



## THE CONFLICT OF BEATRICE PRIOR IN ROTH'S *DI-DIVERGENT*

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### ABSTRACT

This writing focused on “The Conflict of Beatrice Prior in Roth’s *Divergent*”. The specific aim of this scientific writing is to find out and describe the conflicts that are faced by Beatrice Prior and also to find out the source of the conflicts in Roth’s *Divergent*. The data of the research were taken from *Divergent* written by Veronica Roth. The research method used in this study are qualitative –descriptive method. The data were collected through library research, then the data were analyzed using non-formal technique. The theory of literature is important in analyzing character while the theory of psychology is used in analyzing conflict. The theory of character is taken from Lajos Egri about Three dimensions of characterization, while theory of conflict is taken from Tayla Bauer and Berrin Endargon. Based on the result of analysis, it can be concluded that *The Conflict of Beatrice Prior in Roth’s Divergent* consists of internal conflict and external conflict. Beatrice Prior or known as Tris is the main character of this story based on the role of the character in the story. The types of Tris’s internal conflicts are categorized as Intrapersonal conflict. Meanwhile, the types of Tris’s external conflicts are categorized as Interpersonal conflict and Intergroup conflict. The source of the conflicts are differing in Attitudes, Values, and Perceptions.

**Keywords:** *Conflict, Main Character, Divergent*

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is expression of aesthetics whether written or spoken. Literature as a work of art presents human experience to educate and entertain people. Like all art, literature also gives us pleasure to enjoy. There are many kinds of literary work, such as: drama, poetry and prose. Prose fiction is an aspect of literature that is presented in a narrative form. Fiction is created by the ideas of writer’s imagination. There is no limitation in imagination. So, imagination encircles the world and the author can imagine the ideas in a story that they want without any limit and freely about time and space.

The examples of prose fiction are novelette, fable, folk tale, novel, short story, myth, etc. Richard Taylor stated that, it is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience or conduct (Taylor, 1981). For the readers, novel is one of the most popular fictional stories in this world. Novel is the reflection of human’s life and human’s experiences. Novel is closely related with the human’s life. Absolutely every story has characters and also has conflicts of the main character with another character or with his ideas. And however the main character in the story wants to resolve the conflict, so the story will be growing up. It has been widely known that character with their conflicts become



the main elements of the novel, drama, short story and so on.

According to Lajos Egri, there is no doubt that conflict grows out of the character. The intensity of the conflict will be determined by the strength of will of the three-dimensional individual who is the protagonist. A seed may fall at any given point-but it will not necessarily germinate. And ambition may be found anywhere, but whether or not it germinates will depend upon the physical, sociological, and psychological condition of the person in whom it exists (Egri, 1923). The conflict makes the story alive and the conflict could build up the story more widely. There is no story without character. The story is no depth without conflict. Conflict is one of the most important elements in a story because it creates the suspense and interests that make readers want to continue reading the story. Conflicts are a part of the plot structure. Conflict happens because of the differences and it can be happen inside of a person or between men. According to the theory of psychology by Tayla Bauer & Berrin Erdogan, conflict can be a problem for individuals and organizations. There are several types of conflict, including intrapersonal, interpersonal and intergroup conflict (Bauer & Erdogan, 2012).

There are some reasons that make writer interested to use this novel as the data source. *Divergent* is interesting novel used in this research because this novel *Divergent* has won the best seller in The New York Times. Beside that, the conflict in this novel is interesting to be discussed because it is one of the important elements in a story. The plot in the novel *Divergent* is made up by the arrangement of conflict especially the conflict of Tris as the main character in this story which is dealing with internal conflict and external conflict. The conflict of Beatrice Prior or known as Tris in this novel happens because of the differences. That is the reason why writer want to analyze the conflict of the main character in Roth's *Divergent*. Therefore, this scientific writing would like to find out and describe the conflicts that are faced by the main character (Tris) and also to find out the source of the conflicts in Roth's *Divergent*.

## METHOD

A particular way of doing something is called 'method'. A scientific method means a systematic, organized series of steps that ensure maximum objectivity and consistency in researching a problem. This paper is written based on the scientific method. The methods of the research which are carried out of writing this paper consist of three parts.

The method and technique in collecting the data is library research by reading Roth's *Divergent* carefully and intensively in order to understand and comprehensive the story. Then the technique and method of analyzing this paper is qualitative-descriptive method. Qualitative-descriptive method is primary exploratory research. After the process of collecting data, the data that have been classified based on the kinds of conflict and its source of the conflict were analyzed descriptively by using the theories.

There are two steps done in analyzing the data. First the data showing the kinds of conflict were analyzed by using the theory of conflict which are taken from Tayla Bauer & Berrin Erdogan (2012) and supported by De Dreu and Gelfand (2008) about individual or group perceives of conflicts, Janasz (2006) about interaction of individual or group conflicts, Myers (1992) about association conflicts, and the last by Norman L Munn (1962) about three types of conflicts. Meanwhile, the theory of character are taken from Lajos Egri and supported by



William Kenney (1966) about flat and round characters, Wellek and Warren (1956) about main, secondary and supporting character. And also other theories which are relevant to this writing.

The last step is presenting the result of the analysis. Then the data is presented in narrative-descriptive way by giving an explanation in non-formal technique by using some sentences to express the data analysis that are discussed in this paper. Writer will state some definitions, explanations, theories and examples for making the validity of this paper. The examples are taken from the analysis of the novel because from reading the whole story in a novel we can analyze about the conflict of the main character.

## DISCUSSION

The conflicts of Tris are analyzed into two general parts of conflict, internal conflict and external conflict. The analysis of both, internal and external conflicts were covering the analysis of the types of conflict and the sources of conflict.

### 1. Internal Conflict

From the beginning until the end of the story, Tris plays an important part and determines the flow of the story. Tris is the character that always appears and dominantly in the story because she is faced with some conflicts and actions that build the novel. For this reason, Tris is considered as the main character of this story.

Physiologically, Beatrice Prior or known as Tris is sixteen years old. She still looks like a little girl even though she is a teenager. Tris describes that she wears a tight gray T-shirt when she is lived in the faction of Abnegation but she turns to choose Dauntless faction and changes her appearance by wearing a knee-length black dress. Tris has narrow face with wide and round eyes, and a long thin nose. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“I sneak a look at my reflection when she isn’t paying attention—not for the sake of vanity, but out of curiosity. A lot can happen to a person’s appearance in three months. In my reflection, I see a narrow face, wide, round eyes, and a long, thin nose—I still look like a little girl, though sometime in the last few months I turned sixteen.” (Roth, 2014: 1-2)

Tris is a very beautiful lady though she does not use make up for her face. Her beauty is very natural. She has no self-confidence and she thinks that she is not beauty enough. Her eyes are big with the blue colors. She also thinks that her face is noticeable. Those are explained from the quotation below:

“My eyes were blue before, but a dull, grayish blue—the eyeliner makes them piercing. With my hair framing my face, my features look softer and fuller. I am not pretty—my eyes are too big and my nose is too long—but I can see that Christina is right. My face is noticeable.” (Roth, 2014: 87)

Tris as the main character makes a great changing throughout the story especially before and after the initiation in Dauntless. Tris changes a lot in her physique as well as in the way she thinks. Before the initiation, Tris is very simple and soft lady. She has a smooth skin without muscle on her body. She is thin and tall with long blonde hair like as commonly American lady. However, after the

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initiation Tris becomes strong lady because a part of Dauntless initiation programs. Throughout the programs, her soft and smooth skin becomes hard and changes into muscular body especially in her arms, legs, and stomach. All of the changing on her body can be seen in the quotation below:

“I step to the side so I stand in front of the mirror. I see muscles that I couldn’t see before in my arms, legs, and stomach. I pinch my side, where a layer of fat used to hint at curves to come. Nothing. Dauntless initiation has stolen whatever softness my body had. Is that good, or bad?” (Roth, 2014: 167-168)

Tris also has three tattoos on her body after the Dauntless initiation programs. The first tattoo and the second tattoo are an Abnegation seal and a series of three ravens on her collarbone to represent the members of her family. Her brother (Caleb) feels shock when he cuts a piece of Tris’s shirt on her shoulder with a pair of medical scissors and see the tattoo of Abnegation seal on her right shoulder and three birds on Tris’s collarbone. Her father also looks very so fascination and shock with the tattoo. Tris also feels doubt of her decisions in making tattoos on her body. However, both her brother (Caleb) and her father say nothing about the tattoos. Even though both of them do not agree with it. All of the tattoos on Tris’s body can be proved by the quotation below:

“I kneel on the pallet and Caleb cuts a piece of my shirt away from my shoulder with a pair of medical scissors. Caleb peels the square of fabric away, revealing first the Abnegation tattoo on my right shoulder and second, the three birds on my collarbone. Caleb and my father stare at both tattoos with the same look of fascination and shock but say nothing about them.” (Roth, 2014: 449)

The third tattoo is the Dauntless’s seal on her left shoulder to symbolize that she will be the future Dauntless. As the same as the first tattoo and the second tattoo, Tris also feels doubt of her decisions whether it is true or not for her future because she still feels confused in her choice to be a part of Dauntless’s team. She tries hard to be the real Dauntless and follow all the lifestyle as a Dauntless by making the tattoos. Of course it will be very hard effort for Tris to hurt her body because she has a soft and smooth skin. That’s why her friend Christina persuades her to join the tattoo of a circle with a flame inside, she feels doubt and full of questions in her mind whether it is true or not. Because it is a part Dauntless life as integral initiation to be a brave person, Tris finally burns her body and make the tattoo. All of those events can be seen as the following quotation:

“My shoulder still burns. Christina persuaded me to join her in getting a tattoo of the Dauntless seal. It is a circle with a flame inside it. My mother didn’t even react to the one on my collarbone, so I don’t have as many reservations about getting tattoos. They are a part of life here, just as integral to my initiation as learning to fight.” (Roth, 2014: 246)

Sociologically, the character of Tris makes a lot of changes between before and after the initiation of Dauntless programs. Before the initiation programs Tris’s family is originally in Abnegation and Tris loves Abnegation values with the focus of their lives will to serve others instead of themselves. The Abnegation



faction is the faction for the selfless people who like to help each other. They do not celebrate birthdays, because it would be self-indulgent. They believe to reject a life of vanity and self-indulgence, it protects themselves from greed and envy which are one of the forms of selfishness. Tris lives in the Abnegation family where she learns how to help each other without thinking twice and her family is kind of religious family in Abnegation. It can be seen throughout the quotation below:

“We sit at the table. We always pass food to the right, and no one eats until everyone is served. My father extends his hands to my mother and my brother, and they extend their hands to him and me, and my father gives thanks to God for food and work and friends and family. Not every Abnegation family is religious.” (Roth, 2014:32)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Tris has a religious family in Abnegation because they believe in God by praying firstly to thank for food and work and friends and family. So, that makes her family religious. Tris is also described in the story that she has an older brother, his name is Caleb Prior. But, Caleb turns to leave and choose the Candor faction on aptitude test. It is also described in the story that her father works for the government, his name is Andrew Prior and her mother name is Natalie Prior.

Moreover, the next time when the choosing ceremony comes, she decided to choose Dauntless faction, it means that she leaves her family and her former faction of Abnegation. Then she lives in the new place of Dauntless compound called “The Pit”. During the Dauntless initiation programs, she turns to be like the Dauntless. They are the factions that dedicated to courage, bravery, strength, intimidation, and fearlessness. It is formed by a group of people who blame fear and cowardice as the cause of problems that society faces. It can be seen from the following quotation:

“Most of the initiates were from Dauntless, so only nine people remain. Of those, I am the only Abnegation transfer, and there are no Amity transfers. The rest are from Erudite and, surprisingly, Candor.” (Roth, 2014: 62)

Based on the quotation above, it can be examined that the author of this novel describes about Tris’s socially. The quotation above describes that Tris has decided and changes to live in her new faction of Dauntless even though she is the only one who is transferred from Abnegation faction to Dauntless faction. Sociologically, Tris is a new member of Dauntless faction and she tries to live like Dauntless. During the Dauntless initiation programs, she also makes friend with the supporting character Christina. They first meet in the train that Dauntless is used by transportation. Christina is her best friend in Dauntless faction and her relationship as a best friend is close enough by helping to support each other. Even though it is only been two days Tris and Christina make a friend. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“I guess I haven’t really had a friend, period. It’s impossible to have real friendship when no one feels like they can accept help or even talk about themselves. That won’t happen here. I already know more about Christina than I ever knew about Susan, and it’s only been two days.” (Roth, 2014: 92)



From the quotation above, it can be seen that Tris has a good friendship with Christina. Christina was born from Candor faction and transferred to the Dauntless faction. The quotation above explains that Tris has not have a friend like Christina before when she was lived in Abnegation faction.

Psychologically, Tris is a strong willed lady who hates showing her weakness. Though Tris was born in the faction of Abnegation, she is eventually transferred to Dauntless and have face the fact that she is divergent. Her Divergence allows her brain to act with traits from three of the five factions, authentically proven through her Aptitude Tests when it showed her being equally apt for Abnegation, Dauntless and Erudite. When Tris knows that she's actually a divergent, it makes Tris a little bit shocked and worried about being divergent. Divergent means that she is indicates more than one faction in the aptitude test. Those three are Abnegation or the selfless, Dauntless or the brave, and Erudite or the smart people. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“I didn't jump off the roof because I wanted to be like the Dauntless. I jumped off because I already was like them, and I wanted to show myself to them. I wanted to acknowledge a part of myself that Abnegation demanded that I hide.” (Roth, 2014: 263)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Tris is a brave girl who has Dauntless personality. Tris most distinguished trait appears to the bravery. Tris is extremely brave, from being the first jumper to ranking first in the Dauntless initiation programs. Although she does not seem like it, Tris's bravery outranks even some members of the Dauntless through her actions during the aptitude test. That's why she jumps off from the roof and becomes the first jumper during the Dauntless initiation programs because she has a brave act of the Dauntless. Although she is quite brave, she like anyone else who is also has the fears.

Tris also has an Erudite's personality. She could to exhibit Erudite traits such as her unusual curiosity and above-average intelligence. Tris is able to pick the most logical response from a particular situation, something that she seems share a similarity with an Erudite. Tris told by Four that she is a bad liar, but he also says that Tris is deadly smart, brave and selfless. It is also explained by Tori in Aptitude Test that her intelligent indicated Tris has strong alignment with the Erudite personality. Erudite is category for the smart and intelligent people. Tris also described in the story that she is a smart and intelligent when she acts in stage one of aptitude test. That can be seen from the quotation below:

“She clears her throat and continues. “Your intelligent response to the dog indicates strong alignment with the Erudite. I have no idea what to make of your indecision in stage one.” (Roth, 2014: 22)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that the author of the novel describes Tris's psychology. Tori says at the beginning of the story about Tris's test result explaining that Tris actually has an intelligent by her response to the dog in stage one of aptitude test. Beside that, Tris also has an Abnegation personality because her former faction is Abnegation. Tris describes that she is capable of risking her life to save the people that she loves and to willingly allow herself to make sacrifice without thinking of the risk. This is a great act of selflessness to help each other as it is a part of Abnegation personality. That can be seen from

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the quotation below:

“On the one hand, you threw yourself on the dog rather than let it attack the little girl, which is an Abnegation oriented response.” (Roth, 2014: 21)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Tris sacrifices herself to help the little girl from the dog’s attack during the aptitude test. That’s explained that she has a great act of selflessness and that’s a part of Abnegation personality. She would do anything to keep the people that she loves to be saved and out of danger.

From her psychological aspect, Beatrice Prior (Tris) faced internal conflict at the age of sixteen years old. Tris faced problems when she must choose one between five factions by doing the aptitude test in order to decide which faction she wanted to be. She feels more confused either choosing the same faction or leave her family by choosing the other factions. Tris struggles with her decisions on which faction to choose. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“When I look at the Abnegation lifestyle as an outsider, I think it’s beautiful. When I watch my family move in harmony; when we go to dinner parties and everyone cleans together afterward without having to be asked; when I see Caleb help strangers carry their groceries, I fall in love with this life all over again. It’s only when I try to live it myself that I have trouble. It never feels genuine.” (Roth, 2014: 24)

Based on the quotation above describes that Tris lives in the Abnegation faction in the beginning of the story. Tris loves the lifestyle of Abnegation, but when she tries to practices, she found that she is not happy with the situation in Abnegation. She also thinks that is not her truly personality. The problem of Tris in here can be categorized as Intrapersonal conflict. The Intrapersonal conflict arises within individual or a person. Here, the intrapersonal conflict arises when Tris feels very confused in order to choose the faction for devote her life. The source of the conflict is differing in attitudes, values, and perceptions.

## 2. External Conflict

In this novel the analysis of external conflict of the main character were covering the conflicts man against man and man against society.

### Man against Man

The conflict between Tris and Jeanine occurred because Jeanine is the Erudite faction’s leader. She masterminds a war against Abnegation and develops a simulation serum. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“Don’t be silly. There is no rush,” she says lightly. “You are both here for an extremely important purpose. You see, it perplexed me that the Divergent were immune to the serum that I developed, so I have been working to remedy that. I thought I might have, with the last batch, but as you know, I was wrong. Luckily I have another batch to test.” (Roth: 2014: 428)

Jeanine creates and develops a serum to control the Dauntless become sleeping walkers to attack the Abnegation compound. Jeanine’s also learn that the serum didn’t work on Tris and Four because they were divergent, then she



creates a second serum which she uses for Four. Finally, her mother is killed in the way to escape from the attack. Tris tells them the reason for Dauntless to attack Abnegation because Jeanine was perfectly planned it. The conflict between Tris and Jeanine are categorized as a conflict between men or Interpersonal conflict because those kinds of conflict happened between people. The source of the external conflict is because of her differences in Goals or Objectives.

### **The Conflict between Tris and Society**

Tris is narrated in the story that her test result is inconclusive and indicates more than one faction. They who have more than one factions as the result is considered as a divergent. Tris is one of the person who categorized as divergent. However, Tris keeps the result as a secret because being a divergent is rejected in the society. It can be seen from the quotation below:

“Is this because I’m a—” I start to say, but she presses her hand to my mouth. “Don’t say that word,” she hisses. “Ever.” So Tori was right. Divergent is a dangerous thing to be. I just don’t know why, or even what it really means, still.” (Roth, 2014: 187)

Her mother is already known about Tris’s result even though Tris has not explained. As well as Tori, Her mother also give the same warning of how dangerous to be a divergent. Divergent does not conform to the faction system in the society because divergent cannot be controlled so it can be a threat for the society. That’s why Erudite and others are scared of divergent in the society. The conflict between Tris and society are categorized as Intergroup conflict because it happened between group or society. The source of this conflict is because her differences with others as a divergent (Differing in attitudes, values, and perceptions).

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis above, I would like to give some conclusions of the conflicts of Beatrice Prior or known as Tris found in the novel entitled “Divergent” by Veronica Roth. There are some significant points that can be considered as the conclusion of the analysis in the previous chapter. Based on the role of the main character in *Divergent*, it can be concluded that Beatrice Prior or known as Tris is the main character in the story. Based on the research finding, it can be concluded as the following:

It can be stated that the conflicts of Beatrice Prior in this novel includes two kinds, internal and external conflicts. The types of internal conflict faced by Tris are categorized as intrapersonal conflict. The internal conflict of Tris arises because she faced the truth of herself that she has never expected before. Her aptitude test explained that she is actually a divergent. Tris is shocked and worried when she knew the result of her aptitude test. This is called intrapersonal conflict because it is the conflict that takes place within the individual or within her own mind. Furthermore, Tris faced four external conflicts, with Peter, Molly, Jeanine and with the society. The types of external conflict of Tris are categorized as Interpersonal and Intergroup conflict.

It can also be concluded here that the source of Tris’s conflict is differing in attitudes, values, and perceptions. Being a divergent makes her so dangerous. Typically, each stage of the simulation eliminates one or more of the factions, but





in her case, her aptitude test showed her unusual result that equally apt for Abnegation, Dauntless and Erudite factions. That is the reason why she tries to keep her result as a secret to all the people as well as her family.

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