

Katniss Everdeen's Character Development in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* Trilogy

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A B S T R A C T

This research examines the character development of Katniss Everdeen, the protagonist in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* trilogy. It attempts to investigate whether socioeconomic factors play a role in Katniss's character development. To address this question, Marxism was adopted as the theoretical framework to analyze Katniss's character development. The results of the research indicate that the development of Katniss Everdeen as a character is a product of the socioeconomic power struggle within the society, both coming from the socioeconomic classes and the two presidents in Panem.

Keywords: *character development, Marxism, power struggle, society.*

INTRODUCTION

In the past few years, the literary world has been swarmed with numerous science fiction novels. One of them is the best-selling young adult series called *The Hunger Games* trilogy written by an American novelist Suzanne Collins. This trilogy consists *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*, the setting of which is a dystopian future of North America.

According to Abrams (1999), science fiction represents "an imagined reality that is radically different in its nature and functioning from the world of our ordinary experience." Likewise, *The Hunger Games* trilogy offers an alternate universe, once known as North America, which has then turned into some horrifying country where teenagers have to participate in the most gruesome annual event, Hunger Games, and kill each other ruthlessly. This country is named Panem—the imagined reality, the radically different portrayal of the current North America.

Panem adopts a totalitarian system, locking people down for they are controlled, manipulated, and also monopolized in almost every aspect of

their lives. It creates socioeconomic power struggle within the society that is believed to influence people on personal level, including Katniss Everdeen, the main character of the trilogy.

The protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, is a dynamic character who drives the plot significantly, and at the same is also influenced by it. She is only sixteen years of age when the story begins and physically looks nothing special compared to other girls in the neighborhood, but her life is no ordinary adventure. Being a volunteer from the poorest district in the country and becoming the victor of the dreaded Hunger Games make her extraordinary. It is even more extraordinary as she is assigned to take the role of Mockingjay—the symbol of rebellion. This ups-and-downs of her adventure is worth an in-depth analysis.

Therefore, this paper attempts to examine Katniss Everdeen's character development throughout the trilogy, and to investigate whether her character development is strongly influenced by the socioeconomic power struggle in the society where she belongs.

METHODS

In order to meet these two objectives, a Marxist approach was adopted in the analysis of the novels. Marxism works as a critique towards the capitalist world, where people can be *too* rich or *too* poor, and its impacts on the society. Tyson (1964, pp. 53-54) asserts that the major premise of Marxism is that human societies are shaped by its economic system, and all of the social and political activities in society, including philosophy, government, and the media, is driven by the desire of keeping and getting economic power. People are competing against each other and building social relations to obtain their own interests. This phenomenon leads to the socioeconomic power struggle within the society. Marxism focuses on that relationship between the socioeconomic classes (the *bourgeoisie* or the owners and the *proletariats* or the workers) to fully understand the distribution and dynamic of economic power within the society.

The method used in this paper is a library research. The sources are taken from written materials in the library. The primary data are the literary works itself; the three books of *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins, i.e., *The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, and *Mockingjay*. The secondary data include books, journals, or articles related to the trilogy and its main protagonist Katniss Everdeen, the character development, and also the Marxist perspective that is relevant to the analysis, e.g., Tyson (1964), which provides a basic knowledge on the Marxist perspective.

The research procedures are as follows: First, all of the three books were read to understand the stories well. Second, the trilogy was divided into three parts to examine Katniss Everdeen's character development in each book, as well as to observe whether or not there is a significant difference on its development from one book to another. Third, some important notes were made from the secondary data that provide strong evidence to the analysis.

PANEM AND ITS REGULATING SYSTEM

Set in a country called Panem, *The Hunger Games* trilogy depicts a dystopia which embodies

complex social and historical backgrounds. Abrams (1999) defines the term *dystopia* ("bad place") as "a very unpleasant imaginary world in which ominous tendencies of our present social, political, and technological order are projected into a disastrous future culmination." It is supported by Moylan's (2003) perspective about the characteristics of *dystopia*, that it is often "located in a negatively deformed future of our own world."

There has been many examples of literary works, such as *Brave New World* and *Nineteen Eighty-four* that, as suggested by Gottlieb (2001, p. 27), represent the dystopia by showing:

(...) a definite sense of continuity between the flawed world of the present and the even more profoundly flawed, monstrous world of the hypothetical future, where our society's errors against justice and reason become a totalitarian dictatorship of organized injustice.

Gottlieb (2001) also believes that the *dystopia* criticizes "the injustice and irrationality of the existing social system" and thus functions as a warning for the readers about the possible outcomes of how the present world may evolve regressively.

On account of that, *The Hunger Games* trilogy can be categorized as an example of literary works presenting *dystopia*. The setting is in an unpleasant future of North America named Panem where totalitarian system takes over the once-democratic government. The dehumanizing effects of this kind of system make its people suffer even on a daily basis. Hence this paper proposes that *The Hunger Games* trilogy also works as a critique towards the current North American's system and society. Panem has its own history behind the establishment that is important to be taken into consideration.

Before the Dark Days

Panem is led by a dictator named Coriolanus Snow for years. Originally, Panem separates itself into the Capitol, also known as the ruling city, and thirteen districts which each has one particular industry to supply goods for the country's growing needs; luxury (District 1), masonry (District 2),

technology (District 3), fishing (District 4), power (District 5), transportation (District 6), lumber (District 7), textiles (District 8), grain (District 9), livestock (District 10), agriculture (District 11), mining (District 12), and graphite nuclear (District 13).

The districts are not allowed to sell or consume their own resources and instead are obliged to export them to the Capitol. This centralised economic system indicates Panem's form of government, that is a totalitarian government. According to Freidrich (1964, pp. 52-53), there are five aspects which totalitarian society possesses: an official ideology, a single mass party, a technologically conditioned near-complete monopoly of control of all means of effective armed combat, a similarly technologically conditioned near-complete monopoly of control of all means of effective mass communication, and a system of terroristic police control.

All of those five aspects can be seen in Panem's government. First, in Panem everything is under the Capitol's control, including the centralised economic system planting a make-believe to its people's mind that it is only the Capitol who may have the control towards all of their production. Second, the government is controlled by a single party, typically a dictator who rules every aspect of the people's life; in this case President Snow. Third, armies and weapons are controlled by ruling regime. People in the districts are not allowed to possess any kind of weapons. Fourth, the Capitol only shows what they want the people to know through mass media. Lastly, a system of terroristic police control. Panem has armed forces called the Peacekeepers, who are assigned to keep everything in the districts under control.

Years later, this totalitarian government results in rebellion instigated by District 13, because they do not have enough coal to power their own districts nor enough food to feed its people. There is no detailed information on the rebellion, since Katniss as the narrator only learns about it from the weekly lecture of Panem's history in her school, and the Capitol basically controls any kind of mass media including books

the schools use. Nevertheless, the Capitol forces succeeded in defeating District 13, even obliterating it.

After the Dark Days

The Capitol then established an annual event called Hunger Games as a punishment to the Dark Days which is also a warning of the absolute power its government has. Hunger Games is "the Capitol's way of reminding us (the people) how totally we are at their (the Capitol's) mercy. How little chance we would stand of surviving another rebellion" (Collins, 2008, p. 17).

Being closely examined through Marxist perspective, Hunger Games works as a tool to those in power, the government, to always manipulate its people into believing that they indeed have the upper hand. The government controls over all of the districts's production so basically people have no alternatives to get food other than sacrificing their children to sign up for Hunger Games. They brand Hunger Games as cruel as possible, and throw it every year, to keep people's terror fresh thus there will not be enough courage for them to instigate another rebellion. People will be too distracted by their own struggles to stay alive.

The Hunger Games

Hunger Games is a survival game where twenty-four children from Panem's twelve remaining districts are put together in an artificial arena to fight one another to death. Only the last one standing will be announced as victor.

The last tribute alive receives a life of ease back home, and their district will be showered with prizes, largely consisting of food. All year, the Capitol will show the winning district gifts of grain and oil and even delicacies like sugar while the rest of us battle starvation. (Collins, 2008, p. 18)

Review of Panem and Its Regulating System

The previous three sections have covered basic knowledge of the Panem country and its regulating system that, in a nutshell, is considered as totalitarian. If so, then what does the *Hunger Games* tell the readers about? What message is

Suzanne Collins trying to convey through her works?

When a literary work is interpreted in a Marxist point of view, it has Marxist agendas and relevances to the real world. A literary work is considered as having Marxist agendas when it critiques or invites the readers to critique oppressive socioeconomic forces. This paper proposes that *The Hunger Games* trilogy has Marxist agendas because it works as a critique to the oppressive socioeconomic forces in Panem, which resembles American society nowadays.

There are four main Marxist tenets that the Hunger Games Trilogy possesses: keeping and getting economic power as the main motive of all social and political activities, socioeconomic classes and their struggle, the alienated laborers, and the commodification within the capitalist society. At the end of the day, it all comes back to the Marxists's very basic assumption that the economic systems structure human societies, as well as create human experience (Tyson, 2006, p. 53). By making some parallels to the real world, that is present-day American society, whether intended or not, Suzanne Collins wants to criticize the United States of America's political and socioeconomic system through her work. She presents her bleak, pessimistic view towards the future America in a form of dystopian fiction in order to expose readers to the world they are living in today and the problems its society is facing.

In *Mockingjay*, as the final part of the trilogy, Katniss Everdeen and people in the districts who have long been oppressed raise a rebellion to fight for what they think they deserve, that is an economic power equality, against the oppressor President Snow. That way Suzanne Collins invites the readers to be more self-conscious about the problems in American society and even better consider some possible changes to reach better future. Thus the dystopic place like Panem where an inhumane killing event like Hunger Games can be prevented; it does not need to ever happen in real life.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Katniss Everdeen Before the Hunger Games

Katniss Everdeen is a teenage girl aged only sixteen with gray eyes, olive skin, and dark hair that resembles other people in District 12 which is known as the most impoverished among the total twelve remaining districts in Panem. She lives with her mother and younger sister Primrose (nicknamed Prim) "almost at the edge of the Seam," (Collins, 2008, p. 4) the poorest area in District 12 nearby its high chain-link fence separating the district and the woods, where families suffer everyday from starvation.

Katniss is a very introverted person who prefers spending her time alone to hanging out with some friends. She rarely talks, belongs to no group of friends at school, and puts an indifferent mask because she does not want people read her mind too easily. She even becomes angry every time her mother offers help, as if accepting it make her feel weak and in debt.

Despite being an introvert, Katniss is selfless to those she cares about. Ever since her father's death, she has become a breadwinner to support all of the family's needs including food. She begins to hunt wild animals in the woods even though it violates the rule and she might get imprisoned if the authorities find out.

Her main concern has always been her family, that Katniss repeatedly risks herself to save their lives. She sincerely puts her name extra times in the reaping lottery for some food for her mother and Prim. Although, she thinks that the reaping system is somehow unfair since it is "just another tool to cause misery" in their district and "to plant hatred between the starving workers of the Seam and those who can generally count on supper; and thereby ensure we (district people) will never trust one another" (Collins, 2008, p. 16).

Katniss spends most of her time hunting and thinking of all possible ways to keep her family safe, therefore she cannot care of anything else beside that. She becomes indifferent when it comes to anything beside her own business. Although Gale rants about the Capitol and its cruelty, and she agrees with him too, she believes complaining will not do much help to their miserable life.

But what good is yelling about the Capitol in the middle of the woods? It doesn't change anything. It doesn't make things fair. It doesn't fill our stomachs. In fact, it scares off the nearby game (Collins, 2008, p. 16).

Despite her disagreement with the Capitol, she tries to suppress it and rather focuses on her own struggle. The Capitol and all the mess it created are far beyond her concern.

Katniss Everdeen As The Girl On Fire

The term 'Girl On Fire' is a stage name for Katniss which is identified with the flaming costume she is wearing at the opening ceremony. It represents District 12's main commodity: coal. Being a tribute in the 74th annual Hunger Games and motivated by her promise to Prim, Katniss grows from an introverted person to someone who tolerates other people's presence. At the same time, her awareness of the Capitol and its cruelty slowly increases. It also means that her indifference begins to decrease, little by little.

While wandering around the arena, she manages to make friends. It is Rue, a little girl aged twelve from District 11, who then forms an alliance with her. Rue nurses Katniss when she is injured, hunts food together, and helps her blow up the Career tributes's—kids from richer districts that are physically stronger than everyone else—food supplies by creating distraction somewhere inside the woods. It seems to be the best thing happened to her by far that she finally admits:

"I realize, for the first time, how very lonely I've been in the arena. How comforting the presence of another human being can be." (Collins, 2009, p. 244)

Not only her momentary friendship with Rue, agreeing to play the role in a star-crossed lovers drama with Peeta Mellark, District 12's male tribute leads to a major development in Katniss's social life. She usually only cares about her family, but there she has to act as if she cares about Peeta. She shares her food and medicine so Peeta quickly recover, and even attempts to act gently, which is extremely rare because she barely knows him at that time.

Other than starting friendships, Katniss slowly becomes more aware of the Capitol and its cruelty. At the end of the game where there are only three tributes left—Katniss, Peeta, and Cato (a boy from District 2 who has been brutal since day one)—she braves herself into killing Cato by shooting an arrow straight to his body. "Pity, not vengeance, sends my arrow flying into his skull," (Collins, 2009, p. 398) showing that no matter how brutal Cato is, Katniss sees him as a human being who is actually struggling to save his own life too. She learns that it is not entirely his fault for being so ambitious, it is the system's fault.

Yet, the Gamemakers revoke the new rule and say there will be only one victor. Ashamed and felt like she has been fooled throughout the game, Katniss comes up with the idea to pretend as if she and Peeta are killing themselves by eating poisonous berries, together. It turns out that she successfully outsmarts the Gamemakers in front of the entire country, because just when they drop the berries to their mouth, the Gamemakers announce that Katniss and Peeta are both victors.

However, Katniss does not realize this development of her awareness of the Capitol and its cruelty has put her into a huge trouble. She claims, "I was only thinking of outsmarting the Gamemakers, not how my action would reflect on the Capitol," (Collins, 2009, p. 418) meaning that she does not think her simple action might affect the whole country. All in all, she is still motivated by her selflessness to someone she loves, Prim and her mother.

Katniss Everdeen As The Girl Who Catches Fire

The 'Girl On Fire' turns out to be more than just a girl with flaming costume; the fire has ignited new fury and at the same time spirit inside her own self. Katniss is now *catching fire*, like the title of the trilogy's second book. Katniss's suicidal action of dropping the poisonous berries to her mouth has thrown a major shame to the Capitol. According to Haymitch, "The one thing they can't stand is being laughed at, and they're the joke of Panem," (Collins, 2009, p. 416) which puts Katniss in an unfavorable position.

Katniss assumes that she will only cause a lot more trouble if she keeps around people she cares of and the best way to prevent it is running away. A bloody incident in District 11 where a local citizen got shot for expressing gratitude to Katniss and an uprising in District 8 has fueled her decision. Gale suggests that they start an uprising too in District 12, which is turned down immediately. At this point, Katniss is indecisive and is still driven by her selflessness to her family.

However, the indecisiveness comes to an end as she learns that President Snow is tightening the security across the country. Gale being publicly punished for selling wild turkey by the Head Peacekeeper makes her realize the truth. President Snow will remain tormenting people, no matter what, unless someone stops him by fighting back.

This spirit hints at her awareness of the current situation in Panem. Katniss begins to actually care about the whole nation, not just her dear ones. Even being chosen again as a tribute for the Quarter Quell—a special anniversary celebrated every twenty-five years of the Hunger Games—does not kill her spirit; it actually adds fire to her obstinacy to fight back for the whole country. This time, she has only one mission that is to keep the spirit of the rebellion alive while saving Peeta because she avoids to risk other people's life.

To prove her seriousness, Katniss repeatedly shows an act of defiance throughout her last journey as a tribute. She mocks the Gamemakers in the private session, agrees to ally with another tributes including Finnick Odair (a male tribute from District 4 whose handsome face makes him the Capitol's sweetheart) and eventually befriends him, and shoots an arrow to the force field which violently explodes the arena into a massive wreck without hesitation.

“I have always known who the enemy is. Who starves and tortures and kills us in the arena. Who will soon kill everyone I love.” (Collins, 2009, p. 172)

Katniss realizes that there is no use at all to kill each other in the arena, because the only she has to do is to ‘kill’ the arena itself. This might not be the first time she treats the Capitol as enemy,

yet this is the moment when she actually does something to fight back against the real enemy, the oppressor that has been torturing people mercilessly.

Katniss Everdeen As The Mockingjay

If *Catching Fire* displays the development of Katniss's awareness of the current situation in Panem, the final installment *Mockingjay* displays not only those growing awareness but also its result that motivates her fierce action in fighting against the Capitol. She has shown full determination to save Peeta's life during Quarter Quell as well as to fuel the spirit of rebellion, and this time she joins them in the real battlefield.

Vogler (2007) suggests two types of Heroes: the willing hero and the unwilling hero. In this regard, Katniss in *Catching Fire* can be seen as having characteristics of the unwilling hero—the one who is more reluctant and passive, full of doubts and hesitations, and is also “needed to be motivated or pushed into the adventure by outside forces.” Meanwhile the willing hero is active, has no doubts, and self-motivated, and that is what Katniss is transforming to.

In *Mockingjay*, Katniss becomes more committed to the rebellion and eventually fights for the people, even sacrifices herself. Although, she encounters some obstacles in the process which put her in a position where she only prioritizes her loved ones like she used to.

Her reluctance fades away as she visits District 8, where she meets and interacts with the victims of the bombings done by the Capitol airforce. These people's suffering has awakened strong awareness in Katniss. She used to care nothing other than her loved ones, because she has limited knowledge about the life outside District 12. Now that she has an access to approach them as the Mockingjay, she finally understands that she is not the only one suffering from the Capitol's cruelty. They all share the same fate, they have each other's back, therefore they need to fight together.

This growing awareness is manifested in her typical selfless action: saving people's life by sacrificing herself. After the final battle between the Capitol and the rebels, which is won by the

rebels, Katniss should kill President Snow in front of everyone. Instead of shooting an arrow to President Snow, Katniss aims it to President Coin—the mastermind of the rebellion, killing her instantly. Katniss knows the consequences. The way she rethinks about her decision to shoot President Coin does not indicate that she regrets it in any way.

“(…) something is significantly wrong with a creature that sacrifices its children’s lives to settle its differences. You can spin it any way you like. Snow thought the Hunger Games were an efficient means of control. Coin thought the parachutes would expedite the war. But in the end, who does it benefit? No one. The truth is, it benefits no one to live in a world where these things happen.” (Collins, 2010, p. 361)

Her brave action conveys an important message that peace can be achieved without any vengeance, and rather with a sacrifice. She has sacrificed herself and her team into joining the battle, having no fear for the damage she is going to endure, and even abandoning her desire to kill Snow in order to cease the horror the country has had over years—because it is actually a wrong approach; it is no guarantee of better future.

That is the moment when Katniss becomes the actual hero, not a reluctant, unwilling hero who depends on other people’s commands. She releases herself by doing what she thinks is best, based on her own insights into the whole situation in Panem and her experience in the actual battlefield.

Katniss Everdeen now is not the same Katniss Everdeen from the beginning of this trilogy. Her character has developed from a girl who cares nothing but her own family to the national hero—the face of the rebellion—who brings a revolution in Panem. If Revolution means establishing a new system, then that is what Katniss Everdeen has created. Bravery does not make her a hero for she has always been brave since the day her father left; her growing love and awareness of the Panem does.

Influences on Katniss Everdeen’s Character Development

By the end of the trilogy, Katniss is no longer ignorant of the suffering Panem has been facing over years. She accomplishes the real purpose of revolution, that is to overthrow current system and replace it with a new one which most people think is best. She just needs some encouragements and motivations to develop her awareness towards the situation in Panem and becomes more attentive. Nevertheless, what actually makes her selfless and indifferent to begin with? What triggers those encouragements and motivations? And in the end, is the development entirely influenced by her selflessness?

Socioeconomic Power Struggle Between the Classes

The classes here means the bourgeoisie and the proletariats, or in other words the oppressor and the oppressed. Marxism focuses on the relationship between these socioeconomic classes to understand “all human activities in terms of the distribution and dynamics of economic power.” (Tyson, 2006, p. 54) It is believed as the force which shapes individual experience and behavior. Thus the socioeconomic condition portrayed in *The Hunger Games* trilogy plays a significant role in its main character’s development as an individual.

As discussed in Chapter Two, Panem’s totalitarian government has once resulted in a rebellion, proving that people do not respond well to this kind of system and find it oppressing. However, other than the system, what actually oppresses the proletariats in Panem? It is the false ideology people cling to. It is also because people are alienated; from themselves, from the fruit of their production, and from other people. This is the socioeconomic condition depicted in Panem.

Therefore Katniss’s behavior has been shaped by the society. The relationship and the struggle between the two socioeconomic classes both give influences on her life. Katniss being selfless and indifferent is a reflection of the condition in Panem. It is not only her who is indifferent, but also many other people, especially those in the districts that are just slightly exposed

to the harsh, masked reality. They are manipulated by false ideologies and alienated, and therefore they do not make any social change.

When this society starts to make a move and grows more awareness of its own socioeconomic struggle, it influences Katniss's character development. This is the key, the encouragement she needs to develop her own awareness and become less indifferent. Karl Marx believed:

“(...) the proletariat will one day spontaneously develop the class consciousness needed to rise up in violent revolution against their oppressor and create a classless society. (Tyson, 1964, p. 54)

In this case, the districts gain the class consciousness after they witness an act of defiance done by Katniss. After an obvious movement happening within the society, Katniss finally knows that they are all experiencing the same struggle. She wants to defend them and therefore dedicates her survival during the Quarter Quell to the district people, as their inspiration to continue fighting. Her awareness could not grow without the influence of the struggle between the two socioeconomic classes. The Capitol's struggle in keeping its power and the districts' struggle in heading towards the revolution to overthrow the Capitol's current power both has helped Katniss develop.

Socioeconomic Power Struggle Between Two Individuals

It is not only the struggle between the classes—the Capitol versus the districts—but also the struggle between two individuals, President Snow and President Coin, that greatly influences the character development of Katniss Everdeen. They are the main antagonists in Panem. Both have same interest: getting and keeping socioeconomic power over the country. At the same time, both are controlling Katniss like a pawn to fulfill their interest.

During the Hunger Games, President Snow builds a relationship with Katniss based on her values. Through the Gamemakers, he controls her destiny. He personally visits Katniss at her house, directly explains that her double-suicide attempt

is seen as an act of defiance, and asks her to prevent any uprising which leads to revolution.

“Do you have any idea what that would mean? How many people would die? What conditions those left would have to face? Whatever problems anyone may have with the Capitol, believe me when I say that if it released its grip on the districts for even a short time, the entire system would collapse” (Collins, 2008, p. 11).

Moreover, President Snow intentionally creates a new rule of the Quarter Quell that requires victors from every district as the tributes. District 12 only has one female tribute: Katniss Everdeen. She is automatically chosen. Having his power threatened by her, President Snow is trying every possible way to stop her from fighting, because if she dies then the revolution dies.

So far, President Snow's interest to keep his socioeconomic power has influenced Katniss in terms of deciding her actions. If it was not because of President Snow, Katniss would not understand the situation in Panem—of how her simple action can be seen as a rebellion—and therefore would not be worried about her family. President Snow hinders Katniss from being politically aware and politically active, that is why her development on increasing awareness is rather slow.

President Coin does the same thing to Katniss. As leader of District 13 who has been waiting for years to finally embark on rebellion, her intention by using Katniss is clear, that is to promote her personal interest. She wants to rule the country and overthrow President Snow. Therefore she needs to form a very strong military force to help her get through what she has always wanted.

Before the rebellion is started, President Coin asks Katniss to be the Mockingjay, as the face of the rebellion who people can look after. She does not like Katniss for her incapability of taking orders, but the rebels trust her. She has no choice other than granting Katniss's wishes just to keep her in control.

As the Mockingjay, Katniss has a privilege of visiting some districts that have been attacked by the Capitol and she finally grows her

awareness because of this. She is able to see their ongoing struggle, just like hers, thus does not feel alone anymore knowing people is there to support her. It shows that her growing awareness is influenced by President Coin's interest to get socioeconomic power. She would be indifferent like she used to if President Coin does not ask her to be the Mockingjay. She would not improve her willingness to fight together with them.

All along, the development on Katniss Everdeen's character has also been influenced by these two individuals who are struggling, competing to get and keep socioeconomic power in Panem. The dynamics between them becomes part of the reason why Katniss transforms from an indifferent person to a selfless hero who cares about her entire country. Were the presidents not to use her as their pawn, Katniss would still be the girl who suffers every day from hunger and would not think about any rebellion.

This changing society has changed Katniss. It used to have poverty and terror everywhere which haunts its people and leaves many problems across the country. After the rebellion, it restores itself with a fresh, new system that its people think will be best. There is no dictators like President Snow or President Coin anymore; people live in harmony although many things must need to be fixed and they feel more safe.

It is reflected on Katniss's post-war life. She feels like the country is a more safe place to live in, that is why she marries Peeta and has children. After years of struggling, she can rest for a while and savors the peace she achieves for all the hard times she has been through.

CONCLUSION

Katniss Everdeen has changed a lot through *The Hunger Games* trilogy. This protagonist used to be selfless, but only to the ones she cares about, and indifferent towards her surroundings. Her world was once revolved around being a breadwinner who supports all of her family's needs and at the same time struggling with poverty. It is not until she volunteers to participate in the Hunger Games that she starts to develop as a character. She transforms from an indifferent person to a national heroine.

The development of Katniss Everdeen, however, is not solely triggered by the unexpected events and many obstacles that crossed her path. There is more to the reasons behind all of those events, that is the society and every little things within which influence Katniss big time. Therefore this character's development is a product, a reflection to the society where she belongs to: a society with the socioeconomic classes.

When the society develops and makes its move, Katniss develops too. The district people's awareness is growing and eventually raises Katniss's spirit and awareness of fighting back. It shows as she dedicates her ongoing struggle during Quarter Quell for the fighters in the districts after she sees their brave move to instigate an uprising. She is also motivated to keep going after witnessing the bombings in the districts done by the Capitol, as well as realizing the presidents's true intention to reach their own advancements.

At the end, she is not indifferent anymore. She learns that everyone is her family too. They do not deserve to be fought against because they share the same struggle and they have to watch each other's back instead. It proves that her development is influenced greatly by the society and the socioeconomic power struggle within. If the society did not develop to a better one, then Katniss Everdeen would not be able to develop from an ordinary girl to a national hero in the same way she does.

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