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**The Dystopian Fixation : Roth's *Divergent* – a Reflection of the Post-Apocalyptic Trend in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction**



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***Abstract :***

*The last decade has witnessed a huge influx of the genre of the post-apocalyptic novel. The rise of the dystopian trend is especially dominant in contemporary young adult fiction. The massive recognition of trilogies such as The Hunger Games Series, the Divergent series, and the Maze Runner series - all of which are currently on the road to becoming hugely popular, not to mention profitable, Hollywood movie franchises – point towards the preoccupation of the adolescent as well as the adult with the question of what comes after, i.e., the imagined scenario of a future universe which bears the brunt of contemporary environmental degradation, authoritarian governance, excessive use of technology, and limitations in personal freedom and individuality.*

*This paper attempts to give a comprehensive exposition of the term 'dystopia', its origin, meaning and usage. It further examines the various ways in which dystopian or post-apocalyptic genre has been utilized, especially in popular fiction and mass culture. The*

*attempt of this study is to conduct an investigation of how dystopia is politicized in Veronica Roth's Divergent. It examines the nightmarish scenario of a futuristic society under the iron control of a totalitarian regime, which, in turn, is a projection of the extreme tactics of control such as widespread surveillance being employed by so-called democratic governments in the real world. Roth's Divergent details the different facets of power employed by the authoritarian regime and the protagonist's rebellion against the system.*

**Keywords :** *dystopia, post-apocalyptic fiction, power politics, Young Adult fiction, agency*