A Marxist Analysis of Social Classes and Exploitation of the Lower Class in
Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*

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Abstract

Capitalistic societies exist even without the awareness of its citizens. Marxist literary analysis seeks to find the flaws in how a Capitalist society who exploits the lower class. *The Hunger Games* is a widely acclaimed novel describing a futuristic country whose bourgeoisies enjoy extravagance, yet the proletariats are bound to poor living standards. This journal article will analyze two differing lifestyles in the novel’s fictional society and how capitalistic mindsets lead to exploitation of the poor. The Marxists terms complementing the analysis are hegemony, reification, and false consciousness. The findings of this analysis include hegemony where proletariats submit to the orders of the bourgeoisie and accept their poor lifestyles without question. Also, reification exists because the citizens in the districts become the labor force that providing all daily necessities for the country and becoming machines in the ideological world that the bourgeoisie wants. Despite promising a better future for all, the bourgeoisie in the Capitol fail to live up to the expectations because only the rich enjoy a better life, illustrating a false consciousness. This novel is an eye-opener to evaluate the state of the citizens living in a society, to see whether or not the lower class is clearly mistreated but disregarded because of their socioeconomic status.

Key words: Marxism, hegemony, reification, false consciousness