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**Depiction of Love, Marriage and Woman's Confined Nature of Existence  
in Veronica Roth's Novels *Allegiant, Insurgent and Divergent***

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**ABSTRACT**

Women are an integral part of society. Women can play a greater role in the development of the nation. They have a greater potential to lift the nation, which is rife with problems. They have been bestowed with all the capabilities and their role in any sphere whether it is social, economic, political, cultural or educational, cannot be ignored. The need is to utilise their talent rightly and admit their stake in the nation's progress. The objective of the paper is to highlight how women in the Divergent Trilogy by American author, Veronica Roth have been exploited through every possible means by the society and how their nature of the existence in the society is confined. Moreover this paper highlights the depiction of love and marriage and how women have been exploited through every possible means by the society.

**Key Words:** Economic, Cultural, Confined Nature, Women's Reputation

**Introduction**

"Frailty, thy name is woman," wrote Shakespeare in the play *Hamlet*. The essence of this statement worked against women being considered as human beings with a functioning mind

and a beating heart. Women have always been considered the weaker lot, incapable of doing anything on their own. The opinion of the male centric thinking has always believed that unless and until women are instructed and ordered they are incapable of discharging their womanly duties as well. Women have also played into this argument and completely lost themselves and their identities. It is owing to this thinking, that women were denied the basic human rights, had no access to education and were miles away from subjects of Economics, Politics, and affairs of the society; all these were meant for the pragmatic individuals – men. The only concern of the women was to carry out the ‘womanly’ duties efficiently and satisfy the men—father, brother and the husband in the families. An important part of this also included the nurturing of the children. A woman was expected to possess good housekeeping skills and was also expected to be creative. The qualities of patience, obedience, perseverance and strength instead of becoming weapons in the hands of the women, became instruments in the hands of the men and the society at large, to pin them down. This situation is not typical of any particular country or society. This was the condition of the women throughout the world societies. The colour was the same only the shades were different. In order to get out of the mould, women have had to struggle a lot. Women have travelled a long way and have to a large extent made their presence felt and have also proven that they are not just meant for looking after the home. They are not fragile like glass dolls to be kept in menageries.

The women as a race have always exhibited strength, perseverance, fortitude and exceptional intelligence which have been undermined by the patriarchal voices. Women have played a very vital role in human progress for which they have received very little credit. That they have a significant place in the society remained as a notion in the society. With the dawn of the women’s movement, life for the women changed to some extent, though at the core, the feminine roles and expectations thereof, continued to exist. The confined nature of woman’s existence in the society or in the novels of Veronica Roth shows that women have been exploited through every possible means by the society. They suffered a lot of criticism, lacked freedom and stood nowhere next to men. They were even deprived of the basic birthrights as a human-being.

Veronica Roth has carved her way into the minds of the new generation. Being an author of the 21st century, Veronica Roth has fully taken the advantages of modern technology. Her novels are based on the issues of protection of society. Having been raised to be selfless, the author has expressed the conflict between freedom and controlled behaviour of the people in the society versus the special mentality of people that seek freedom and choice outside the

boundaries of the factions. An analysis of the novels of Veronica Roth like *Divergent* (2011), *Insurgent* (2012), and *Allegiant* (2013), shows how the protagonist is trying to reveal the identity, besides getting stopping a war, society and class, family, friendship, power, guilt and blame, competition and courage may be what they are known for, but in reality, they are more focused on fear. Veronica Roth also has shown the female characters as main protagonists. She has shown that love and marriage are part of life and these two things go in parallel with the protection of society. In the society that she projects, women are free to choose what they want. The women are not meant to be confined within the four walls of their houses. The author has taken full advantage of both modern technology and modern society in which a woman is raised, where she can run the nation and take the lead for the betterment of society and its people. In her novels, the author emphasizes the importance of familial love and sacrifice and also says that there could be no greater show of love than that.

The novels of Veronica Roth are based on a society that is organised into factions based solely on five virtues: intelligence, honesty, peacefulness, selflessness and bravery. Each faction works intensively to cultivate only its respective trait, ignoring all others. Often this leads to friction--Candour loathes Amity for how frequently they lie to keep the peace, and Abnegation turns up their noses at Erudite, believing that Intelligence can yield greed. This discourse begins and continues through her novels, this system is intended to show the importance of all five of these values; by acknowledging just one and disparaging the others, citizens are in many ways worse off than they would have been if not sorted into these factions at all. Also, the popular saying "faction before blood" emphasizes the warped sense of allegiance at the heart of the faction system.

### **Depiction of Love, Marriage and Woman's Confined Nature of Existence**

Veronica Roth in her novel-*Allegiant* has shown that love and marriage are the part of life, and these two things go in parallel with the welfare and protection of your society and mankind. She has shown that type of society where females are free to choose what they want. The novelist has depicted everything that Tris once believed in but which has broken her family, her faction, her heart. With her past turned to dust, Tris is ready to face a future beyond the fence, in a world without limits. But Tris's new reality will test her understanding

of courage, allegiance, sacrifice and love-she must summon every ounce of bravery she possesses to face the dark times ahead. She must make her final choice.

In the novels of Veronica Roth, love and marriage are just a part of life and protection of society is entirely the whole focus. For Veronica Roth emphasis particularly on love and marriage in her novels is not there but having a love for people of the society is also a kind of pure love. Veronica Roth has depicted her novels in modern times, where love and marriage are the secondary things to do but what comes first is the protection of the people of society. Love and marriage go in parallel with the other things. Love and marriage in the 21st century according to Veronica Roth is both the same and different; mutating interestingly as trying to reconfigure it for lives led at a different speed. Its power is undiminished; it grips the hearts and records memories as strong as ever. Since the 17th century, it's been the pursuit of love that has fascinated the human society. What the humans do after getting it has not concerned many in the society. All love stories end with a wedding, but where once it was presumed the lovers faded away into a happily ever after, now they just fade away. Love arrives or grows, but marriage is a decision. Love feels like something outside ourselves, we are overtaken by emotion, we cannot help how we feel but marriage happens from the inside out, and in the head as well as the heart. We believe in the hope and belief that love and interest will not diminish but grows. It's an act of faith and most of us make it. It's a deep human need to connect with another and the point is to be loved, is a lifetime's work.

Veronica Roth's *Divergent* is set in a society whose structure is out rightly and blatantly masculine. The Dauntless—who are government by men and men only, it would appear—celebrate combat, aggression, violence, and other qualities that are more commonly associated with men than women. Beatrice Prior is not taken seriously by the members as she is a woman and that too, a non- challenging type. That is the reason she is constantly to be frightened, submissive, and meek. In order to make a place for herself she imitates the masculine behaviour but does not achieve much. She is most successful when she is herself. Her biology is against her. This is the reason she fails to fit in.

The entire lives of the citizens in *Divergent* are determined by what faction they are in. The only freedoms they are granted is the ability to choose their faction; but even then, their decisions are heavily influenced by the faction they grew up in. Even the leisure activities correspond to those promoted by the respective factions. If one wants to marry then it has to be within the faction. There is hardly any social mobility and one has to follow the

predetermined roles in the corresponding factions to which they belong. As the protagonist is an adolescent of 16 years, she is more concerned about forming her identity and questions of love and marriage do not bother her.

The novels of Veronica Roth depicts freedom that is granted in the ability to choose faction, the decisions are heavily influenced by a faction the characters grow up in. There is little social mobility. A person's life follows one of the predetermined roles in their respective faction. The activities of choice correspond to those promoted by their faction, and they are meant to marry within the faction as well. If they prove themselves ineligible to fit in the faction of their choice, they become functionless, their position lowers below all the other faction members in status in every way, and they are forced to live out in the dangerous recesses of the city.

Novels of Veronica Roth add a new layer of complexity with its creation of an illusion of democracy for participants in its fractioned society, with the factions controlled by outside forces. Government division of its population into fragmented communities is a frequent device in young adult and children's fiction. Her novels stated that the writing style offers distinctive, terse prose that creates a fast-paced reading experience. Veronica Roth's novels described the style as brisk pacing lavish flights to imagination and writing that occasionally startles with fine detail. It is noted that her novels follows the structural and stylistic patterns. Her novels explore a more common adolescent anxiety, the painful realization that coming into one's own sometimes means leaving family behind ideologically and physically. Veronica Roth's novels depict considerable violence for a young adult novel. She emphasized this as a stylistic choice, calling it edgy and describing the initiation rituals that her protagonists endure as spellbinding as they are violent requiring sadistic tests of strength and courage. But at the same time, her novels do not keep this violence at the forefront of reader the experience. The novels flights from reality distance the reader from the emotional impact that might come in a more affecting realistic or even fantasy novel. Though her novels do not maintain an overtly Christian thematic interest, some readers place the themes of novels within the context because of Veronica Roth's professed religiosity. Veronica Roth's lifestyle is important to the novel's impact.

Veronica Roth reserves her loathing for "Erudites" who spend days in intellectual pursuit and that the trend of intellectualism makes people apt to seize power and impose uniformity on entire populations. The novels explore the themes common to young adult fiction, such as

adult authority, as well as such broader motifs as the place of violence and social structures within a post-apocalyptic society. Her major plot device, the division of society into personality types, is one used in other science fiction works. Beyond its literary context, Veronica Roth's open declaration of her religion as a Christian has brought commentary from Christian communities both endorsing and challenging the novel.

Veronica Roth has depicted in her novel *Insurgent*, Beatrice Prior, who is fighting for the survival in a shattered world and the truth is her only hope. Tris has survived a brutal attack on her former home and family. But she has paid a terrible price. Wracked by grief and guilt, she becomes ever more reckless as she struggles to accept her new future. If Tris wants to uncover the truth about her world, she must be stronger than ever because more shocking choices and sacrifices lie ahead. Veronica Roth tells the riveting and complex story of a teenage girl who is forced to choose between her reutilized, selfless family and the adventurous, unrestrained future. She longs for a memorable, unpredictable journey from which it is nearly impossible to turn away. The plot clips along at an addictive pace, with steady jolts of brutal violence and swoony romance. Tobias Eaton (*Four*) crouched in front of her, his hand on her left shoulder. The train car bumps over the rails and Marcus, Peter and Caleb stand by the doorway.

Veronica Roth's Beatrice knows that the choice that one makes can either make or destroy the person, as every choice that is made has its own consequences. But every choice has consequences, and as unrest creeps into the factions all around her, Tris Prior must continue trying to save those she loves and tackling haunting questions of grief and forgiveness, identity, loyalty, politics and love. Elizabeth stays within the family to realize her ambitions but Beatrice has to adhere to a faction which is a lifetime allegiance, more important than the family. If they become divergent and show their independent thinking, they face the threat of getting killed or hunted by the ruthless Erudite leaders. Elizabeth is more emancipated than Beatrice. Though the society imposed restrictions, she stands out as a courageous and stable woman. On the other hand, Beatrice is a 21st century woman but has to conduct herself within the strictures of the faction. For going against the rules or codes of the faction leads to death.

## **Conclusion**

On the basis of this paper, it can be concluded that Women have travelled a long way and have to a large extent made their presence felt and have also proven that they are not just meant for looking after the home. The women as a race have always exhibited strength, perseverance, fortitude and exceptional intelligence which have been undermined by the patriarchal voices. Women have played a very vital role in human progress for which they have received very little credit. Throughout human history, the central role of women in the society has ensured the stability, progress and long-term development of nations. The novel, *Allegiant* has shown that love and marriage are the part of life, and these two things go in parallel with the welfare and protection of your society and mankind. The depiction of Love and Marriage in *Divergent* attempts to examine the ideas of the female protagonists towards men they love, and how they express that love and reflect their opposite temperaments. The representation of the women in the novels of Veronica Roth's *Insurgent* depicts the contribution made by women towards the home in particular and society in general is considered to be an honorary service. Women, belonging to all age groups and backgrounds get engaged into the honorary work towards promoting the well-being of the individuals.

The confined nature of woman's existence in the society or in the novels of Veronica Roth shows that women have been exploited through every possible means by the society. They suffered a lot of criticism, lacked freedom and stood nowhere next to men. They were even deprived of the basic birthrights as a human-being. Women are an integral part of society. Women can play a greater role in the development of the nation.

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