

## Deconstruction Of The Women's Roles In "The Hunger Games" Film By Gary Ross

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<b>Article History:</b>  Submitted June, 15 2019 Revised Agt 27, 2019 Accepted Sept 23, 2019 Published Des 13, 2019	<i>This paper discusses deconstruction of the role of women in The Hunger Games film. The purpose of this thesis is; 1) to know what the roles of the women in The Hunger Games film, 2) to analyze how deconstruction of the roles of women in The Hunger Games film, and 3) to discover the effects that the result from deconstruction of the roles of the women in The Hunger Games film. In writing of this paper, the writer uses deconstruction theory and post-structuralist approach to support the theory. The writer uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the problems there in. The data were taken from the primary data, namely The Hunger Games film in 2012 by Gary Ross. In this paper, the writer found some women's roles at different roles in general in The Hunger Games film. Their roles are equal to the roles of men, they are; 1) from weak to strong, 2) dependent to independent, 3) timid to courageous, 4) emotional to rational, and 5) retarded to advanced. In this case, the deconstruction theory instrumental in eliminating the notion of women generally being a new and different assumption.</i>
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### Introduction

Colombia has been at war for over 60 years (if you count the bloody period of La Violencia that came before the guerrilla war). Throughout this protracted conflict women have played three main roles. They have been victims, perpetrators, and peace-builders. Many times, these roles overlap.<sup>1</sup>

Based on this quotation by Anamaría Trujillo-Gómez, B.A. from Georgetown University explains that the women hold three important roles in a war. They are victims, perpetrators, and peace-builders. In the war, mostly the death victims are women, because women are mostly weak and they used to have no power to against enemies that made them fall. In the other hand women

<sup>1</sup> Anamaría Trujillo-Gómez, B.A. The Role of Women in Peace-building in Colombia, Washington, 2013, p. 3.

are not only being victim, but also being perpetrator which caused women seem useless in government. However, they are being victim and perpetrator, but they have a big contribution in war as peace-builders which their duty is extraordinary and it took them to do that during the world war. The duty is not easy. They might be sacrifice themselves during done the duties. As a peace-builder women in the old days have to make a negotiation with the other government across their land.

The examples of the role of the women are as reflected by *The Hunger Games* Film. The first woman who is analyzed in this research is Katniss. She is strong, courageous, independent, and smart. It is described in some of her roles in this film. First, she replaced her younger sister as a volunteer tribute who will play the hunger games - in the games each tribute has to kill the other and they have to defend their life. Second, she is an archer; she has a well done skill in archery, it is proven by her action when she had to show it to Snow—President of Capitol, her first shoot was out of target, and then the judges laughed at her. Looking how the judges underestimated her, she took the arrow and she shot an apple that directly in front of the judges. It made the judges being shock and appreciates her work. Third, she could make a decision to change the rules of the games. Actually, Capitol only has one victor, but Katniss changed to be two victors. There is no one who braves to rebel the decision that made by Capitol for 74 years. The last is she is smart; she is able to think how to survive her life in the game till the end, even when she faces something precarious. She still has an idea to protect herself.

The second woman is Rue as supporting character. Rue is still too young, and she is being the youngest tribute in the game. She is smart, agile, and independent. It is showed during the game. Although her body is thin, she has a courageous to follow the game. During the games, Rue helped Katniss several times. First, when Cato and other tributes chased Katniss, Katniss climbed the tree to ignore them. And then, Rue came and help Katniss in a way dropping Tracker Jackers, the wasps that made by Capitol. She pointed the wasps to show it to Katniss, and Katniss dropped it. Besides that, when Katniss took the medicine for Peeta, Clove attacked her. Thress, Rue's partner, came and killed Clove. It is done because of Rue.

*The Hunger Games* film is adopted from the novel "The Hunger Games" was written by Suzanne Colline who also writes the scenario the film. *The Hunger Games* film is adventure – drama film that directed by Gary Ross in 2012. The duration of this film is 02:22:33 seconds. This film takes place in a nation known as Panem, which consists of a wealthy capital city and thirteen surrounding poor districts under the capital's iron rule, but district 13 was destroyed as

punishment for a previous rebellion against the capital, one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 from each district are selected by annual lottery to participate in the hunger games, which are violent and deadly the games are an event in which the participants (or "tributes") must survive until only one individual remains. The interesting thing in this film is about the roles of the women and men are not different. Even, the roles of the women are more prominent than men. They are the courageous of young women who are brave to follow the hunger games.

### **Deconstruction Theory**

The term was introduced by Jacques Derrida, the French philosopher, after publication of his *Of Grammatology* in 1967. Although Derrida does not define the term explicitly both in *Of Grammatology* and other works, he gives important clues about how to deconstruct a text, which can help critics define the term. In Yunus Ozdemir's book, M.A.R. Habib explained that deconstruction is:

A way of reading, a mode of writing, and, above all, a way of challenging interpretations of texts based upon conventional notions of the stability of the human self, the external world, and of language and meaning (649).<sup>2</sup>

According to M.A.R Habib's explanation that deconstruction is a method for reading and writing the texts, which resist elucidation the texts. It is not only language and meaning of the text, but also wider. Including how the stability of the human self and above all that influence it, like literary, politic, history, and so on. Deconstruction terms was first proposed by Derrida to renounce what the human believed, and he developed and repaired for getting a new point of view on the various elements such as language, power, institution that are existing without disturbing and destroying. The word deconstruction is gotten from the French verb "deconstuire," connoting to undo the improvement of or the development of, to take to pieces.

Deconstruction is a system that incorporates all other related necessities of building radially and tenaciously, and/ or contains both obliteration and improvement in itself giving space for the illumination that there is no destruction without advancement and the other way around.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Yunus Ozdemir, *Deconstruction of Epic Beowulf in John Gardener's Novel Grendel*, Pamukkale University, 2014, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> R. Gnanasekaran, *An Introduction to Derrida, Deconstruction and Postructuralism* (International Journal of English Literature and Culture), p. 2.,.

Based on the explanation above, deconstruction is a method that merges all need or contains extermination and repair that built by Derrida. Derrida tries to change the perspective of the objects by other perspectives. He argues that there is no eradicating without developing. French philosopher explained that hypothesis is an intellectual argument critique and particular scientific that underlie all western ideas and values. It focuses on the text. There is no consistent on language and elucidation. Deconstruction does not have idea and certain strategy. It just how deconstruct the text. Derrida shows how deconstruct the text, the weakness of the structure that is understandable clearly to reveal a mystery on the text, which no destroy and develop for or of something. In deconstruction the significance is neither before nor after, or neither inside nor outside of the text. Toward one side, the figural language of writings and expressions of the human experience brings the uncertainty between the genuine and the implied measurements. To put it in other words, the unending bind of signifiers prompts to no conclusion of the text. It is possible only through the chain of signifiers. In fact the chain of signifiers is always the chain of the signifiers but that can never become the absolute signified. *"Deconstructive examination enrolls a few systems and terms analyze logo centrism which has a tendency to produce or give the last intending to a particular text".<sup>4</sup>*

From the statement above, it shows that deconstruction inspection follows a few systems and require for analyzing logo centrism to produce or give the last purpose for certain text. It is stated that deconstructive concern with the text as the main point in this theory. The other things that Derrida wants to analyze by using this theory is about the western thoughts such a philosophical, because, this theory is established by a philosopher itself. The term deconstruction gives many influences for readers. It is because deconstruction is one of the most radical approach for reading that presents difficult itself on the text. That is why then people can understand and be able to read a literary work. Because it can help when they want to read a literary work, they know how to read and interpret a literary work by deconstruction strategy.

### **Design of the Research**

Qualitative research is referred to as interpretive research by Erickson (1986) and he suggests that the term "qualitative" essentially carries the distinction of being non-quantitative. Denzin and Lincoln (1994) seem to agree as they explain that qualitative research can be viewed as a set of interpretive practices where no single practice has privilege over any other. They claim that qualitative research includes constructivism, cultural studies, feminism, Marxism, and ethnic

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 2.,.

studies. A few more recognized qualitative practices will be examined here. A phenomenological study is an attempt to fully understand the essence of some phenomenon (McMillan, 2000) while a case study, according to Stake (1994), is not a methodological choice, but a choice of object to be studied. The case studied can be simple or complex, a child, a classroom, or a group of professionals. It is one among others. He explains that case studies are of value in refining theory and suggesting complexities for further investigation. Ethnographic methods rely on participant observation to explore the nature of cultural or social phenomenon while working with unstructured data usually on a small number of cases involving explicit interpretation of the meanings of human actions (Atkinson & Hammersley, 1994; McMillan, 2000). Grounded theory is an inductive process of generating or discovering a theory or schema from coding and categorizing data (Strauss & Corbin, 1998; McMillan, 2000).<sup>5</sup>

‘Qualitative methods’ is a broad term that can be applied to a range of research approaches that have their theoretical origins in a range of disciplines including anthropology, sociology, philosophy, social psychology and linguistics.<sup>6</sup>

In accord with illustrations above, qualitative method is a method that its coverage is very comprehensive for several of sciences which have origin of their theory each. This method is used to describe and explain a social phenomenon and human problem. In this method, writer makes a description something complex, researches words, and makes study at natural situation. Therefore, qualitative research is a description of study and tends to use inductive analysis approach. In this method, the description has to clear; the analysis has to convince and the strong argument to make a conclusion. The advocates of this method said that the research with using this method is built from the reality for quantities analysis. The writer gets a supporting idea about qualitative research that is used in this research. This makes the research to be strong, and help the writer because this research analyzes about human in empowerment and economic.

## **The Roles of the Women**

### **1. Women Empowerment**

Women and men are differed based on the background of women who are retarded. However, in this film the roles of the women and men are equal. They have same roles; those are in war and development. Women have to participate like men. Katniss Everdeen is young woman who

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<sup>5</sup> Chaterine, M. Castellan, *Quantitative and Qualitative Research: A view for Clarity* (International Journal of Education, Loyola University, United Stated, 2010, p. 5.

<sup>6</sup> Jo, Moriaty, *Qualitative Methods Overview*, London, School for Social Care Research, 2011, p. 2

lives with her mother and her younger sister in poorest region, District 12. She holds the main role in this film. She has to take as tribute in the hunger games to replace her younger sister, Primrose Everdeen. She has to follow all of the roles in this game; the tributes have to kill or killed other tributes to survive their life until the end. In her daily, Katniss gets food supply from hunting deer, bird, and so on in the forest that surrounded by barbed wire. It should be run electric current for 24 hours in a day to dispel the wild beasts which live in the forest. But, now it is not function. She goes to the forest with Gale, her boyfriend, to get food supply for her mother and younger sister. However, sometimes she goes to the forest alone. Since her father died, she becomes the backbones of her family. As a woman, Katniss is strong, courageous, independent, and smart; even she sacrifices her life for her dear younger sister in the hunger games made by Capitol.

## **2. Economic Supporting**

Surviving in this game is not only how they kill other tributes but also need people outside or sponsor to help them stay alive. Haymitch told to the Katniss and Peeta how to survive in the game. He said that they had to get sponsors. They need to make people like them and it called sponsors.

"You really want to know how to stay alive? You get people to like you." (00:27:01)

Cinna, custom designer for Katniss, helped Katniss looked different at the night. Katniss wore black costume with the fire on the back of costume. During parade tribute, all audiences screamed and clapped hands when Katniss was passing. They threw the flowers at her. That is one way to get sponsors. Because sponsors will give everything what the tribute needed in material form.

## **Deconstruction of the Roles of the Women**

### **1. Weak to Strong**

Surviving is usually executed by men, and women just accept what men give. Since childhood, women are just given things that relate to households. In addition, they are always taught prostrate. Thus making them was accustomed tender. Even when they are hurt, they just accept it without fight. It does contrasts with the role of the women in this film. Since childhood they have been taught to be strong, able to protect themselves and even others. Indeed they are not strong in terms of power, but to protect themselves can be equated with men. Cato and other tributes found Katniss in the lake and chased her. She ran away into the forest. She knew that Cato and another could catch her and she will not be able to fight with them. She looked around to save her life, and then she saw a big tree and climbed it. Katniss has own way to survive from other tributes. Cato tried to climb it

too, but he fell down. Glimmer (other tribute) shot with a bow, but it also missed. In this scene, author shows that the women's roles are afford to safe their life from jeopardy.

## **2. Dependent to Independent**

Women in this film are independent and smart. They can find a way to protect their life from enemy or something dangerous. So far, the assumption that happens that women when face something dangerous, they only scream to ask helping, but not in this film. They are described being able to protect themselves alone and independent. Katniss survived by climb a tree and stay high not only to get rest, but also to avoid the attack from the other tributes. By doing that thing, Katniss can survive from the death. She did what most other women do not think about it. Therefore, she is able to do certain thing that even men could not do that thing such as climb a tree, make a trap, and her trick can make her stay alive properly. Children who should still need a protection from their parents, and they have to get education at school. However, in this film, the author describes children in difference way. They are independent and smart, even though they do not go school. They can follow the competition that made by capitol. That is Rue, one of tribute from District 11, was still 12 years old and she had thin body. She was able to get seven points when she practiced in the games. Katniss and Rue, not all women are the same. There is no difference between women and men. Everyone has the same roles, which is in the house or out the house. In some ways, women do not need men's help continuously. Most of women often can do their duties in their way; it means that not in the whole things women can dependently need men's help. In this film, it this shown that women can live wildly in the forest or in the other hands they are surviving their live and also their district where they belong to. As it can be portrayed from the film, between men and women have the equal position that deserve to be the winner of the game. The women in this game have the early role and showed the independent way of thought, survive and empowerment.

## **3. Timid to Courageous**

In the other way, women are described as courageous and sociable. It can be portrayed in this scene. When the selection of the tributes in the games was started, Katniss and his younger sister follow with pulse heart. Effie Trinket (Elizabets Banks) came to the podium and presented to the Capitol, spoke in the standard Capitol accent. After that, she pulled out a name, and walked back to the podium, opened the slip up, and read it in her head before saying it aloud. Katniss shocked when she heard what Effie trinket read. It was almost unbelievable, because her younger's name

was only one that was over there. She as her older sister did not let her younger sister became a tribute in the Hunger Games. Katniss knew that her sister had not been able to follow this game.

"Prim! No! I volunteer! I volunteer as tribute!..... Prim, you need to get out of here. Prim, go find mom right now. I'm so sorry" (00:15:26 – 00:15:45)

She chased toward Prim. She wanted to be the volunteer as a tribute replaced her sister. She did not care about the guards who sought to prevent her. She hugged Prim and asked Prim to go back to their mother. Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth) took Prim from Katniss. Prim was thrashing in his arms and screaming for Katniss. Gale carried Prim to her mother. Katniss walked onto the stage. It describes that woman has social spirit and courageous. She sacrificed her life for her younger sister. Although she knew that the other tributes were strong and powerful, but she tried to reassure herself and persons in around her that she could be the winner.

### **The Effect of Deconstruction of the Women's Roles**

#### **1. Self Confident**

In surviving in the hunger games is not only how they can kill other tributes but also have to get people like them. It really helps them when they need something in the game, because their sponsor will give what they need. Katniss almost pass the division of the forest that made by Capitol in the game. Capitol makes her went back in the middle of the forest with attack Katniss with fire. Katniss fell down and her leg burned. It causes the injury that very painful. At the time, she saw something fly at the tree. She climbed and took it. It was medicine for her. The medicine is sent by sponsor to her. What Katniss did in Tribute Parade made people like her and being her sponsor. It is one way to influence people loving her.

In accord with the elucidations above, it explains about how the effect of the women's roles to get what they need. They are capable to influence people to like them. Therefore, she can stay alive with the help of sponsors and even children.

#### **2. Society Point of View**

The women's roles in this film have big influence in history of the hunger games and for the women themselves. They change the assumptions that some of districts are not weak and can be a victor, like district 12 is known as a poorest and retarded district in Panem. Haymitch explained to Katniss and Peeta how strong district 1 and 2 are. It shows when they were practicing in the gym. The tributes of district 1 and 2 are strong, smart, and multitalented. They can use the properties in the gym.

Haymitch : He's a career. You know what that is?  
Katniss : From District 1  
Peeta : And 2  
Haymitch : They trained in a special academy until they're 18. Then they volunteer. by that point, they're pretty lethal. (01:32:49 –01:33:12)

The tributes from district 1 and 2 were known as the strong tributes. They are almost being the winner almost every year, because they have been trained in a special academy until 18 years old. Meanwhile district 12 is the poorest district and backward. They only can survive from starvation, because many of them died in hunger in their district. In the game Katniss can prove that district 12 cannot be underestimated. She could stay alive until the end.

### **3. Authority Owner**

In The Hunger Games only has one victor. It is explained in the film which brought by Capitol before pull out the names of tributes. This film shows to make them, all districts, remember about the rebellion in the past. The Hunger Games are made to commemorate it. And the victor will be rich. The decision is not sued for 74 years. However, in the middle of the games, the rule was changed with requirement; they have to come from same district. This rule was changed because district 11 got a mad when Rue died. This decision is only to melt their anger. Nonetheless at the end of the game, the rule was changed to be two winners with one condition that is from same district. Actually the rule was changed only a lying because after all tributes died except Katniss and Peeta who stayed alive, the rule was back to the beginning, it was only one victor. The policy makes Peeta and Katniss shocked. Katniss got a angry and did not accept it. Peeta asked to Katniss to kill himself. She was dropping her bow. She took out the berries—the fruits are poisonous. Peeta gripped her to deny Katniss' idea. Katniss whispered to him, Peeta stared her before he released his grip. Peeta asked her. Katniss poured the berries on his hand. Peeta started to count. And Katniss counted also. The last counting, Cladius Templesmith's voice (Toby Jones) who was panic stopped them. This decision gives big influence for this film because so far no one dared oppose the rule that made by Capitol. In this case, woman is able to change authority with her courageous to take a decision, although she knows that it risks.

### **Conclusion**

This film represents the roles of the women in different point of view. There are two roles of women in this film; first, women empowerment; women are described as women who have a

power to compete with men. Second, economic supporting; the victory that was gotten by one of the women has changed the economic in herself and the society.

Deconstruction of the women's roles contained in some differences that happen in the women's roles in common in this film, they are: weak to strong; women in this film could fight like men. Then, dependent to independent; they could survive themselves without need protection of men. Emotional to rational; they are able to make decision or policy which certainly cannot accentuate emotional. Timid to courageous; they brave to follow a game the stakes their lives. The last is retarded to advanced; they are able to think of anything to save themselves although in precious state.

The effects of deconstruction of the women's roles have big influence in history of the hunger games in this film. The first is self confident; they show that the women have abilities to get what they need from others. The second is society point of view; the women's roles in this film are able to change the assumption that one of the districts is weak and cannot be winner. The last is authority owner; they could change the policy that only one victor in this game to be two victors.

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