well as explores the nature and outcomes of struggles that an individual of a society faces as a result of imbalance of social structure due to oppression. It also focuses on the counterbalancing humanistic elements that work into the narrative of texts.

4.3 State as a Hegemon

The society mentioned in the text, is set in a post-apocalyptic Chicago which has gone through a war in the recent past. This war has divided the society into five factions, each dedicated to a dominant virtue, to prevent any recurrence of the possibility of war. These factions are thought to be perfect in their own perspectives but the truth remains that excess of anything ultimately causes its own destruction as seen in the selected text. The people of this society are confined in a panoptic environment, as a social experiment, by a Bureau of Genetic Welfare and are not consciously aware of any such surveillance. *Divergent* (2011), therefore, depicts the Bureau as a hegemonic state apparatus that systematically uses force, through the system of factions, to control the people and eradicate any social and political disagreement in society. Paul Mclaughlin, in his book *Anarchism and Authority* (2007), points out that the state enjoys complete liberty to exercise violence and domination in the following lines:

While the state is distinguished from social powers, like the mafia by its authoritative claims and from other politics by the precise nature of these claims, the state is ultimately an instrument of violence, like the mafia itself. (76)

Bakunin is of similar view that the state means coercion, domination by means of coercion, camouflaged if possible but unceremonious and overt if need be. In order to maintain its control, the state employs the use of different vicious strategies by means of its institutions which ultimately results in the exchange of violence between non-state actors and working institutions. As a consequence, Institutions lose their morality thus leading towards immorality. Anarchism challenges the right of state to command such authority over its subject. Thus, from an anarchist point of view, Bookchin denounces the legitimacy of state to reduce the status of its institutions and citizens to agents of violence.

In the selected trilogy, the narrative of the text brings to light, the complex working of city that focuses on the social and structural domination of man by man that is being carried out in two steps; first through conceptual means and then through concrete (material) means. It operates conceptually when the Bureau of Genetic Welfare employs Althusser's concept of ideological state apparatuses which include educational institutions, churches, family etc., to maintain its authority over the people of the society. Every individual of the society is made to believe through education that the factions are created for their own betterment and they are bound to the beliefs, customs and traditions prevalent in the society. They all are coerced into obeying the rules and regulations of their chosen faction and there is no room for defiance in this regard. "But they can't defy the norms of their faction any more than I can" (Divergent 9). Apparently, a choice is given to them to choose their own fate in the form of choosing ceremony tradition but it limits their creative approach towards life. They are forced to let certain practices dictate their whole lives and are not allowed to deviate from the set notions of the faction. Here, the text highlights, that an act of objective violence by the state overpowers the minds of its subjects and force them into voluntary servitude. The idea that the people do not have the liberty to voice their opinions against the established system and are forced to follow it even if they do not agree to it, shows their oppression at the hands of state.

In the trilogy, Beatrice, the female protagonist of the novel, reflects a character of strength and defiance that not only questions the set norms of the society but also believes in the freedom of action. She critically observes everyone around her and

especially her mother when she trims her hair and notices how she like others has completely submitted to the faction system without any reluctance. “I note how calm she looks and how focused she is. She is well practiced in the art of losing herself. I can’t say the same of myself” (Divergent 1). Beatrice believes in the idea that every human is blessed with more than just one trait and they cannot live their whole lives abiding by one trait only. The word “losing herself” is important here since it indicates the exercise of power and authority through conceptual means. In this way, the state is suppressing voices of different individuals in order to carry out its repressive operations. Also, the critical observation and questioning of Beatrice regarding the faction system is not only anarchist in nature because it challenges the state authority but also because it instigates her to play her due role in the insurgency against the system later on.

Beatrice is born in the Abnegation faction having the core belief of them before I. This faction value the virtue of selflessness over any other. Therefore, the people of faction of Abnegation are conditioned by their faction norms not to ask anything as curiosity is believed to be a kind of self-indulgence by them. “Never met a curious abnegation before”, she says, raising an eyebrow at me” (Divergent 12). Beatrice is not judged on the basis of her personality traits but rather according to the customs of her Parent faction, Abnegation. Therefore, her inquiring about something unfamiliar is looked down upon by the other factions even though inquisitiveness is a part of human nature. This signifies the dominance and control of the state over the day to day lives of its citizens. It, however, also supplements the idea that excess of anything ultimately causes its own destruction as well as this sole trait of selflessness makes Beatrice heedful of the lives of factionless and thereby, question the very foundations of the faction system.

The hegemonic state apparatus can also be seen exerting its authority and dominance in the panoptic essence of the trilogy when Beatrice’s mother trims her hair and Beatrice sneaks a look into the mirror to see her reflection, for the sake of curiosity. She is caught in the act by her mother and expects her to reprimand her for this self-indulgence as they both are members of faction of Abnegation. “It is too late to look away, but instead of scolding me, she smiles at our reflection. I frown a little. Why

doesn't she reprimand me for staring at myself?" (2). It shows her mother as a panoptic overseer who not only surveils herself but also people around her. The same can be said for Beatrice's brother Caleb who not only complies to faction norms himself but also impels his sister to do the same. Beatrice, when inquires about a report from her father at dinner table, is quickly admonished by her brother.

I look up. "A report?" Caleb gives me a warning look. We aren't supposed to speak at the dinner table unless our parents ask us a direct question, and they usually don't. I look across the table at Caleb who has this look of disapproval in his eyes. (Divergent 35)

Here, social domination of man by man can be seen functioning materially as Beatrice's mother and brother act as corporeal objects that enforce obedience from Beatrice. In order to free herself from this coercion, Beatrice switches her faction from Abnegation to Dauntless. However, this transfer still does not provide her with the freedom and liberty she yearned for while being the part of faction of Abnegation. All this gives the impression that the society as depicted in divergent trilogy is basically a panoptic world which exercises its dominance and authority upon the inhabitants of the society in an organized and systematic manner through the employment of totalitarian regime and surveillance. This also depicts the dependence of protagonist over the system of factions to grant her with freedom which is the basic right of every individual. She is twined with the societal norms that prove to be the biggest hurdle in her social development. Thus, the novel focuses on Beatrice's journey and struggle from being used as a pawn in maintaining state hegemony to becoming the most valuable asset in achieving freedom. As the narrative progresses, she is seen to be doing this by leading revolutionaries and instilling hope of non-oppressive rule. Bookchin also advocates this idea of freedom that it can only be achieved by going through an agonizing struggle of self-liberation.

In the trilogy, the division of society into factions has accustomed people to believe that they cannot possess more than one quality but rather only those traits that form the basis of their faction. The above mentioned statement is in a direct contradiction to the fact that human nature consists of many traits, few dominant and few insignificant but all of the traits play a vital role in building up the personality of a person. In this way,

the text depicts that leading a life based on just one dominant trait separates humanity from its true nature thus creating an imbalance in the society. Bookchin also explicates this idea and discusses in his book about organic societies splitting into smaller groups that shift back and forth. He reasons that such cleavages and splits results in one group/class superseding another which ultimately forms the basis of an insurgency. Thus, from an anarchist point of view, tyrannical social system needs to be replaced with not only a class free society but also, at the same time; a non-oppressive heaven should be envisioned.

Another instance shows how faction system makes an individual self-centered and creates splits in the families and eventually in the society. Caleb uses words like “family” and “ourselves” to carry out his agenda. However after fulfilling his goal, he discards that ideology. People use different words to fulfill their political agenda. This comes in the anchoring of ideology. ‘We should think of our family’. There is an edge to his voice. ‘But we must think of ourselves” (Divergent 35). His words act as ISA in a state apparatus. Hence, this ideological state apparatus go hand in glove with repressive state apparatus to augment the dominion of state.

In the selected novel, every sixteen year old has to choose one faction for their entire life. It is like selecting a new home which seems exciting at the moment but this independence may lead to emergence of splits and slowly separate humanity from its true nature as stated by Bookchin. The division of people in different factions leads to one faction having supremacy over the rest of the society. In this way, social freedom can never be achieved and the society gets into the shackles of hierarchy. The presence of factions in the society also augments the urge of getting more power and it leads to the exploitation and oppression of people who are dependent on them.

The protagonist of the novel takes the aptitude test which is going to tell her which faction she will best fit in but at the same time she gets apprehensive about her test’s result as she is not completely sure of the test’s reliability and capability of showing her the faction she is meant for. She is also aware of the fact that the result of the test is going to shape her future irrespective of her uncertainty about it as those who dare to

rebel against the set norms are casted away into exile. This fear of banishment makes Beatrice dread the test's outcomes.

What if they tell me that I am not cut out for any faction? I would have to live on the streets, with the faction less. I can't do that. To live faction less is not just to live in poverty and discomfort; it is to live divorced from the society, separated from the most important thing in life: community. (Divergent 20)

Beatrice cannot abandon the state of Chicago city and is caged into it. She seeks for the freedom from state apparatus but the fear of getting banished from the society makes her obligated to obey the social order and norms. Even though, exclusion from the state apparatus is going to provide her freedom of decision but inclusion in state apparatus for the time being, entails her status of a respected citizen. Here, the text highlights how the hegemonic state apparatus asserts itself through the primary measure of command and the secondary measure of coercive threats as voiced by Paul Mclaughlin in his book *Anarchism and Authority* (2007)

The state works primarily through authoritative utterances and when these utterances fail to secure the compliance of citizens or order more generally, the state then resorts to threats and ultimately to physical force. Such is the state's method of maintaining order or of re-establishing order when it is challenged. (76)

This instance also brings to light that how the authoritarian state apparatus ensures complete obedience from its citizens by instilling into their minds that there is no life outside of this system of factions and that any sort of rebellion from the system would bear detrimental results for their own selves. In this way, the state enjoys complete liberty of exercising dominance over its citizens.

In another instance, everyone praises Beatrice for getting a good vantage point and then capturing the flag in one of the activities designed for the initiates of Dauntless. She smartly and brilliantly uses her intelligence to find the flag and one of her fraternity members praises her by giving the reference of another faction which is known for its intellect and knowledge. "Pretty smart of you, like...Erudite smart," Marlene said."

(Divergent 155). Even though it is supposed to be a compliment but the leaders of faction of Dauntless do not consider it as one as they believe that being referred to another faction is not a tribute but rather an insult. Every faction instills in the minds of its inhabitants that their faction is the best and they should all be known only by their faction's traits. They are not given any leverage or any relaxation regarding the other traits that are also a part of their personalities. Here, Veronica Roth brings to light how the state employs its citizens to carry out its repressive operations against anybody who dares show any sign of going against the system. It also brings forth the fact that the minds of the people of society are shackled to such an extent that it stops them from using their intellect and logical sense regarding the stereotypes that are prevalent in their society.

Human's sentiments cannot be detached permanently from their souls. Even the system of society cannot make a person forget his blood relations and roots. Beatrice time and again remembers her parents even though she can't be in contact with them. Such inhumane rules detach humanity from its roots. One of the major reasons of emergence of splits in a society is the imbalanced social structure that doesn't take into account the happiness and welfare of man. Bookchin, in his book, asserts his view that such splits need to be re-examined in order to achieve social freedom. He also takes up this stance that the notion of man's domination results in usurpation of social administration and alteration of people's attitude towards each other. Beatrice knows this as a fact that she cannot have a connection with her parental faction after choosing a new faction. Her decision of choosing another faction separates her from her family and momentarily takes away the happiness from her life. "I ignore the pinch in my stomach that comes every time I think of my mother" (Divergent 120). This rule not only alienates her from the system of society but also from her roots. Even though she herself chooses a different faction yet she cannot stay completely contented with that choice. She feels nostalgic whenever she thinks of her parents, despite the strict rules of the society. She tries to act brave but in the times of need, the memories of her family are her savior. From anarchist perspective, the fact she still needs the state to grant her basic freedom shows her dependency on an all-encompassing and confining nature of state apparatus.

The people of the society are conditioned into believing that factions are created in order to ensure peaceful life which is to be lived in an organized manner. This makes Beatrice believe that a faction cannot kill its own member as the prime purpose of the whole faction system is to ensure the protection of each of its members. “The leaders of Dauntless won’t kill me. People don’t do that. Not anymore. That’s the point of all this... all the factions” (Divergent 258). The society described in the text is the utopian society where minimal crime takes place. The protagonist gets disillusioned by the state affairs which seem ideal to her. However, through an anarchist point of view, state appears to be having a complete dominion over its subjects and this locus of power is never challenged as pointed by Debra Thompson in the following words

State is a conceptual abstraction that dominates while simultaneously conjuring ideas of loyalty in its organic connection to and representation of the people and the nation as the whole. (11)

Therefore, Thomson views a state to be an abstraction and yet this abstract nature of the state needs to have an organic connection with its inhabitants.

In the novel, the hunting down and killing of divergents is again a testimony to the oppressive rule of the state apparatus and its employment of citizens to use violence against fellow citizens to perpetuate its own interest of dominancy. This state repression, according to anarchist lens, is what paves way for the development of chaos and revolt in the society. The leadership hunts down divergents to maintain their might as they believe that divergents are much more powerful, calculative and intelligent and will not conform to any rule and regulation of the society. This makes them an imminent danger for the faction system because they possess the ability to think out of the box and wouldn’t even be affected by simulations. Bookchin mentions in his book that mastery of one human over another has eroded selfhood from humans. The domination of one human over the other one could easily be seen when it comes to attainment of power and control. All the factions try to eliminate the divergents with the sole aim of ensuring the maintenance of power structures of society. Despite doing that, the ones who eventually get power hungry are none other than those who are believed to have one trait only. This clarified that thirst for power is in human nature irrespective of the traits. Power hunger is an

inherent capacity of human personality which can be triggered anytime due to the circumstances present around an individual. The ones in power tend to exercise their command and control upon the individuals in order to maintain their unchallenged authority. This separates an individual from humanity thereby leading to devastation and chaos in the society.

Thus, the state through its institutions and sometimes citizens as well exerts complete supremacy and authority over the people in both subtle and blatant forms and enjoys complete liberty of doing so. Moreover, this domination not only establishes the ground for an uprising but also fuels the thirst for authority in different individuals and institutions of the society as is evident from the selected text. This interplay of power among the institutions results in the vested interests of individuals representing these institutions such as Eric and Jeanine.

4.4 Eric and Jeanine: Agents of Extortion

Hierarchical structures are not only formed when one faction is given the responsibility to rule but can be observed within the factions too, as the urge for domination and power hunger exists in the nature of individuals. The ones who are given some power want to make sure that their orders are being followed and cannot stand anybody defying their wrong decisions even. Eric is shown as a very ruthless and powerful Dauntless leader who loves inflicting pain on others just because he possesses the authority to do it. When Tobias shows his discomfort, he is reminded by Eric that he is the one in charge. "I have the authority here, remember? Eric Says" (Divergent 161). Here, the over-bearing attitude of Eric indicates his superior positioning in the hierarchy. Eric uses oppressive methods against the new members in order to make sure that their compliance is a continued process. His violent exercise of authority through his words and actions induces complete surrender to the locus of violent authority. It also signifies superiority of Eric's authority as compared to state authority. Eric has been portrayed as the agent of extortion for the ones who are in power. Bookchin expresses his idea of "Domination of human by human" (43) which is separating humanity from its true nature. He proclaims that it has altered the attitude of human beings towards their subordinates. This urge of power has taken away empathetic and sympathetic attitude

towards others. Thus the whole society faces chaos as humanity gets separated from its true nature.

A person who becomes authoritarian and dictatorial in order to grasp power can go to any length in order to misuse it. Saving humanity never comes on his checklist rather his endless thirst for power puts the other individuals at a greater risk. For that person, even the individuals residing in that very society are solely a means towards reaching a brutally self-interested goal. Jeanine (Erudite's leader) is shown as that kind of a megalomaniacal person who would destroy anything to get her desires fulfilled. Abnegation faction in the society is given the responsibility to govern and control everything honestly but faction of Erudite plans a proper scheme in order to wipe them out. Jeanine convinces the other factions by being deceitful and overpowering to work for her. She intimidates and instills the lies about Abnegation in her own faction to such an extent that the whole faction starts hating a selfless and harmless faction of their city. "Abnegation stood in the way for her desire for power, so she found a way to eliminate it" (Divergent 432). When a person is allowed to do as he pleases it makes him more inclined towards evil that is inherent in every man. This evil destroys the fragments of humanity present in that very person thus making him a mortal threat to everyone living around him. This also affects the groups present in the society thus leading to the emergence of social stratum. This domination of one faction over the other leads to the emergence of hierarchies in their society. It also results in usurpation of already present government thus destroying social order and changing people's attitude towards each other. This breaks society into different groups heading towards anarchic situations. Hence, the use of violence against state's authority may not always turn out to be fruitful; it may become an instrument of duress and terror for the people themselves.

The text depicts how Jeanine inflicts devastation in the entire city with the use of newly created serum that acts as the weapon of mass destruction. It completely disrupts the previous established order in the city. The intelligence of faction of Erudite combined with the strength of the faction of Dauntless, according to Jeanine, forms the perfect combination to gain power and rule over the whole city. For this, she formulates such serums which completely block the thinking process of individuals injected with it thus

converting them into robots and pawns that act the way their controller wants them to act. “So now the entire faction is brain dead, obedient and trained to kill. Perfect soldiers” (Divergent 418). The Dauntless force, the protectors of the city, remains powerless in the face of rising violence, and instead become a facilitator in the perpetuation of violent acts conducted by Erudite. This exhibits the attributes of Bakunin’s ‘wild beast’ (492) necessary to destabilize the society. However, such acts of violence and domination prove to be catastrophic for both the state and its citizens alike as ordinary people become the main target or collateral damage of the said inhumanity.

Power is the element that tends to corrupt an individual at some level and absolute power corrupts an individual seeking it absolutely. It is actually the lust for more power that makes a person dominate the others. It is in human nature to exercise power on the individuals who are under him and to make them act according to his own choices. Such individuals lack empathy and humanity because they are unable to understand the pain and sufferings of the ones that are being dominated by them. They just have an urge to become most powerful even at the cost of being unscrupulous. Jeanine along with the leadership of faction of Dauntless takes over the control of the city by organizing an attack on Abnegation faction. This attack at one end kills many innocent souls but on the other hand, also helps the characters in attaining self-realization against the system of Factions. They realize that the more they are going to be confined into factions the more attacks will be staged to attain power. Even the system of faction with a government is unable to stop one faction using its knowledge for the destruction of others.

Universal surveillance is conducted to maintain a hegemony over the inhabitants of city especially the ones who are strong willed and are having more than one dominant trait are ordered to be closely monitored by Jeanine and her team members because professedly they seem to be a mortal threat to her way of running the city. “Those who refuse to accept our leadership must be closely monitored” (Divergent 432). She imposes her authority on every one because she believes that she has the right to gain power and rule the city. She is influenced by obsession, compulsion and ego. She fulfills all these features to become savage and misrepresent other factions with whom she has some conflict or feels endangered from regarding power. This behavior and attitude of Jeanine

shows her choice of dominating all others who are under her command and disposal. It hence leads to an anarchic situation where one group rebels against the other in order to free the society from tyranny. It also collapses the entire social system prevalent in a society hence leading the humanity towards chaos.

Jeanine enjoys complete authority over everyone by forcefully conforming and controlling their minds. All the people act as robots except the ones who are divergents because the serum cannot affect them at all. This is the major reason that Jeanine gets afraid of the power of divergents because they are the ones who can stand against her and can look through her pretense. The society believed them to be rebellions but they are indeed saviours as they can take a stand for anyone daringly without worrying about taboos of society. "...I am a divergent and I can't be controlled" (Divergent 442).

Jeanine's domination and inhumane behavior is quite evident in trilogy as when she finds about Tobias and Beatrice to be mentally awake, orders execution of Beatrice and insertion of high level serum in Tobias's body in order to control him. Beatrice is not even given a chance to express herself or to save herself. Without any crime, she is almost executed. Domination of one human being over the other can be extremely hostile. This is quite evident in case of faction of Erudite and half of the Dauntless faction who are in favour of ultimate power and domination. Jeanine takes Tobias with her to try a stronger serum on him. She is always on a look out for divergents and now gets a chance to observe the reaction of that serum on his brain and body. "I'm afraid you don't have much of choice in the matter, replied Jeanine lightly" (Divergent 433). In this case, Jeanine completely dismisses the law to carry out her violent operation against divergents. She intends to eliminate the divergents by killing them in cold blood without giving them any opportunity to take a stand for themselves. The police of the city also endorse Jeanine's repressive treatment towards the inhabitants of the city. This shows that the state institutions function as the most useful means to establish domination over the newly acquired territory thereby fueling the sparks of insurgency in the society.

4.5 An Abrupt Change in Political Alliance of City

The shift in city's political alliance influences the degree of violence exercised by different institutions in society. Each new government formulates its own rules and

policies that favour their agenda. Humans are known to have an eternal craving for power and authority and nothing seems to quench this thirst completely. A strong desire of attaining ultimate power and success makes a person do unforgiveable tasks as stated by William Pitt “unlimited power is apt to corrupt the minds of those who possess it” (Martin). In the novel, faction of Erudite is known to be the faction of intellectualists committed to knowledge, inquisitiveness and intelligence. Erudite’s ulterior motive is to supersede faction of Abnegation, the faction which runs the government, since it wants to gain control of the whole city. For this purpose, Erudite starts interfering in Abnegation’s field of work with the sole aim of gaining as much power as they can. Their lust for authority makes them calculative and extremely unscrupulous. In order to attain absolute power, Erudite’s leadership becomes not only selfish but also starts manipulating the other factions against their current government, so that the whole charge of the city is given to them. The leaders of Abnegation faction, however, are able to apprehend the covert meaning behind Erudite’s scheme and intrusion. When Beatrice asks her father about Erudite’s claims regarding their faction (Abnegation), he says “Because we have something they want. Valuing knowledge above all else result in a lust for power and that leads men into dark and empty places.” (Divergent 35). Power hunger never ceases rather it gets stronger with the passage of time, making man find ways to subdue others and gain the ultimate power. The effect of power is tangible as it makes a person do great things in a negative way. Erudite is known as the faction that managed knowledge for the good but their eagerness to learn more and make everyone dependent on them leads to power hunger. When one faction starts dominating the other factions for the sake of power and rule, it creates an imbalance in the social structure thus forming the hierarchies. Erudite’s rejection to the command and control of Abnegation is anarchist in nature as it portrays insurrection and subversion of institutional authority.

Each faction keeps its initiates bound to its faction only. These set of norms are inculcated into the society through ideological state apparatus. The individual’s minds are conditioned according to this ideology through education and faction’s meetings. This further widens the splits and gaps in the society and promotes power hunger and domination in the society. Every relation has a certain place in an individual’s life and violating the laws of nature results in great turmoil. Beatrice is shocked to see her mother

visiting her in Dauntless. Her mother also tells Beatrice to convey Caleb a message regarding the serums and simulations that they invent. Despite living in one society, they are detached from one another just because of the established rules of the society. Such inviolable rules are the main reason for the emergence of splits and cleavages which make a person completely go against his nature. These splits not only destroy the organic societies but also divide man from man. In the trilogy, these set rules of factions are separating the individuals from their roots thus leading to anarchic situations. This alienation is one of the prime reasons that lead to the destruction in their society. It also leads to the rise in the power of Erudite that implies its claim to authority in the state apparatus. Furthermore, it points out a challenge to uniform state dominion over its subject. From an anarchist perspective, this description of Erudite shows the complete domination of repressive state apparatus that no one dares to challenge.

Living a luxurious life has always been on the wish list of every human. People get attracted to materialistic luxuries and advantages for a better living standard. They strive hard to attain a certain position that may help in upgrading their lifestyle. The same approach is seen followed by few factions. "...I just think comfort and prosperity are not priority for abnegation, and may be they would be if the other factions were involved in our decision making". "Because giving an Erudite boy a car is much more important than giving food to factionless", I snap" (Divergent 318). The text significantly demonstrates that the rule of government rarely enjoys uniformity as it most often has to deal with the small disruptions present in the society. This self-centered and selfish approach definitely starts creating rifts and gaps in the system and becomes one of the reasons for the collapse of the system of society. Bookchin theorizes in his book that all the resources that exist in the society need to be distributed equally in order to promote social equality. If these resources are unevenly distributed, it leads to subjugation and nothing is more criminal than this domination. Another reason of subjugation and oppression is one faction superseding another in order to satisfy their social needs. This also leads to the situation of violence that arises due to power hunger. Power hunger is one of the main reasons that trigger the perpetration of violence in a society. It not only targets the groups but also becomes detrimental for the socio-political structure of society.

Erudite faction focuses on acquiring knowledge as much as they can along with having good intelligence. It focuses on those traits that help in eliminating ignorance and darkness from human minds. This faction comprises of individuals who are curious which drives them to seek knowledge. The basic philosophy behind their existence in the society is to outline those darker aspects of human mind that hinder acquisition of knowledge. However, with the passage of time, it gets involved with the attainment of power and control as well. “Erudite are as meticulous as they are manipulative, so they wouldn’t leave it up to chance” (Divergent 377). They start harbouring a strong feeling against Abnegation faction because that faction comprises of Government officials. Faction of Erudite, especially its leadership has the power to manipulate people as they can coerce anyone to fight against the other group by misleading them through knowledge. Knowledge is that power which cannot be denied by any individual in any faction and faction of Erudite exploits other factions through it as much as they can under the orders of their faction leader. They compel the people of other factions to join hands with them by giving them greedy motives that they can look up to. Eric, one of the leaders of Dauntless, acts as a pawn working on the orders and at the disposal of Jeanine. Eric acts as Jeanine’s representative to keep everything under control especially in his faction. Jeanine, Erudite’s leader, collaborates with Dauntless leaders in order to gain strength and power. She inflicts objective violence on the individuals of Abnegation faction with the help of Dauntless that acts as a repressive state apparatus. This violence and urge of domination causes a rift between factions and hence becomes one of the vital reasons for an uprising in due course. Jeanine’s overbearing behaviour towards the factions shows her superior position in the society. She masters the art of war and plunders for her domination over the other factions. This domination leads to anarchism as it represents the struggle of humanity against domination and authority as stated by Bookchin. The orderly and utopian society described in the text contains subtle forms of violence mostly originated by the political groups. These interferences and disruptions are against the law imposed by the government hence are termed as violent. The society despite operating a powerful status faces domination by different radical political groups.

Erudite’s rise to power depicts the disruptions in the systematic arrangement done by the city itself. Veronica demonstrates that the motive of Erudite’s violent contest for

the political power is to seize the control of city and to consolidate its own authority over the city of Chicago. Jeanine believes that Erudite faction is extremely intelligent and therefore, has a right to rule and get hold of power. Thus, she hatches a plan to overthrow Abnegation faction and rule the entire city all by herself. Her cold and callous behavior makes her completely detached from humanity and emotion. The rule without empathy and emotion is more like domination and ascendancy. It brings to light the complex working of faction system from the perspective of faction of Erudite. "...If Jeanine can make people believe my father and all other abnegation leaders are corrupt and awful, she has support for whatever revolution she wants to start" (Divergent 319). The point of view of Jeanine is significant as it provides us with her perspective on the use of violence against the government. The objective violence and Repressive Authority apparatus used by Jeanine puts life of others in danger along with their freedom. Jeanine presumes herself to be the ultimate authority and thus triggers a new revolution of hunting down divergents in the society that manifests worse impacts on the society and individuals.

Although the core belief system of each faction is based on kindness and welfare of the fellow inmates of the society yet it gets altered with the passage of time. "We believe in ordinary acts of bravery, in the courage that drives one person to stand up for another" (Divergent 206). Noble Dauntless believes in the kind of bravery which motivates a person to take a stand for his fellow men. It talks about that courage which acts as a force of drive in order to save another person. However, this is considered the old manifesto by people like Eric. The new manifesto, introduced by him, motivates the initiates to ruthlessly pull down another initiate in order to take his position. Peter brutally injures Edward's eye as Edward is performing quite well in the first part of training. Even the ones who know about the culprit cannot hand him over to the Dauntless leadership because the leadership is the one who instills power hunger and brutality in them. Initially, the Dauntless is formed with good intentions and right goals. However, with the passage of time, there is a change in leadership's priority and motives. This can be easily stated about faction of Erudite as well because now they pursue knowledge with greedy hearts and for authority's sake. This competition to attain power is not only dangerous but is unnecessary as well as it makes the whole community suffer. Bookchin states that every human being has a predestined role in the stage of life which if

suppressed would lead to ecological disturbances. This domination of one human over the other human may lead to fatal injuries as well. It can cause devastation in the lives of people living peacefully in the city. This domination has serious repercussions which can ruin the lives of others. The issue to note here is how aptly Roth's novel reveals the nature of statist structure of society. Erudite not only tries to follow the structurally organized ways of dominance but also adopts the techniques of repression as a tool to have control over the people.

Powerless individuals are likely to encounter material threats from powerful ones. This makes them vulnerable to social threats and becoming victims of powerful manipulation. It also signifies the momentary superiority of leadership as a locus of power as compared to city's authority. The whole faction of Dauntless, after getting injected with the serum, starts following the orders of the leadership who wants to overthrow the government in order to control the whole city. They are controlled through simulations and transmitters that have been injected in their bodies earlier. These transmitters act as the tool of surveillance and a source of mental and physical coercion. The powerful leaders completely violate social norms and have practically no compassion for the ones who are suffering. Jeanine, the master mind, works as a computer and has no emotions. She calculates the situations and works accordingly. All she cares for is the power that she wants to exercise on every individual. "...Ninety percent of dauntless are sleep walking right now. They are in simulation and they don't know what they are doing" (Divergent 452). Bookchin states in his book the Ecology of freedom that power is automatically transferred to the organized group and they in turn exercise it by reinforcing it on its members who are under them. So domination of one human over the other human is quite evident in the process of seeking more power. No one dares to question the domination of faction of Erudite because the ones with physical strength are all sleep walking, obeying the orders of Erudite without thinking. This is the domination of repressive state authority according to anarchist perspective. The repressive state institution becomes the organ of criminality and violence. Thus, the violent party takes privilege of the faction, Dauntless and soldiers in securing their political position and achieving all their set goals. In doing so, they go against the basic laws of nature that support the well-being of humans.

4.6 Man an Evolutionary Product of Nature

Man can solve any problem that comes to the forefront with the help of his mind. Lamont, through his philosophy of humanism, also demonstrates the necessity of freedom of choice and action. Beatrice and her fellow inmates of the society are conditioned into believing that their existence and identities are tied up to these created groups and hence, without this faction system, they cannot prevail. “My mother told me once that we can’t survive alone, but even if we could, we wouldn’t want to, without a faction, we have no purpose and no reason to live” (Divergent 20). They are also forced to follow the set norms of the established system, without raising any objection against them, no matter how dubious and problematic they may seem. This deprivation of the basic right of freedom of expression provokes Beatrice to question the very foundations of the faction system and ultimately play her due role in the uprising against it. This thought also becomes the source of defiance, which seemingly steers to anarchy within the state machinery. In this research, I am investigating the different ways of resistance shown to authority in both unconcealed and subtle ways.

Beatrice is seen in a state of dilemma when it comes to choosing between the rules of the city and her own apprehensions regarding it. She momentarily accepts what she has heard from her elders yet she keeps on questioning the choices that each individual has to make in order to enter into a faction. Beatrice also contemplates about the struggles and hardships faced by the factionless and believe that they also have a right to live their lives happily yet are casted out just because they could not fit into one faction. Beatrice asserts her individual agency after getting disillusioned by the state apparatus. Beatrice assertion of withholding the information of her tests from the institutions portrays her resilience and strength in going against the set norms. State dominates and conjures ideas of loyalty in the people as a whole. Hence Beatrice’s refusal in believing in such notion suggests her rebellion against the set norms of state. Here, Beatrice bears affinity to Lamont’s stance regarding humanism which he describes as a philosophy that talks about human being’s welfare and their happiness in this one and only life. Hence Beatrice’s apprehensions regarding factionless are quite on point. Human beings cannot survive alone and they need to be strongly knitted with the rest of

the members of the society in order to lead a comfortable and balanced life. The factions are not only dividing them in social classes but also making one faction go against the other. This creates rifts in the society and the society never achieves social freedom hence leading to anarchic situation.

Beatrice recalls her training time when she suffered great blows during her fights with her fraternity members. She gets bruised and battered at every inch of her body. However, she still musters up the courage to get ready for other activities. She receives blows during her practice that contuses several parts of her body yet still remains resilient in covering up for her scores. While getting ready for an activity, her friend Christina helps her in tying the laces and Beatrice thinks that every human being has infinitesimal of every faction in them. "Maybe there is some abnegation in everyone, even if they don't know it" (Divergent 120). It shows pure concern and devotion of individual working for the betterment of Human beings. Therefore, every person possesses many traits and cannot be restricted to follow one trait only. Beatrice accepts this fact that every human born alive has got empathy and love for fellow humans, a concept advocated by Corliss Lamont in his book the philosophy of humanism but in the novel, every individual is bound to the divisions of the society in which they are living and hence are unable to practice social freedom which is a basic need of human beings. The systematic society here, hints at the presence of a confining force that binds every individual of the society by keeping everything under its control and authority with the help of ideological and repressive state apparatus. This denial of a basic right plays a vital role in the development of an anarchic situation.

Every person is born with a free will and has the right to choose for himself. This basic right should not be taken away even during tyranny or subjugation. However, human beings have the tendency to dominate others and control their lives as well especially when they are in a position of doing it. Domination is a drive that enables a person to pursue power in order to feel most powerful. It also shapes the life goals of a person and triggers the behaviour that is aimed at ingratiating oneself to the authorities. A person urging and seeking dominance exerts his control over one's resources and exercises his will physically and mentally until the power is restored. Erudite faction

practically takes away the right to choose from everyone when they inject the serum in their bodies. Dauntless faction is forced to obey the orders that are given to them by the leadership hence all of them are robbed off of their free will and are not given a chance to even think before they attack on a faction. Every human has the right to freedom of action and especially free will in order to take his own decisions. Lamont also advocates freedom of choice and action for human beings. This is very much essential for a body and mind to be sound and healthy. The imposition of somebody else's decisions not only affects the mental health of a person on which it is being imposed but also its impact is seen in the environment. "Monitored- or robbed of free will" (Divergent 432). Faction of Erudite develops such serum that takes away a person's choice and blocks his thinking process thus making him follows their instructions without questioning them. This not only detaches a person from humanity but its impacts are also clearly observed in the environment. This tyrannical rule leads the individuals towards anarchic conditions. Faction of Erudite and Dauntless are given intelligence and technology for the salvation of humanity but their misuse leads to the destruction of humanity. This creates cleavages in the social system, destroying peace and harmony of the society completely.

Beatrice gets extremely upset when she comes to know that her test's results are inconclusive and she cannot just fit into one faction but rather has got traits of three factions. She believes that she has not passed the test and would more or less lead a life similar to those who are factionless. Corliss Lamont, in his book, elucidates that man is the shaper of his own destiny and has the necessary potential to choose a correct path for himself. He believes that humans have got this basic right and should not be dominated by a man made system that just further obstructs the progress of human beings.

Tobias cannot stop Jeanine from injecting the serum and neither can prevent her from harming him. He even wishes to die rather than being experimented on by Jeanine. The simulation is not only painful but the real catch is about following the orders of Jeanine which would force him to kill innocent people. Corliss Lamont advocates freedom of action and choice which should be granted to everyone otherwise the conditions and situations can become catastrophic. Human nature needs to have some freedom in order to remain sane and pacified. This controlling of minds of Dauntless

paves way towards anarchy and insurgency. Lamont is also a staunch believer of Humanism which refers to the welfare and happiness of people in this one and only life. Jeanine's plan to control everyone without their choice and will is not only sheer subjugation but also paves way towards the uprising in the society. This uprising disbands the present groups or factions in order to free every individual from a tyrannical rule. The attack caused by Jeanine divides the society making the individuals appreciate the importance of good governance. This helps them to attain self-realization about factions and their durability too. People should not be divided according to the dominant trait only as it narrow downs the working of brain hence leading towards destruction. One of the prime reasons of this domination is that only one faction knows about physical combat and the use of weapons. This makes the rest of the factions at the mercy of that faction. Similarly, the intellectual faction becomes the manipulative one and it cannot be stopped from achieving its aim and its inhumane treatment towards the rest of the individuals.

4.7 Conclusion

Divergent (2011), the first novel in the trilogy by Veronica Roth, illustrates the dominant strains of anarchy caused due to state's oppression against its subjects. The state employs systematic exercise of power through conceptual and concrete means thus shackling the minds of people. It also demonstrates the different ways in which Genetic Bureau acts as a hegemonic state apparatus. In the light of textual analysis of this novel, Erudite's gain of power by dominating others steers to anarchic conditions, but it also disrupts the very flow of social life by causing destruction and chaos. Furthermore, the novel also reveals how domination of man by man serves to be detrimental for the well beings of people thus laying foundations for insurgency.

CHAPTER 5

FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL IN A SHATTERED WORLD: A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF *INSURGENT*

5.1 Introduction

“Insurgencies are easy to make and hard to stop. Only a few ingredients need to combine to create an insurgency. The recipe is, simply, a legitimate grievance against a state, a state that refuses to compromise, a quorum of angry people, and access to weapons”
(Engel)

Richard Engel discusses insurgency to be an uprising that can be easily initiated against a government that forcefully restricts the people from practicing social freedom. The novel *Insurgent* highlights how the faction of Erudite assumes the role of Bakunin’s “wild beast” (492) in order to carry out acts of absolutism to establish and maintain its authority in society. It also brings to light that subversion of such authority necessitates the use of similar tactics of violence by the individuals as pointed out by Bakunin in his book *Statism and Anarchy* (1990) that “one needs another wild beast, no less wild but more just” (492) to defy the oppressive rule. The struggle to demolish the current socio-political structures is carried out in a clearly violent yet strategic manner, aimed to construct a new classless social order by replacing the older corrupt one. However, violence as a means of resistance also embodies in itself an existential threat to the society that it aims to reorganize by destroying the infrastructure which is its very means of survival. Therefore, using Bookchin’s perspective of employing anarchism for replacing society’s propensity for hierarchy and domination with that of democracy and freedom, I analyze the text to explore and study the dynamics of violence present in it. While discussing the use of violence as a tool of defiance by the non-state actors, I also explore and examine the negative impacts that anarchist violence entails to the general stability and well-being of the society and its inhabitants. I, therefore, would like to discuss *Insurgent* under the following headings.

- Dynamics of Power Politics
- Unbridled freedom of Factionless

5.2 Dynamics of Power Politics

The distribution of power and interests in a community are one of the main causes of dispute. The novel follows the journey of the protagonist as she tries to untangle herself and other suppressed members of the society from the trammels of subjugation one after the other. From the beginning of the novel, it is made clear that although Beatrice and some of her fellow members become successful in defying Erudite and resisting its oppression, yet their refuge in amity again puts them in a position of subjection, liable to follow the customs and rules of Amity faction. Therefore, an anarchist interpretation of her actions against all forms of authority throughout the novel is explored.

Humans have the tendency to overcome and minimize environmental and intrinsic influences and are capable of shaping their own destiny. Beatrice becomes hardy after getting a proper training and also becomes capable of choosing her own battles. She is the one who saves an entire faction from killing another one, yet when it comes to her fate; it is being decided by some other people which only infuriate her. “Never thought my fate would be in the hands of a bunch of Amity” (Insurgent 11). Corliss Lamont discusses in his book that man is the shaper of his own destiny. He can choose his own fate and has got the free will to take the decisions necessary for his own betterment. Beatrice is always taking decisions on her own but when the situation gets worse and she along with her companions takes refuge in faction of Amity, they all are compelled to obey the rules of Amity. This disturbs Beatrice greatly yet she gets bound to certain laws of that faction. This reluctance of the protagonist in itself is anarchist in nature as it lays down the foundation of her freeing the society from this authoritarian system of factions. Rudolf Rocker sheds light on the same anarchist concept of human freedom in the following lines.

For the anarchist, freedom is not an abstract philosophical concept, but the vital concrete possibility for every human being to bring to full development all the

powers, capacities and talents with which the nature has endowed him, and turn them to social account. (118)

The above quoted lines signify the link between progression of a society and human freedom. It advocates the idea that a society cannot progress unless each and every individual is provided with a nourishing environment to grow and polish his capabilities to full magnitude and is allowed to use them for the benefit of fellow beings. Bookchin, through his anarchist perspective endorses the same concept and adds that any society which fails to provide this freedom of thought and action needs to be reconstructed through whatever means necessary.

The novel reveals that the purpose of Jeanine's orchestrated attack on the faction of Abnegation (a very selfless faction that is given the opportunity to rule) is to seize the information and state apparatus, and by doing so, cement complete power and authority over the entire city of Chicago. The protagonist, Beatrice says at one place: "...I thought Jeanine attacked the Abnegation to seize power, but she attacked them to steal information-information only they knew" (Insurgent 26). This sparks the curiosity of Beatrice to know more about this information of grave importance. Even though Erudite is the faction which monitors all kinds of knowledge but this piece of knowledge is not entrusted into their hands, as it is a well-known fact that the people possessing high intelligence are more prone towards negativity and are eager to get their hands on power. Bookchin writes in his book *The Ecology of Freedom* (1982) that domination of one human over the other becomes inevitable when it comes to seeking power or those goals which are going to benefit him. This urge of getting more power becomes one of the major reasons of conflicts among the society. This domination and power hunger made the factions go against each other. It also created rifts and cleavages among the prevalent factions thus deconstructing the whole society. Thus, from anarchist point of view, it is this subjection to oppression which ultimately propagates violence in the society.

The text also illustrates how faction of Erudite employs violence to expand its control over the citizens of the city and in doing so, also becomes the real perpetuator of objective violence. The repressive state apparatus employed by faction of Erudite not only destabilizes the state authority but also proves catastrophic for the peace of state and

the people residing in city as everyone becomes the target of violence. The novel depicts that every faction is given a certain part of society to administer and control. Beatrice and Tobias take shelter in faction of Amity but are not warmly welcomed there as they belong to faction of Dauntless and a slight rift is always present between both the factions. The main reason is that both the factions work on different ideologies. “Why under the pretense of neutrality-as if such thing is possible! You have left us to die at the hands of Erudite” (Insurgent 64). Faction of Amity does not realize the gravity of matter and are neither aware of the repercussions of mind control serum. They just want to keep themselves on a neutral ground as much as they can. Murray Bookchin writes in his book that human society might have splits in it and those splits need to be addressed otherwise they would penetrate so deep that their roots then cannot be taken out of the system. The same splits can be observed in this society. The two factions are at war with each other and the remaining factions want to keep themselves as much detached as possible for the sake of peace. They do not realize that these splits are going to pave way towards anarchic situations which will eventually affect everyone. Bookchin explicates in his book Post-Scarcity Anarchism that the only authority that should be exercised on man is of nature. All other kinds of authorities that undermine human dignity and freedom should be discarded.

Another instance can be quoted which depicts the domination of human by human. Human beings are power hungry and to grasp power is an inherent quality which is present in almost every human being. It depends on the situations in which this quality surfaces and man implements his control on others. “....Ruthlessness and cold logic, it seems, can accomplish almost anything including putting one and a half faction to sleep” (Insurgent 182). The ruthlessness of faction of Dauntless combined with the logic and intelligence of faction of Erudite is a deadly combination thus accomplishing any goal that they have in their mind. Man is free to choose his own destiny and when he chooses to dominate others, he finds opportunities that lead him in that direction. The leadership of faction of Dauntless is always finding a way to overcome faction of Abnegation so that they could rule because they are stronger physically and mentally. On the other hand faction of Erudite believes that they are more intellectual and calculative thus it is their right to rule the whole city according to their mindset and rules. With this mindset, they

both complement each other. They are able to accomplish their plan of putting half of the faction under their control. This ruthlessness and logic creates and perpetuates a divide among masses. This instance bears affinity to Bookchin's stance on domination of human by human as the major reason that forms the basis of anarchy. Bookchin proclaims that anything which limits the liberty of choice further intensifies the cleavages present in the social structure and ultimately lays down strong foundations for a revolt to occur as is seen in the selected text.

Furthermore, humans can go to any extent in order to achieve their aims and to exercise their power onto the ones who are meager and weak. It gives them an inner satisfaction of achieving whatever they have wished for. It makes them appear mighty as well in front of the power less people. Humans make use of every possible means to dominate others. This opportunity is used by humans either in a controlled way or a ruthless one. Bookchin states in his book that power lies in "Commodity nature of man under capitalism- a quality that is automatically transferred to the organized group—and which the group, in turn, reinforces on its members". The group in power not only dominates the remaining groups but also exploits them according to their will. Faction of Erudite exploits faction of Dauntless by using their strength for its own benefit. When the control and sustainability of a society is disheveled, it leads to the breakage of system and thus anarchic situations are caused.

Another instance shows that the weaker ones are compelled to join hands with the stronger ones for their survival. The loyal dauntless faction opts to stay in Candor faction as the faction of Dauntless compounds are full of cameras which would give the leaders of Erudite faction an access to their activities if they shift there. This again brings forth the exertion of authority by faction of Erudite in the form of panopticism. Power is itself a very strong force that makes the rest of the people afraid and terrified from the ones who are having it. This is one of the reasons that the faction system was created for, so that the power doesn't get restricted to one faction. The factions were made for serenity and peace and for the salvation of the people as well. It was assumed that if the people are divided into different groups and assigned a purpose in those groups, it would create peace and tranquility in the society. However, when faction of Erudite makes faction of

Dauntless attack faction of Abnegation, this finishes off all kinds of harmony among the factions. The factions get divided into two poles or groups and the remaining factions are forced to take one side in order to survive. “..If Jack Kang is making deals with Erudite, we can’t stay here, says Tori. ‘So where can we go?’” (*Insurgent* 264). Jack Kang is the leader of Candor faction and gets pressurized to opt for one side. He already knows that faction of Erudite along with half of faction of Dauntless is a very strong group now and can do anything to the rest of the factions if sided against them. He is bound to take their side which leaves the loyal Dauntless in a problematic situation. Jeanine demands that all the divergents must be handed over to her for her experimentation and if Jack does not do it, his own faction is at the risk of getting killed. He has no other option but to accept the domination and tyranny of Jeanine. This domination establishes hierarchies in the society as faction of Erudite tries to strategize violence against the city. This shows how dominant faction uses the tool of coercion and objective violence to further marginalize and subjugate the individuals especially the unprivileged group of factionless.

Corliss Lamont writes in his book that every individual has the right to choose and is known to be the shaper of his own destiny. Every individual is responsible for the actions going around him. Jack Kang, the leader of Faction of Candor, is too weak to fight back with Jeanine and her formed group and is more concerned for the well-being of his own faction thus he accepts faction of Erudite as the dominant faction for the benefit of his own faction. He is a politically powerless member of society and faces repression at the hands of Erudite because of their high hierarchical positions, as Tory says: “...Well, he is defeated, I think. Because he was too weak to fight back” (*Insurgent* 269). Every faction is stronger in its own way but it takes a lot of courage to stand up for each other rather than against each other. Jack Kang is vulnerable thus Jeanine takes advantage of it. She kills few Candor inhabitants and threatens to do the same to the rest of them. This repressive treatment of faction of Erudite fills Kang with humiliation and feeling of loss. In the society, there is no fixed authority to stop the violence and it indicates the duplicity of law where there is no check and balance and violence perpetuated by dominant faction is considered acceptable. The text also illustrates the two-faced role of Bureau of Genetic Welfare who doesn’t intervene to stop the killings.

They even let faction of Erudite function as Panopticon which enables Erudite to exercise their power and control through it.

Through her novels, Roth illustrates the all-encompassing effect of state repression on an individual through the exploitation of person's traits by the political elite of the city. One such example is faction of Erudite exploiting the remaining faction of Dauntless by asking them to hand over the divergent individuals. Otherwise, they would kill every member of Dauntless by activating the transmitters that were injected in their systems earlier. Bookchin, in his book, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism*, condemns such acts of repression and maintains that "nothing is more criminal and appalling than subjugation" (17). Thus, an anarchist perspective of his theory denounces all forms of authority and suggests its subversion through all means possible.

Excess Knowledge makes faction of Erudite act like machines that feels no empathy towards others. For faction of Erudite now, the only thing that matters is getting the results of the tests that they want to perform on Divergents. They do not realize that this excess technology and the urge to have things according to their way are not only toxic but is also becoming the reason for the destruction of their own kind. Faction of Erudite believes that they are doing all of it for a better future which would have people like Jeanine in it who are devoid of emotions and empathy. "No matter where I stand, I'll still think mind controlling an entire city of people is evil" (Insurgent 368). In the above quoted line, Beatrice tries to convince her brother about the misuse of power and using mind control serums on people and snatching away their own will is extremely evil and dominating on Jeanine's part. This type of domination is explained by Bookchin that man tends to subjugate others and controls them in order to dominate them thereby extending the already present rifts in the society. Knowledge if not used constructively brings devastation to a society. Erudite claims to have intellect and intelligence far more than anyone in the society and uses the same calculations against the human race in order to achieve their set aims. This is in direct contradiction to Lamont's theory of humanism that says that every individual has been bestowed with some stronger traits in their personalities and they need to use those traits for the betterment of humanity in order to spread peace and harmony.

Dominating humans is an innate trait found in almost everyone who is given some power. Even if one tyrant is taken down, the will to dominate exists in the ones who are handed the government to rule. Intelligence among intelligent people is considered the highest virtue thus they believe it is their right to manage everything and that all the major decisions must be taken according to their consent. They believe they can influence others the way they please because they have the facts and they know better than anyone. Intelligence makes a person power hungry and manipulative to such an extent that they force people to kill others without thinking. The deadliest way to dominate is by killing someone who even doesn't know why he is being killed and the ones who are doing it aren't aware of their actions as well. "Don't you remember what they did to us? Put our minds under a simulation and forced us to shoot people without even knowing it? Murdered every single Abnegation leader?" (Insurgent 422). The text illustrates the dehumanized killings of individuals of society. These individuals were considered to be having an unprivileged socio-economic status despite being the members of ruling faction. Now the faction of Dauntless, being a member of insurgent group, uses the incident of killing the faction of Abnegation people as a tool to justify their humanist position in the society. Here, the faction of Dauntless is seen following Corliss Lamont's perspective of humanism that proposes the upholding of ethics and morality and taking stand for one another. However, their anarchist way of doing it causes further destruction and chaos in the society. Anarchy is already caused everywhere in the society as the government is taken down by Erudite. This forms hierarchies and domination of one faction over the other. Bookchin also affirms that this idea of domination has made humans go against their true nature by being oppressors. Thus, it proves that authority exchanges different hands but freedom is never granted as each new rule brings with it, its own set of techniques and ways of domination and forces the subdued people to take a stand for themselves to achieve their basic rights.

5.3 Unbridled freedom of Factionless (non-state actors of society)

Factionless faction is seen involved in small rebellions against the established hegemonic order of faction of Erudite in the city which supplements the fact that subtle forms of resistance are always present within the system. It, however, also affirms that it

is state repression which instigates violence from its subjects. Factionless use strategic violence as a tool against the authority. It is actually the violent act aimed at transforming the balance of power and resources. Factionless believe that being in power is going to improve their lifestyle. It would give them recognition and a humble position in the society. They are the ones who were unable to clear the initiation time period in a respective faction. As a result, they are forced to live a factionless life. They all are living in poverty and doing work which no other faction wants to do. They are janitors, construction workers garbage collectors and bus drivers. They are always looked down upon by the other factions especially Erudite. Abnegation is the only faction which provides them with food and clothes but is unable to offer them constant help as other factions are not in favor of it. Seemingly, factionless are depending on the other factions for their well-being but in reality they are all gathering up by forming a strong group to fight against the leading faction, Erudite. Factionless comprise of mostly Dauntless initiates who could not complete their initiation training and are casted aside. They are united into a strong group and are hiding in different safe houses in the city just waiting for a good opportunity to usurp the present government and take over the whole city from them. "... 'We want to usurp Erudite' she says, 'Once we get rid of them, there's not much stopping us from controlling the government ourselves'" (Insurgent 110). This shows that the repressive measures taken by the stronger factions tend to result in the perpetuation of more violence in the society. Bookchin also endorses this fact and asserts that such acts of subjugation intensifies the innate thirst for power in the subjugated people and compels them to unleash the same violence once they achieve a position of authority.

Power is that tool which if used in a wrong way does a lot of harm. Factionless are dominated by the other factions and thus it makes them fearful, weak and scared from inside. Now they want power in order to feel safe and secured. Their plan is to take over the government and make the society free of factions. They actually want to become tyrants because they have endured tyranny of factions for so long. It is in human nature to grasp power especially when they have been victimized by the laws and leaders of other factions. Bookchin explains that domination of human by human has led to the creation of splits among the society. The inflexible laws of factions increase the number of

factionless. The factionless start grouping together, with the aim of usurping the government and taking control of everything. The city without any hierarchy or group suffers chaos and isolation. The cleavages have already been created when the faction Erudite along with the faction of Dauntless attacks on Abnegation Faction in order to steal the information and to rule the entire city as well. Faction of Erudite uses force through city's institutions against its own people. This encourages the residents to take up arms against dominant group as a reaction to it.

Faction-less is that status in which a person is not welcomed into any of the faction thus lives a life as a home-less. They live in peripheries and the ruined sections of the city. These circumstances trigger them to strategize violence as a revolutionary tactic in order to annihilate the present government with the help of remaining Dauntless. They are acting as the repressive state apparatus and carry out resistance in different ways to disrupt the authority of faction of Erudite. They want to re-organize society with non-hierarchical structures. They want to obliterate hierarchical domination by gaining freedom from it as stated by Bookchin that freedom always entice humans because humans cannot be confined for a long time. Factionless are silenced by the use of coercive measures every now and then. Erudite faction never allows them to voice their protests against the violence inflicted upon them. Factionless restriction to the peripheral boundaries of the city by the other factions and the system is in itself a state's encroachment on their freedom. Hence, the factionless confinement to the boundaries and secluded areas of the city indicates the hegemony of state authority and is in complete contradiction to Bookchin's vision of individual's freedom that claims the physical and civil freedom to be the birthright of every human and that all the resources in a society exist to promote social equality.

Factionless are led by Evelyn who is Tobias's mother. Evelyn leaves Abnegation faction by feigning her death because of her husband Marcus who is abusive. Both Tobias and Evelyn, at various times, are victimized at the hands of Marcus who is an Abnegation leader. Urge for domination is that trait which is present in every human being to some extent. Sometimes it is exercised on the family members and sometimes this domination is exercised on the entire society. Ironically, Marcus being the member of

faction of Abnegation works for the betterment of society yet, he is an abusive tyrant at home. This, therefore, depicts that domination is that trait which turns a person into an oppressor and he exercises his control on the ones who are under him. Oppressed people try to find an opportunity through which they can vent their sufferings. Evelyn tries to do the same. She joins factionless and starts preparing and guiding the group to take over the whole city. But for this she requires Tobias's help in order to bridge the gap between factionless and remaining loyal Dauntless. "...We will need Dauntless help. They have the weapon and combat experience. You could bridge the gap between us and them" (Insurgent 111). Bookchin talks about domination of human by human that this domination leads to the creation and then reinforcement of these created cleavages in the structure of society. It takes the form of restrictions imposed on the man by a faceless impersonal social apparatus. Thus a time comes when the whole system collapses and anarchy and chaos occur. In the fictional society of the selected text, the social divides/cleavages are also enhanced due to lack of respect for factionless on the part of other factions especially Erudite. This social and cultural line created within the society results in political conflict among the factions. These cleavages also enslave factionless to the peripheral boundaries of the society. Therefore, the need of unconstrained freedom grows among these subjugated subjects of the city.

Human beings cannot be confined to a system as it might be fair to one but is unfair to others. Sooner or later, humans raise their voices in order to get freedom from it. Bookchin explains that it is the inherent nature of a human to exercise power on the ones who are his subordinates in order to exert his control and command. Evelyn wants to exercise her domination over the entire city by usurping the current authority. However, in doing so, she endangers the life of innocent people. She portrays herself to be a revolutionist and promises a better future for everyone once they all take down faction of Erudite and half of the faction of Dauntless. The factionless promise to liberate people from the oppression but once they get hold of all power, they become dominant, and start exercising repression in order to maintain unchallenged authority on the other groups as explained by Bookchin.

Corliss Lamont expresses his views regarding humanism to be that philosophy which inculcates the well-being of humans by concentrating on their happiness and progress. It helps in giving an opportunity to the people so that they can become a source of salvation for others. Every faction is depicted to possess certain characteristics that help to serve the humanity. However, the factionless are also part of the same community thus they must have certain traits in their personality that would benefit the human race. Every individual holds a certain place in the society. A man chooses his own destiny and has the potential to make his mark in the society. Faction-less are in-humane treated and not even considered the rightful citizens of the society. However, the factionless are living in much more harmony than the other factions because they are not characterized by a certain trait. They understand each other's sufferings and relate to them too. "...They are not characterized by a particular virtue. They claim all colours, all activities, all virtues, all flaws as their own" (Insurgent 410). Even as factionless, they have their strong personality traits and they know their own flaws as well. Still they all are standing united with each other against the odds of the society. They are side lined by the society because of their inability to be of some benefit to the respective factions but now in the situation of chaos, they are acting as the saviours of the remaining factions. The remaining faction of Dauntless joins their forces with Factionless in order to stop the subjugation and domination started by faction of Erudite. Every human craves for power especially when they are subjugated for quite a long time without any apparent reason. Freedom from subjugation affects everyone differently. Few individuals go against domination and few work in the favour of it because they want others to taste the same medicine that they are enduring for so long. Factionless wants to avenge their ill treatment from other factions. Violence always breeds violence that is why now factionless are demonstrating the same fury and brutality towards the remaining factions that becomes part of their personality trait due to the circumstances. Now that Evelyn is managing everything on the behalf of her factionless fighters, she introduces the plan of taking down Erudite that she chalks out. "We all know that Erudite' power lies not in its people but in its information" (Insurgent 419). Intelligence is judgment about what others are prepared to do. It is the ability to guess the behaviour and responses of others in various situations. Intelligence is linked with politics too because an intelligent person

can decide what others can do to him. This gives him an edge or an upper hand over everyone. Those who are less intelligent are more prone towards getting dominated, colonized and worse getting killed. The intelligent people believe that they know more about humanity and can work for the betterment of humanity. They justify their acts by the logics that they have gathered up to convince rest of the people. Evelyn, the leader of factionless, also wants to finish Erudite's tyranny and domination by taking them down. She also emphasizes on the destruction of all the information in order to make faction of Erudite vulnerable. She believes that Erudite's domination and power will end with the destruction of their knowledge. Evelyn manipulates the people by drawing their attention towards the simulations and transmitters that faction of Erudite has inserted in the people in order to control and monitor them. She keeps on focusing on the destructivity that Erudite's knowledge causes in the lives of everyone under them. The ones who starved to death at the hands of society and faction cannot work with devotion for the humanity now. Beatrice tries to judge their intentions behind this help in order to find out their next plan. Her sixth sense keeps warning her that the sufferers of domination are tyrant themselves. Bookchin also explains that unprivileged when given power and authority act more oppressive than privilege as the deepest recesses of a privileged and socially favored person's psyche become fair game for exploitative, authoritarian and dictatorial tendencies of human nature (17). All of it is going to start a new chapter of domination in the society. Evelyn tries to manipulate the cleavages that have been created in the society and uses them to trigger the remaining Dauntless to fight with her. Anarchic conditions are already prevalent in the society making every one of them aware of the flaws in their society. These conditions help them in attaining self-realization against the system of factions and hierarchies as well.

When a society is stripped off from a system, anarchy is seen all over it. It is the state of a society that is free from any authority and governing body. It depicts the replacement of a government with voluntary institution. Once anarchists get in power, they change the government and systems according to their own will. Beatrice is well aware of the toughness and hardness of Factionless and is apprehensive about handing the power into their hands. They have seen tyranny of Erudite but she is more afraid of the anarchy caused by Factionless. She intuitively calculates the situation and comes to

this solution that when Factionless would have all the power and control, they would not let anyone else say or take any decision. The one who is in power always exercises his own rights. Beatrice's intuition warns her that faction of Erudite and factionless are somehow on the same page regarding domination and exercise of power. Faction of Erudite also uses faction of Dauntless to take down and kill Abnegation faction and now Factionless is following the same pattern. Everyone thinks that factionless has aligned with Dauntless because of same motive but Beatrice can see through their facade that they are aligned together for power only. "The factionless want to get rid of factions and the Dauntless don't" (Insurgent 423). Beatrice tries to warn everyone about Factionless' motives but it is in vain. Factionless does not like the idea of resuming the factions again once they take down faction of Erudite because they were isolated and alienated due to this system. So there is a possibility that clash of opinions might happen and Factionless being hardy and ruthless would not listen to anyone. A new chapter of tyranny would start and there would be no end to it as well.

Sometimes the people who are being oppressed become mightier than their oppressors by either increasing their power or decreasing the powers of their oppressors. Oppressed groups increase its resources in order to become more effective and strong as well. They also align themselves with allies for support and influence. Factionless has always been an oppressed group of the society. Factionless are deprived of their basic rights by the privileged groups of society. They are even forced to live in the undesirable section of the city and are cut down on the basic necessities of life too thus making them feeble and weak. They are believed to be non-existent group of the city. However, faction of Dauntless requires assistance of some other faction in taking down faction of Erudite in order to stop them from causing lethal attacks on loyal Dauntless group. This arrangement between faction of Dauntless and Factionless works out well for the time being but in the end Factionless is able to accomplish their aim. The first decision that Evelyn takes after securing their position in society is the disbanding and dissolution of Factions because the factionless believe that there should not be any faction dividing people in the society. They lived their lives as factionless and now they make sure that the rest of the factions should also be leading their lives in such manner. They believe that system of factions is insufficient to support the people who are misfit in the factions

thus such system should not prevail in the society. This sudden dissolution of factions brings in anarchy and chaos in the society. It creates splits and differences among the people because this decision changes lives of the people who are living in the factions for so long. It also takes away the choice from every individual thus eradicating a sense of satisfaction and achievement from them. This shows that the oppressed group, once it achieves a position of authority, proves to be no different than its predecessors.

5.4 Conclusion

Veronica Roth's novel *Insurgent* (2012), depicts the use of objective violence by Erudite to consolidate its own power over society. It also focuses on the social injustices that force people to take arms against the state. In light of the textual analysis of this novel, the steady flow of social injustices and oppression at the hands of the ruling group fuels and perpetuates the use of strategic violence by non-state actors (Factionless) as a revolutionary tactic to obliterate centralized state authority in order to re-organize society along non-hierarchical structures. It also brings to light that this use of subjective violence, by the factionless, as a tool of defiance and resistance not only proves destructive for the domineering group but also for the general well-being of society as it targets the government and public alike.

CHAPTER 6

ILLUSION OF CHOICE: A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF *ALLEGIANT*

6.1 Introduction

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” (Mandella)

Nelson Mandela explains freedom to be the act which drives an individual to take stand for people around him and accept their choices too. The novel *Allegiant* (2013) portrays that any revolution that aims to seize the top of society without first transforming its base is doomed to either reconstitute state power with a new elite, or to lack the nourishment to sustain itself. The same is seen happening in the selected novel when after the inhumane rule of Jeanine, another chapter of oppression initiates and looms over the horizon of city in the form of Evelyn’s government. This repetitive cycle of repressive rule enables Veronica Roth’s characters to become supporters and agents of systematic change through ethical means. Therefore, using Saul Newman’s post-anarchist lens, I analyze the text to examine the destructive effects of revolution achieved through anarchist measures and their role in guiding the society towards the post-anarchist vision of bringing change.

In line with my above mentioned discussion, I want to discuss *Allegiant* under the following headings:

- Another era of tyranny
- Bureau: The real perpetrator of violence
- A journey from destruction to restoration

6.2 Another Era of Tyranny

The faction-based society as depicted in *Divergent* trilogy is shattered down due to power hunger and struggle to rule the whole city by one faction. Objective violence is seen inflicted by faction of Erudite on all other factions and as a result of this violence,

the remaining factions collaborate with factionless to achieve freedom. This freedom entails insurgency which is initiated as a result of objective violence. This insurgency opposes the authority of dominant group and the exploitation it involves. Evelyn unarms faction of Dauntless which is again an act of domination done by Evelyn who is in charge of this insurgency. Her first act as the leader of the city is to confine the soldiers and announce that there would not be any faction in order to satisfy and compensate factionless who lived a life of misery earlier. Factionless are the non-state actors of their society who now use strategies of violence to question uniform authority against the system of factions “Evelyn mastered the chaos in the lobby of Erudite Headquarters with a few short commands and had all the prisoners hustled away to the cells on the third floor” (Allegiant 2). Evelyn’s actions depict the repercussions of subjugation inflicted upon them by different factions for years. This oppression used as a tool is showing its impacts on the personalities of those individuals who suffered from it for a very long time. It’s the way of nature that when a group of people are subjugated, they tend to be violent if given power. Even though, they themselves were dominated by a group earlier yet the desire to dominate the humans never ceases in them. It is in human nature to dominate his subordinates as stated by Bookchin. Even though, man is known to be the shaper of his own destiny yet he imposes his own decisions on others, nor giving them a free will and a chance to select their own destiny and neither providing them with ample opportunities to choose some better future for them. This also dismantles the norms of a society thus causing rifts between the groups. These rifts and gaps further create anarchic conditions in the society. Bookchin theorizes anarchism to be the libidinal upsurge of people that resembles the earliest struggles of humanity against domination and authority (21).

Corliss Lamont advocates freedom to be humanity’s requirement for constructive growth and it provides the guiding principles for human welfare and happiness in order to thrive in this world. Human development requires humans to expand their choices and have a non-conformal thinking process. Freedom allows humans to access different indicators thus leading towards a much balanced society. It also ensures that social opportunities are created for everyone and are given on the basis of competency. Beatrice believes in freedom for everyone especially in taking decisions that involve their personal

life. Even though, Evelyn claims not to be authoritative like Jeanine yet her actions depict the opposite. On the other hand, Beatrice is quite determined to attain her freedom by leaving the boundary of city and exploring the new world. She believes in writing her own destiny and looking towards a better future. "I need to see what's outside the fence" (Allegiant 3). Evelyn contains everyone in the city and tries to control them according to her own will. She thinks if anyone of them tries to leave the city, it will jeopardize her rule and thus make her seem weak. This control and dominance, in her view, secures her central authority. She believes that factionless must be given a chance to rule because they all have been oppressed for so long by various groups and factions of the society. However, Evelyn proves to be more brutal than Jeanine.

Power always impacts differently on everyone's personality. It aids in strengthening their personality traits which helps them in prompt decision making. However, the thirst for power can also make them insensitive and callous towards others making them take decisions in a cold and indifferent manner. Evelyn makes everyone believe that the people outside the wall are their oppressors and whosoever leaves the sanctity of the wall is going to be playing at their hands. She believes in keeping everyone under the misconception of being used by the ones who confined all of them in the city for experiment's sake. She takes decisions for others even though it is considered unacceptable by various individuals and her rules become a source of oppression for them. It has been explored that violence not only shapes the choices of individuals according to the oppressor but also endangers their freedom. "I suspect that the opinion is very convenient for my mother, because as long as we're all contained she's in charge" (Allegiant 6). Anarchic conditions are prevailing since the Erudite Faction is taken down by Factionless along with Dauntless. Factionless takes the charge of the city and are ruling the way they desire. Factions are dissolved and nobody is allowed to even leave the fence. Evelyn wants to contain everyone in the city in order to maintain her dominance over them. She orders patrols in the city especially at the boundary so that no rebel or insurgent leaves the city. She even considers Beatrice a rebel as she works hard to unveil the truth by procuring the video and showing it to everyone.

Factionless believe that it is their chance to rule the city now. They have suffered the oppression of every faction more or less and this subjugation makes all of them barbaric and power hungry. Evelyn, along with her factionless survivors, uses violence and subjugation as a tool to avenge their ill-treatment by the factions. She uses repressive state apparatus in employing violence in order to maintain her uniform control over the masses. Hence the use of subjective violence on her part triggers an anarchic reaction from the remaining factions to her rules. Thus the novel shows that in order to exercise individual sovereignty, one has to be affiliated with a strong political group. Being strong in society helps her to resist all power structures in society. It also makes her unleash destruction in the society which gets internalized in her as the product of violence and inhumanity that she endures as a factionless and powerless state object.

Moreover, Evelyn believes that whosoever is armed possesses the ultimate power in the city. This is one of the major reasons because of which she disarms every Dauntless from his weapon. There is no other faction who carries a gun or knows how to shoot apart from Dauntless. “She knows whoever holds the gun holds the power” (Allegiant 13). Power is mostly linked with strong weaponry and position. Evelyn makes her position strong by aligning with Dauntless. She also uses repressive state apparatus as a tool in gaining strength against Erudite. This repressive state apparatus operates by employing mental and physical coercion. She tactfully coerces Dauntless to use their skills in helping her to take down Jeanine. Evelyn’s over bearing behaviour indicates her superior position in the hierarchical structures formed in the society. She employs almost the same strategy for domination and control as used by Jeanine. Jeanine also combined her strength with the city’s hard power. The city, depicted in selected fiction, is ruled first by one tyrant and then another and this is what makes the residents of the city think that they cannot achieve freedom and liberty ever. The city, under the orders of Evelyn, is patrolled by Factionless all the time thus making the inhabitants entrapped in it. Gyan Prakash in his book, *Noir Urbanisms: Dystopic Images of Modern City (2010)*, defines city noir in the following lines

Since the turn of twentieth century, dystopic images have figured predominantly in literary, cinematic, and sociological representations of the modern city. In these

portrayals, the city often appears dark, insurgent (or forced into total disobedience), dysfunctional (or forced into machine like functioning), engulfed into ecological and social crises, seduced by capitalist consumption, paralyzed by crime, wars, class, genders, and racial conflicts and subjected to excessive technological and technocratic control. (Prakash 1)

As described by Prakash, the city noir tends to represent urban life in dark unsettling imagery. It explains and alerts the reader about the dangers that the future holds if the symptoms are not recognized well in time in present. The Chicago city is portrayed in dark imagery that is the result of violence perpetuated by one group over the entire city.

Evelyn the leader of factionless believes that people should not be contained in factions any longer and rather should be set free of all the constraints. This creates chaos in the city since all the individuals require direction to lead their lives after being confined in the system of factions for so long. Without factions some of them feel relieved while the others are at a loss of what to do because they feel alienated from the new system. They all cling to faction system as a proper orchestration of the smooth running system of government. For most of them, living a factionless life is like living a life with no purpose. They all look towards the factions to give them identity and it's been giving direction to their lives for so long. Evelyn wants to bring everyone on equal footing and also wants to avenge her people. She is worried that if everyone is given a chance and made free, they might choose to leave the city or usurp her rule. She led the uprising against Erudite but does not want to get affected by such rebellious uprising herself.

The people of the city have witnessed government dissolving, innocent people put to death, factions ending and secrets unveiling. Despite this turbulent journey, they still hope for a better future and this is the prime reason that they sided with Factionless and Dauntless earlier. On the other hand, Evelyn believes in maintaining her dominance and authority through control. However, Evelyn overlooks the aspect that violence always puts the live of individuals in danger along with restricting their freedom. "I am going to get them under control, what else?" (Allegiant 21). Bookchin explains that when power is transferred to an organized group, it exercises its authority on the people who are

dependent on it. Evelyn does the same to the people by confining them. She chooses another method of exerting her authority. Erudite inserted transmitters and serums to control people. Evelyn achieves the same control through death penalties. She believes that by killing people, all sorts of revolts can be stifled out. In this way, she would be able to maintain her authority without any group rebelling against her.

Allegiant is a revolutionary group formed in order to free the citizens from the trammels of domination. They all are eager to find out about the ones who made their city a Panopticon. This system of control shapes the city, gradually changing the power dynamics within the city due to the rise in violence and destruction. This also helped the non-state players to move out of peripheries and challenge the government.

Evelyn is portrayed as the dictator who dominates all the subjects of the city. She announces her own punishments for disloyalty or any other crime that people in the city commit. “Evelyn is effectively a dictator, the factionless are squashing the faction members, and I’m sure the factions will rise up against them sooner or later” (Allegiant 268). Tobias realizes that Evelyn has become the same dictator as Jeanine. She dominantly implements her own rules and sooner a time would come when the remaining factions would join hands and form an alliance to usurp her. The history is repeating itself in the same way but with different groups and different strategies. The residents of city are agitated by the methods employed by Bureau of Genetic Welfare on the people who are under them. These oppressive methods and techniques are only creating rift and cleavages in their society thus drawing a line between the ones who are in favour of it and the ones who are against it. “No they don’t want the memory serum, they want the death serum. Similar to the one that Erudite have” (Allegiant 281). The anarchy and violence makes people take desperate measures. The ones who are victimized by the domination of Bureau join hands to take their revenge from the bureau by robbing them off the death serum. Humans are standing against one another due to the situation of anarchy and imbalance of power.

6.3 Bureau: The Real Perpetrator of Violence

Lamont has given top most priority to human freedom as it helps a stronger person to take a stand for the weaker ones if they are not in a position to do so. The truth

about the city is revealed to Allegiants once they reach the bureau. They all come to know that their city is an experiment being conducted to solve the problem of flawed natures that may result in broken societies. This experiment created factions but at the same time these factions lacked many virtues because gaining one virtue makes the individuals lose many more. Faction of Dauntless is given the gift of being brave yet this bravery makes them cruel too. Faction of Erudite is given intelligence which makes them vain and proud. Faction of Candor is known for honesty but they become inconsiderate as well. Faction of Abnegation is known for their selflessness yet it becomes stifling too. Foucault links power to institutions or groups like the Bureau of Genetic Welfare, whether they are socially or politically formed, thus power is mostly exercised through surveillance as it is its main medium of control. The people residing in a Panopticon aren't aware of this fact that they are being watched by someone else. This surveillance is headed by the Bureau of Genetic Welfare for the purpose of genetic healing where the people with damaged genes are secured till their next generation produces pure genes. They do not take one thing into account that whether a person is having altered genes or not, he still possesses the potential to take decisions and pursue his choices too. "We didn't expect the leader of Erudite to start hunting them down or Abnegation to even tell her what they were" (Allegiant 126). When the genetic healing experiment is conducted, the observers do not think that people would start exercising their authority on the other groups. They neglect the factor that man has got the potential to choose for himself and can always choose what is better for him even if he is genetically damaged. It is part and parcel of his conscience that cannot be taken away from him. Bookchin explains this phenomenon by defining man as the center and sanction. According to Bookchin, man can either become a source of salvation for the humanity or a dominant force that puts restrictions on others in order to exercise his own power and dominance on them. It purely depends upon the individual's choice. Despite genes being altered, man can take his own decisions. Even the genetically damaged people can make choices because it is already inherent in human beings to think and take decisions for their betterment. Every man has a certain prospective about his future and also weighs the pros and cons of the decisions that he takes. The factions contain people with altered genes but some of the choices they make show their ability to think clearly

and reach a decision accordingly. Faction of Erudite waged an internal war to get rid of Divergents and to rule the city independently. On the other hand, faction of Abnegation tried to hide the video from everyone so that the city would remain intact. Every action of human being has a specific reason behind it. A man having damaged genes can choose the faction that he aspires for, is the proof that no matter what, a man can design his own destiny. It is worth noting that every human being has a predestined role in the stage of life which if suppressed would lead to ecological disturbances.

In another incident, the people of the city question the authenticity of the factions. They come to know that every faction gained a virtue but lost some other important characteristics. Thus the factions are made to sort them out according to their dominant virtue. This made them wonder about factions as a containment or prison. Some of them think about leaving factions behind and dissolving all of them but it creates cleavages in their society because they require a proper direction for their survival. These factions have become part and parcel of their soul. Bookchin also explains this concept by stating that organic societies are disbanded into hierarchies and groups shifting back and forth for a long time. Each of the factions corresponds to a specific dominant trait. This ideology of factions penetrates so deep in the minds of the people of the society that living without this system becomes a nightmare for them. They are living with this concept of factions for so long that they have come to staunchly believe that if the factions do not prevail, it will only mean one thing; war. Therefore, they now require proper guidance to live in a society where no faction exists. The reality of Bureau of Genetic Welfare makes all of them confused as who to believe to be an oppressor and who to believe to be virtuous. If they take factions as their prisons then factionless are justified in ending them all and if Allegiant succeed in getting back their city then the factions would prevail and so would the experiment. This truth creates doubt and cleavages in their mind regarding the factions and groups they cherished for so long. It makes them believe that they are all kept there against their will and choice. They all are incarcerated in the city and are unaware of it which leads to docility in them. This incarceration shackles their identity and later becomes the reason of saving their own city. They realize that the bureau itself is harbouring many secrets from them and has been the one to provide with the serums to the factions in order to keep the experiment in

the running condition. However, anarchic situation has helped the characters to attain a realisation against the system of factions and its durability.

Another instance of domination of Bureau shows their implicit control in the city. The people of the city are all dominated and controlled by the Bureau which makes them worrisome about their history as well as about those serums that are inflicted on them. Those serums are provided by the Bureau thus handing the factions a lethal weapon to use against their own people. One of the reasons of domination and the destruction caused in their city is by the people sitting in the bureau. They possess the power to easily wipe away the memory of the people by spreading the memory serum in the city. They consider it as a useful tool to pacify the rebellion but in reality it is that lethal weapon which plays with the mind and erases the memory without the consent of the victim. They have been using it off and on to settle down the conflicts and rebellions that would threaten the shutdown of their experiment. "Erase people's memories and there is no need to kill them; they just forget what they were fighting about" (Allegiant 167). They want to use the serum as a repressive tool to impose their own will on the people of Chicago. They are playing with their lives without giving them any choice. The prime concern of bureau is to make the experiment successful regardless of their treatment with the humans. They are controlling them the way they want. This Panopticon gives them an upper hand on the people since the people of Chicago are unaware of the confinement.

Another instance shows that people have always been divided into certain groups and each group fighting its own battle in real life. "People are just divided by different things, fighting different wars" (Allegiant 249). People are always divided unconsciously in groups according to the dominant traits, personality feature or social stature. It is a common phenomenon that such groups do exist in every society and mostly these groups are fighting silent battles within themselves. Every individual struggles for his place and thus faces many challenges every now and then. When Beatrice and her companions stay for few days in Bureau, they realize that even in the Bureau, everyone is divided into small groups. Each group is striving hard to survive and make their mark in order to attain a certain position in the society. Division of individuals in groups and fighting for survival never completely leaves anyone's life. This also creates rifts in the society giving

an upper hand to the group which is strong and the remaining groups are forced to follow its lead and orders. This pattern is seen everywhere, in every organization of society.

The government tends to modify the history and shows only part of it to the people which they believe to be beneficial for the interest of government. Manipulation of knowledge has always been practiced by the authorities in order to reveal the minimum information that is going to make people believe and follow them. It is in human nature to change the course of events in order to get as much advantage as one can. The Bureau of Genetic Welfare does the same thing. They wipe away the memories of people many times in order to control them. The remnants of war are present in the city which depicts that the city definitely has a past which is concealed by the bureau very smartly. "They know only what they are taught, that see only the information that is available to them. And who controls all that? The government" (Allegiant 264). Power always entices humans to the extent of controlling their subordinates. Power lacks emotional reactivity in humans thus making one act towards his subordinates without any feelings. People with more power are inclined towards dehumanization because they see other people's attributes as less. The people in Bureau give an insight about the Bureau's way of doing things. Beatrice and Tobias realize that they are not only controlled by Erudite and later on Factionless but also by the Bureau who is in turn controlling and commanding the whole city.

Similarly, in another instance, the domination of bureau over the people of Chicago city is quite evident. They are the ones providing with the serums to Jeanine and Erudite in order to use it against other factions. The tools of control and authority are given to Erudite by Bureau. They are the ones to provide the faction with the weapons of mass destruction. "The factions, the video Edith Prior left us ... all lies, designed to make us behave a particular way" (Allegiant 307). The Bureau has designed everything in order to make it work. The experiment on humans is their research in order to find out about genes and behaviour of humans in a particular situation. The city is internally and externally controlled by the people who urged power and wanted a strong command over humans.

The Bureau is watching all the events happening in the city yet they do not interfere or stop any uprising. However, Bureau's only concern lies in making sure that the experiment successfully runs without being disbanded. They do not stop people from killing each other rather they look for chances that might help save their experiment. Their first and foremost priority is to save the experiment not the lives of people. Bureau's domination and control over the people living in Chicago city and other experiment centers make half of the Bureau against the administration of Bureau itself. The people working in it know what damage they have caused in the lives of people who are living in those cities which are under surveillance. Bureau's interference becomes the reason of the deaths in the faction of Abnegation and also the mental enslavement of Dauntless faction. Faction of Erudite uses its intelligence to enhance the weapons that are provided to them by the bureau. Thus the bureau's domination not only causes deaths but also dishevels the whole system of governance in the city. "The truth you heard is still true. These people are still responsible for the deaths of most of the Abnegation and mental enslavement of the Dauntless and the utter destruction of our way of life" (Allegiant 333). The Bureau doesn't even provide the people of Chicago with basic needs. They are not given personal independency, freedom and political security in any way. Bookchin in his book talks about the "basic freedom that a society must provide to its inhabitants. The basic freedom must include liberty, security and freedom of self-expression" (Bookchin 13). Bureau's domination on the people is quite evident after the destruction and devastation they cause in the lives and in city as well.

Power hunger always brings tyranny with it. Factionless led by Evelyn usurps the rule of Jeanine and take the whole city under their control. The actions under taken by Evelyn and Factionless steer towards anarchy among the residents of the city. Factionless now control all the weapons of the city which makes them act as tyrants. "Evelyn controls the city because she controls the weapons" (Allegiant 314). The only way to usurp Evelyn and factionless is to take their weapons away from them. They are not only ruling but changing the whole course of city affairs according to their own will. Initially their agenda was to restore peace and harmony but there rules lead towards more anarchy than the previous uprising.

The reason the factions were evil is because there was no way out of them....They gave us the illusion of choice without actually giving us the choice. That is the same thing you are doing here, by abolishing them. You are saying, go make choices. But make sure they are not factions or I will grind you to bits! (Allegiant 464)

Tobias realizes that the factionless system is just another mirror image of the system of factions. It employs the same totalitarian regime as used by its forerunner and therefore, would be rebelled against sooner or later. This realization makes Tobias a firm believer of the idea that effective change cannot be brought through violence.

6.4 A Journey from Destruction to Restoration

In order to bring everlasting changes in the system, one must adopt sensible means. The same idea is elucidated by Bookchin in his book *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* in which he expresses his opinion that all efforts of an authoritarian social structure to exploit and subjugate the masses are always accompanied by some grave devastating consequences and ultimately back fire, causing the dismantling of power and authority of such structures along the process. Veronica Roth brings forth the same view through her depiction of the everlasting damages done to the society and the people as a result of the anarchist revolution. She further propounds her view that anarchism not only negatively affects the structure of society but also takes its toll on the psychological health of the people when in the end Tobias attempts to while peter actually swallows the memory serum in order to erase the devastating memories from their minds and start life afresh. The deaths of Beatrice and Urea further strengthen their conviction to take the memory serum.

I hold up the vial of memory serum. Are you set on this? He nods. Then he swallows and I watch peter disappear. (Allegiant 478)

Bookchin, in his book, *Post-Scarcity Anarchism* also asserts that in order to form a socially sustainable community, one must endeavor to help in the construction of not only a class-free society but also a “non- repressive utopia”, free of all sorts of domination (16). Veronica Roth, through her novel, advocates the same concept of social freedom:

You will not attack or try to seize control of the city. You will allow those people who wish to leave and seek a new life elsewhere to do so. You will allow those who choose to stay to vote on new leaders and a new social system. (Allegiant 482)

Evelyn, the leader of factionless, after being made realized that her rule is as oppressive as the ones she stood up against, decides to step down and hand over the reins to Johanna and Marcus ,leaders of the Allegiant group. While negotiating this transfer of authority, she sets out the above mentioned terms to ensure freedom and peace finally prevails in the society and among people who yearned for it for so long. Through the character of Evelyn, the author brings forth the fact that true freedom can only be achieved after overpowering the internal demons like the innate hunger for power and authority and for social freedom to last, each member of the society must do the same.

Peace could only be restored if the urge to dominate one another diminishes. Tobias after witnessing all the violence, bloodshed and devastation caused by anarchy in the lives of everyone present in their society, comes to the conclusion that there are two ways to deal with their circumstances so that people could live their lives amicably and in tranquility; the first is the stance of “fringe rebels” that endorses the belief that change can only be brought through insurrection. The second way is a more peaceful one that supports the idea that change can also be brought against the system without actually issuing violence along the process. Tobias himself is a believer of the non-violent way of bringing about the reconstruction of system and at the end chooses to work for the change by accepting a place in the city’s political system. “There are still GD rebels in the fringe who believe that another war is the only way to get the change we want. I fall more on the side that wants to work for change without violence” (Allegiant 519). In this way, the protagonist becomes a proponent of the concept of post-anarchism. Post-anarchism as stated by Saul Newman in his book *The Politics of Post-Anarchism* “is not a transgression or a movement beyond the terms of anarchism, it does not leave anarchism behind but, instead, works within it as a constant engagement with its limits. In doing so, it modifies the discursive field of anarchism without actually abandoning it” (Newman 5). Post-anarchism affirms both the anti-political and political moments within

anarchism. It shares with anarchism its goal of an anti-authoritarian state free of all sorts of domination but at the same time advocates a sensible and non-violent way of achieving this goal. The other characters, after witnessing the agony and devastation an uprising causes, also follow in the footsteps of the protagonist and exhibit a post-anarchist realization by accepting their due roles of endeavoring to bring a positive role from within the system. They, therefore, become a part of the system:

All of us have found new places. Cara and Caleb work in the laboratories at the compound, Matthew works in psychiatric research somewhere in the city, Christina works in an office that relocates people. Zeke and Amar are policemen and George trains the police force- Dauntless jobs. (Allegiant 517)

In doing so, they endorse the post-anarchist view of bringing a change in the system without actually going against it.

6.5 Conclusion

Allegiant (2013) by Veronica Roth illustrates that the use of violence to reconstruct society seems to impose the revolutionary ideology of anti-state elements in establishing classless social order. As a result, the violence by the revolutionaries, once in power, oppresses the very people they came to liberate in the first place. In the light of textual analysis, we may see that while acts of subjective violence by the subjugated people seem to check state authority, they also disrupt the structure of social system by causing chaos and anarchy. This anarchist movement, although successful in its goal of abolition of authority, leaves so much of devastation in its wake that it compels the society to endorse the post-anarchist vision of integrating change through mutually sustaining networks of such entities which would provide a solid base from which lasting change could percolate up through the layers of society.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

I have started this study with the basic premise that *Divergent* trilogy depicts the state apparatus itself to play a part in the perpetuation of anarchist revolution in the society. In the analysis, I have sought to investigate the different methods of domination and surveillance of individuals by different factions and their role in laying down the foundations of insurgency and ultimately anarchy. In line with the above statement, I have also discussed the concept of Panopticon in exercising control and power over others. Furthermore, this study has been concerned with the cleavages that are caused in a smooth running system which separate the humanity from its true nature and the role of such social divides in perpetuating anarchy. Moreover, this study has also explored the contribution of instances of objective violence in triggering the acts of subjective violence carried out by the subjugated ones with the aim of reconstructing the city without hierarchies. While analyzing the trilogy, my research has also tried to draw attention to the destructive effects of the use of violence and chaos as a tool of resistance against the hegemonic group since it not only damages the fundamental social structure of society, it claims to reorganize but also has calamitous effects on the psychological health of the people staging that protest. More importantly, my main concern has been to explore how subjective violence puts the lives of the individuals in danger along with their freedom and eventually leads toward the development of a post-anarchist psyche in the minds of the characters. Furthermore, my study has also attempted to highlight the difference between an anarchist and post-anarchist approach as depicted in Veronica Roth's fiction.

While conducting an analysis on the selected fiction, I have tried to find the answers of my research questions with which I started this study in the first place. The research questions have inspired and kept me focused in the study. They have also directed my analysis in a systematic manner. Firstly, I have been eager in finding out how violence and domination depicted in the selected text highlight the splits created in a society. Secondly, I have been interested to observe and explore how characters carried

out their resistance in multiple ways against the authority of the city. Thirdly, I have been interested to see how the anarchist element of the revolution propels the society towards a post-anarchist approach. I have conducted my analysis on the selected works in anarchist leading to post-anarchist and humanist perspective.

I have used Murray Bookchin's anarchist perspective, Saul Newman's post-anarchist vision and Corliss Lamont's humanistic perspective as my theoretical lens to analyze the selected works. I find Bookchin's idea about domination and formation of hierarchies to be useful to analyze the domination and violence expressed in the selected fiction. His ideas also shed light on the reasons of social uprising against the city's authority as depicted in the Veronica Roth's fiction. His anarchist theory discusses the domination of human by human and highlights the violence done by the hegemonic state apparatus in order to exploit the masses. Bookchin considers the domination of a group to be an organization of oppression that promotes the emergence of hierarchies and power divisions in a society to consolidate its own rule and hegemony. Therefore, Bookchin's anarchist perspective focuses on the abolition of such domination in a society through different revolutions in order to free the citizens from such tyranny. Since I have been concerned with the domination of human by human hence I have incorporated his theory of anarchism with respect to domination in order to analyze my selected texts. However, the disruption of social structure and chaos leads to the realization of the fact that sustainable change comes by being the part of system. This post-anarchist notion is supported by the theory proposed by Saul Newman. I have also taken Corliss Lamont's humanist perspective as it promotes the freedom of individuals to choose their own destiny. Secondly, it advocates the happiness and welfare of human beings in this one and only life. Lamont further explicates that man can be a source of salvation for his community or a source of destruction; it solely depends on his own choice as is seen depicted in the selected trilogy.

In my analysis of Divergent trilogy with respect to anarchist perspective, my primary concern has been the examination of different ways of domination and control, perpetrated by different groups of the society. An anarchist reading of the text depicts that how Althusser's ideological state apparatuses help in employing violence in order to

maintain a uniform control over the masses. I have given a major portion of my analysis to highlight the ways in which domination of human by human is achieved with the help of repressive state apparatus and incorporation of Panopticon. I have also explored the role of Dauntless faction in employing the domination and siding with the city's authority in using strategic tools of violence. On the other hand, this trilogy also expresses the citizens rebelling against the city's authority and attaining their freedom from tyranny. A detailed analysis brings to light the constant challenges faced by the individuals in their struggle to free themselves from despotism and oppression. The texts also bring forth how political and social exploitation pave ways for propelling an individual onto the path of violence against the dominant group. The protagonists of the novels are involved in a series of activities that attempt to challenge the authority of dominant group or faction. An anarchist analysis of the texts reveals that individual agency has been in constant opposition to repressive state authority. Moreover, it highlights the protagonist efforts in promoting insurgency to oppose the authority of dominant group and the exploitation it entails. In conjunction with the anarchist perspective, a humanist analysis of text reveals that man is the shaper of his own destiny and has been endowed with the freedom of choice and action. It also highlights the way one individual takes a stand for the other ones in a selfless concern for their wellbeing. In this thesis, I have also analyzed the devastating consequences of the acts of uprising and violence that proved to be a form of resistance against the dominant group. These destructive impacts of anarchy manifests that lasting change may only occur by being part of the system and working for the change through sensible and ethical means as endorsed by the post-anarchist perspective of Saul Newman. I have summarized the major points of my analysis of the selected fiction and now I am going to discuss findings under the following heading to make it more systematic and organized for the readers.

7.1 Findings

The findings of my research study, though specific to Veronica Roth's Trilogy, may be extended to generalize understanding of such fictional works. My research is explorative and interpretive in nature. Keeping the research questions in mind it may be noted that the selected trilogy depict the dynamics of violence and oppression in fictional

society while representing the dominant group as the major perpetrator of social and political exploitation. The selected texts highlight the possibility of a nexus between dominant group's exploitation and the rise in uprisings in the city. In other words, the selected novels elucidate how the hegemonic group employs objective violence through various means to attain and maintain unchallenged authority over the people and how this subjugation gives rise to violence by non-state actors against the dominant group. The trilogy also focuses on the use of repressive state apparatus by the dominant group as affective tool for subduing the citizens. Hence, multiple outbreaks of subjective violence seem to occur in order to challenge the authority of the oppressive group.

Another important finding is the exertion of power and control by the different groups of the society. This power and control immensely impacts the individuals of the city thus encouraging them to take a stand for one another. It also instigates self-realization of the characters against the system of factions that has turned into hierarchical structures of the society. I have also explored the acts of uprising and violence that prove to be a form of resistance against the dominant group.

Another finding that I have reached at is that the use of force through city's institutions against its own residents seems to encourage individuals to take up arms against it. In this manner, in the Divergent Trilogy, rebellious acts by the non-state actors seem to exert a restrictive influence on the oppression by the ruling group by using violence as a tool of resistance. However, when non-state actors come to power they unleash the same violence once they were subjected to. It also has devastating effects on the psychological health of the people staging that protest. Also, the use of subjective violence by a certain group seems to impose their will over all the other non-consenting citizens of the state.

Another important finding is that the use of strategic violence may prove useful in restricting state domination yet it may not be considered as an ideal tool to reconstruct society along more non-hierarchical structures. After an anarchist analysis, of such anti-state violence we find out the negative impacts of employing violence as a tool of resistance as in most instances, violence carried out by non-state actors targets not only the ruling elite but also the common people of the city.

Another finding of the foregoing analysis is the humanist approach applied by the protagonist of the trilogy. It shows a pure devotion towards the betterment of human beings. Despite anarchic conditions and chaos, the individuals still believe in taking stand for each other and work for the betterment of society. Therefore, Veronica Roth's selected texts let us investigate that despite the misuse of power, the individuals still work for the welfare of others.

Thus, the textual analysis of the trilogy helps in revealing that domination and violence can be regressive for society at one end and at the same time, it can help the characters in attaining a self-realization against the system of society. Repression and authoritative control proves to be detrimental for the society in all walks of life namely political, social or economic. However, the use of violence to achieve a society without hierarchies also has repercussions and these repercussions form the basis of post-anarchist approach. This post-anarchist approach states that in order to bring lasting changes in the system, ethical and sensible means of integrating a change must be adopted. It also brings to light that for individual and social freedom to prevail, each member of the society must conquer the innate urge of dominating others and work for the betterment of others while becoming part of the system is significant as it discusses the dynamics of domination with respect to the society that comprises of factions.

In the above mentioned findings, I want to sum up the strategies of domination and violence used by different apparatuses in the selected fiction. The first and foremost strategy was used by Bureau of Genetic Welfare in systematic exercise of power over the people of Chicago. It also lays down the foundations of insurgency. The second strategy was incorporated by Erudite faction, with the help of Dauntless officials, by using its technological advancement in subduing the entire Dauntless faction. Moreover, Erudite uses serums and simulations to dismantle the status quo of the city. This causes insurgence in the city as Erudite attacks Candor faction to retrieve divergents. Another strategy of domination is exercised by Factionless as they grasp the opportunity of avenging their oppression from all the factions by joining hands with Dauntless in order to stop Erudite. Furthermore, the factionless after getting into power employs repressive state apparatus in order to maintain a uniform control over the masses. In the present day

world, our societies are also unconsciously divided into such classes and factions socially, and this imbalance of power forms the basis of many of our issues of present times.

Lastly, the Panopticon functions to systematically exercise power in a confined unit in the selected fiction. Bureau of Genetic Welfare has used ideological state apparatus and repressive state apparatus in the city to strengthen their rule and create a fear among people about the outside world. This panoptic system of surveillance stopped the characters from practicing any form of freedom. This Panoptic situation can be applied in the present world as the global powers with the help of satellites monitor every country. The under developed nations rely on the global powers for their survival. The countries that do not get along with them would either get toppled over or destroyed.

7.2 Recommendations for further research

This project has allowed me to suggest different recommendations to the future researchers to explore the young adult dystopian fiction from a different perspective. In the view of my textual analysis on *Divergent* trilogy, I can suggest Anarchist feminist study of the text for future research. This study will enable the researcher to analyze a role of female and its relationship with the protagonist of the novel. Suzanne Collins novels *The Hunger Games* trilogy also depict dystopian fiction and can be explored from feminist anarchist perspective.

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