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*Research Article*

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**Representation of a Dystopian Society  
in the Novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau**

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**Abstract:** This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to describe the representation of a dystopian society and its structure in the novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. The aims of this study are (1) to describe a dystopian society that has to adapt to living underground city in the novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau and (2) to describe the social structure of a dystopian society in the novel *The City of Ember*. The Structuralism approach is used as the theory approach by focusing on three aspects from Tzvetan Todorov: syntactic aspect, semantic aspect, and verbal aspect. The first data is taken from the novel *The City of Ember* and the second sources are taken from other supporting books, journals, and articles.

**Key Words:** structuralism; dystopian society; novel analysis

## Introduction

One of interesting stories to analyze about human life is the depiction of a dystopian society in a novel. Stories about dystopian societies according to Bambara (2021) usually involve visions of the future, or alternative worlds, which writers use to comment on and explore ideas about their own society. Meera (2016) also added that the theme of dystopia is raised by the writers as a way to share their concern about humans and society. These authors even warn community members to focus on the community which they live in and to become aware of how things can get worse than they already live now without realizing it.

Furthermore, the term 'dystopia' is always juxtaposed with the term 'utopia'. Alberto (2019) states that the term 'utopia' comes from the Latin word which means 'good place'. This is also confirmed an opinion of Alberto (2019) who defines 'dystopia' as a very bad time in which human hope is eliminated because of destruction and misfortune. Sargent (in Alberto 2019) also states that dystopian stories present a non-existent society that is described in detail and usually the author creates a place and time setting for contemporary readers to pay attention to as a comparison with the current reader society.

If a story of the dystopian society is connected to the real world today, then this is as written by Plumer et al (2022) in an article which predicts that the world is on the verge of collapse. The article that published in *The New York Times* reviews the results of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which involved 270 researchers from 67 different countries. The article reported the results about the danger of climate change that has been increasing so fast, that it will sooner or later overwhelm nature and humans' ability to adapt, creating a horrific future where floods, fires, and famine could afflict millions of people, animal species disappeared, and the planet was irreversibly damaged.

Therefore, this study will analyze a dystopian story that depicts a dystopian society in the novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. This novel tells a story of dystopian society who live in an underground city after the earth they lived in was destroyed. They live without exposure to the sun or moon and this dystopian group of people has lived for over 200 years in the underground city called Ember. The city of Ember was



carefully planned and built by the builders so that the people could survive living underground for 200 years. Even though Ember city is located underground but there are still underground tunnel lines under Ember city that resembles a tunnel model in several cities in America. People in Ember have to live with limited energy and food supplies. They only rely on a giant electric generator that engineers have built as a source of energy for them to survive. If the time has reached 200 years, the mayor who is the leader in the city of Ember should bring his citizens out of Ember to reach the surface of the earth above. However, since the instructions that was kept in a box has taken from its hidden place in Gathering Hall and have buried in a closet of the seventh mayor's resident when he died in a sudden then the conflict of dystopian society begin since then. The people of Ember are on the verge of collapse because the electric generators that supply the energy and light in the city are often broke down. Consequently, people of Ember experienced total darkness.

The structure of the Ember society shows the socio-cultural aspects of American's social structure. Several types of professions are chosen by the author to suit the storyline and the construction of an underground city. As a result, the story looks reasonable because the people in Ember are trying to survive through their professions as one of the examples is the Pipeworkers who is trying to maintain a giant generator as an energy source in the city by fixing the pipes in the tunnels. The education system is described in this novel when students graduate at the age of 12 and they must undergo internship for three years based on a profession that they choose from a paper that they draw. Furthermore, in the government system, the city of Ember is led by a mayor who control all food supplies and energy reserves. The two main characters; Lina Mayfleet and Doon Harrow, are the protagonist who play a major role in this whole story, while the antagonist, Mayor Cole represents a corrupt government regime as a characteristic in dystopian society.

Based on this description, this study will elaborate the research in dystopian society in the novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau to find out how the representation of dystopian society live in America and how their social structure support them to survive. Thus, there are two main focuses on this analysis:

1. How is the representation of dystopian society described in novel *The City of Ember*?
2. How is the social structure of dystopian society described in novel *The City of Ember*?

There are two benefits of this research: first, theoretical benefit which include adding the literature study especially in the study of structuralism and sociology of literature. Through this research, fictional story can be seen to raise awareness to the readers through analysis of a dystopian society that is described by DuPrau. Through the story, she presents the depiction of dystopian conditions: disaster, manipulation, and intimidation due to human activities which might be happening now or in the future. Second, hopefully, this study might be useful for other researcher who would like to do some research in structuralism and sociology of literature as literature review. Lastly, this study is to add the collection of research in the University Indraprasta's library, particularly in the analysis of novels which focus on structuralism and sociology of literature studies.

### ***Structuralism – Tzvetan Todorov***

Rahman (2018: 43) explains that forms and meanings are interconnected and construct the overall meaning in studying literary works that described through a structuralism approach which was first introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure with the concept of sign and meaning. Furthermore, Sehendi in Saputro (2020: 143) adds that the analysis of intrinsic elements in studying literary works could be analyzed through structuralism approach with a formal structure such as theme, character, setting, plot, conflict, point of view and message.

The structuralism approach has developed into several types of approaches by literary scientist, one of which is Structuralist Narratology with one of the pioneers is Tzvetan Todorov (Negoro, 2020: 21). Fludernik in Nur (2021: 23) describes the three aspects that proposed by Todorov, namely: (1) syntactic aspect which examine the chronological and logical sequence of the story events, (2) semantic aspect which is related to meaning and symbols that examines themes, characters and settings, and (3) verbal aspect which focus on language style and point of view.

In analyzing the structure of the novel, *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau, this research uses the three aspects from Tzvetan Todorov which are:

- (1) Syntactic aspect : elaborate chronological and logical sequence.
- (2) Semantic aspect : describe the theme, characters and settings.



- (3) Verbal aspect : elaborate mode, time, point of view and storyteller.

Several studies of fictional stories about dystopian societies and structuralism studies of Tzvetan Todorov have been carried out by some previous researchers. There are researchers who only focus on the structure of Todorov's narratology and there are also researchers who focus only on dystopian societies. Some of the relevant researchers are:

- (1) Kurnianto, E.A (2015) researched "Analisis Tiga Tataran Aspek Semiotik Tzvetan Todorov pada cerpen "Pemintal Kegelapan" karya Intan Paramaditha". This essay is structured based on the elements of syntactic sequence, but it does not include the emplotment. In semantic aspect analysis, he examined the characters by diction only. Furthermore, the verbal aspect only focuses on the point of view that is supported by modes category.
- (2) Meera (2016), In the World of Dystopia – A Theoretical Analysis of the Heart Goes Last by Margareth Atwood published in Elixir Literature 94 journal. This study discusses a dystopian society which is considered a backward society with its characteristic's experiences suffering and oppression. This study only focuses on the themes: control, freedom, resistance, economy and loss of identity.
- (3) Ilyas & Purwarno (2019), Greed in Jeanne DuPrau's Novel The City of Ember published in Journal of Language. This study only focuses on the antagonist character analysis, Mayor Cole and shows his greediness from various settings.

## Method

Therefore, the aim of this study is to complete the literature studies that have been carried out by previous researchers by analyzing the representation of dystopian society in America and its social structure in the novel The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau using structuralism approach by Tzvetan Todorov

In analyzing the novel, The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau, a research technique is needed to meet the target of the analysis. Therefore, the technique is used in this study is a documentary technique. This is as stated by Susanto, Wibowo and Wijayanti (2017: 71) that documentary technique is a study by collecting data from written materials, images, and electronics. The documentary technique that used in this study is chosen by collecting data from the novel The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau as well as collecting data from other sources as supporting evidence such as literary books, history books, journals, theses and articles. The data collected is not only in the form of quotation of words and sentences in the novel The City of Ember but also other supporting books, articles, thesis, dissertation, journals, etc.

The data that have been collected are analyzed through the following steps:

- (1) Read and sort it out the literatures from the bibliography.
- (2) Select and arrange quotes that provide the answers the research questions.
- (3) Analyze the data based on the selected approaches and theories
- (4) Provide interpretation and analysis based on the data collected.
- (5) Provide conclusions and suggestions from the analysis.

## Results and Discussion

### Results

the novel The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau, could be concluded using three levels of Todorov's aspects: syntactical aspects consisting of 240 chronological sequences and 80 logical sequences which functions are to form a story framework with a combination of progressive plot and reverse plot. Semantic aspects that elaborate descriptions of characters who are facing difficulties as part of dystopian society living underground settings with light sources only during the day and total darkness experienced at night, good and bad values as socio-cultural backgrounds with the theme to show the depiction dystopian society and social structure represented. Verbal aspects is used to analyze the speeches that show dystopian society and its social structure representation through modes, time, point of view and storytelling.

## Discussion

This study refers to structuralism theory by Tzvetan Todorov to show the representation of dystopia society in America and its social structure.

### A. Syntactic Aspect

The syntactic aspect looks at the story structure of the novel *The City of Ember* based on chronological order or sequence and the logical order or causality relationship.

Novel *The City of Ember* consists of 240 chronological sequences in the story stage, with 28 flashback sequences in the first stage, 2 flashback sequences in the second stage, and 4 flashback sequences in the third stage. From these sequences, there are also 18 descriptive sequences. Therefore, the total flashback sequences are 34 sequences (28+2+4), and it is not balanced with the total chronological sequences of 240 events in the story stage. As a result, the novel storyline is formed by chronological relationship with progressive plot, because there are more chronological sequences than the flashback sequences in the story stage.

Furthermore, there also can be seen that the plot of *The City of Ember* novel is based on the causality relationship where the order of the plot is not linear like chronological sequences. It is because what happened next in the story is arranged by cause-and-effect relationship. The total of causality sequence in this novel is 80 events that structure the framework of the story by showing the conflict of the characters as part of the representation of a dystopian society and its social structure that lives in the underground city.

### B. Semantic Aspect

Semantic analysis is used to examine the characters, settings and themes to show the representation of dystopian society and its social structure based on the novel *The City of Ember*.

Novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau is a story about one society living in the underground city with a simple social structure. This city is led by a mayor as a leader. Moreover, various professions are also mentioned to support the society such as teacher, agriculture expert, and people who are doing business by running their small shops. Education for children is only up to the age of 12 and they are required to do internship based on the availability for the job demands. The findings and results of semantic analysis that include characters, setting and themes analysis are:

#### (1) Characters Analysis

- Lina Mayfleet  
Lina Mayfleet is the protagonist who is depicted as a girl living with incomplete family member. She is an orphaned teenager who lives with her grandmother and little sister who is still toddler.

*The baby and Granny were all the family she had now. Two years ago, when the coughing sickness was raging through the city again, her father had died. Some months later, her mother, giving birth to Poppy, had died too (DuPrau, 2016: 23).*

There is an adverb of time 'now' from the quotation above is used to show the events that happening to the character in present time. Then, 'the baby' and 'granny' which means the little sister and the grandmother are the family member that she has now which indicates the total number of incomplete family members without parents (mother and father). The quotation above describe how Lina lost her parents due to the death which can be seen from the word 'died' is used as predicate in the sentence. The word 'died' is placed after the subject 'her father' and 'her mother' to show her father and her mother who have died. The use of family members vocabularies in this quotation shows the social structure in society and the loss of Lina's parents shows how dystopian society is represented through incomplete family.

- Doon Harrow  
Throughout the story, Doon is described as a protagonist and a flat character since he only has one characteristic trait. His bad temper can be seen throughout the story, especially when involves

the public interest. As the quotation below when Doon is having an argument with Mayor Cole, the leader of Ember City on the Assignment Day.

*Suddenly Doon spoke up. "But Ember is not prospering!" he cried. Everything is getting worse and worse!"*

*"Silence! Cried the mayor.*

*"The blackouts!" cried Doon. He jumped from his seat. "The lights go out all the time now! And the shortages, there's shortages of everything! If no one does anything about it, something terrible is going to happen!" (DuPrau, 2016: 13).*

From the quotation above we can see how Doon's anger is arose due to catastrophic power outages that almost frequently occur in Ember City which makes him frustrated. The word 'cried' from the quotation above which means 'to scream' and also there are some exclamation marks to end the sentence, shows how Doon's anger towards Mayor Cole because in Doon's opinion that Mayor Cole has done nothing to find the solution of what happened regarding the power failures that occurs in the city. From dialog above, the representation of dystopian society shows through the power failure that have happened many times and social structure shows when Doon as a citizen of Ember files a complaint to the mayor as the leader of Ember.

- Mayor Cole

Mayor Cole is the antagonist as the leader of Ember City. In the following quotation, Mayor Cole shows an exaggerated lifestyle for taking food supplies that are intended for people in Ember while the people of Ember live with limited access to basic needs.

*"The mayor," he said. "Conked out in a big armchair, with an empty plate in front of him".*

*"The mayor!" Lina whispered.*

*"Yes. The mayor has a secret treasure room in the Pipeworks."*

*They stared at each other, speechless. Then Doon suddenly stamped hard on the pavement. His face flushed red. "That's the solution he keeps telling us about. It's a solution for him, not the rest of us. He gets everything he needs, and we get the leftovers! He doesn't care about the city. All he cares about is his fat stomach!" (DuPrau, 2016: 158-159)*

In the quotation above shows the dialogue between Doon and Lina talking about Mayor Cole as a corrupt public figure. From the dialogue, Doon has witnessed that Mayor Cole caught in the treasure room surrounded with abundance of food supplies. In contrast, people in Ember have to limit themselves in consuming food. Moreover, the sentence from the quotation above 'That's the solution he keeps telling us about' is intended to Mayor Cole when he appears in public in front Ember people, he presents himself by showing kindness and caring. However, in reality, it is in the opposite with his greediness that is witnessed by Doon. Furthermore, Doon's swearing 'all he cares about is his fat stomach' referring to Mayor Cole to show how the phrase 'fat stomach' refers to a symbol of a corruptor. The depiction of Mayor Cole's characteristic shows how dystopian society tend to be led by corrupt leader and the profession of mayor shows the social structure of profession in dystopian society where the leader of a city is led by a mayor.

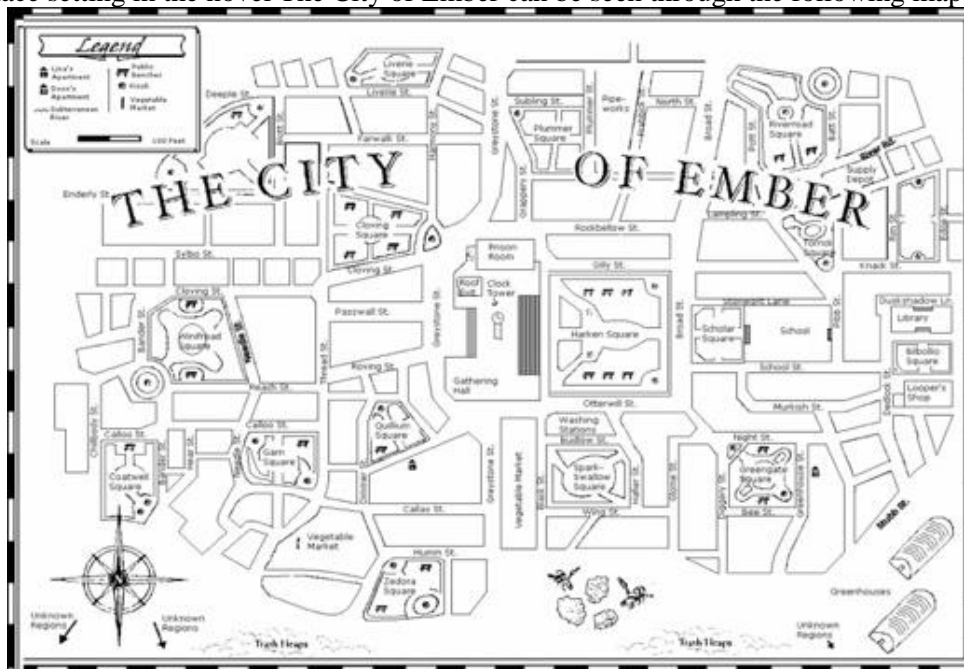


(2) **Setting Analysis**

The settings are divided into place settings and socio-cultural settings, while the time setting will be explained in the verbal aspect.

- Place Setting

The place setting in the novel *The City of Ember* can be seen through the following map:



**Picture 1** The map of Ember City

(Source: <https://thecityofemberirp.weebly.com/setting.html>)

From the map, it can be seen the directions, the names of buildings and location in the following quotation:

*Doon knew he was standing beneath the north edge of Ember. In school, you were taught to remember the directions this way: north was the direction of the river; south was the direction of the greenhouse; east was the direction for the school; and west was the direction left over, having nothing in particular to mark it. All the Pipeworks tunnels branched off from the main tunnel to the south, toward the city (DuPrau, 2016: 43)*

The map of Ember City refers to Doon’s explanation on the quotation above where there are directions such as ‘north’, ‘south’, ‘east’ and ‘west’ with the name of buildings as a sign for each direction. Therefore, based on the quotation above, in Ember City, there is a river refers to the word ‘the river’, and greenhouse for plantation refers to the word ‘greenhouse’, education place refers to the word ‘school’ and underground pipe tunnel refers to the phrase ‘Pipeworks tunnel’. In this quotation, the social structure of dystopian society shows where there are some names of places are mentioned to support the Ember society to live underground. Moreover, the description of Ember City is described in the following quotation where the sky always looks dark without sunlight, stars, or moon because the location of the city is underground and closed. The light in Ember City is only relied on the lights from the streetlamps hanging on the side of the streetlamp poles. The lights are only on during the day from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. After that, all the lights are turned off until the next morning and the people in Ember City fell into complete darkness.

*In the city of Ember, the sky was always dark. The only light came from great flood lamps mounted on the buildings and at the tops of poles in the middle of the larger squares. When the lights were on, they cast a yellowish glow over the streets; people walking by threw long shadows that shortened and then stretched out again. When the lights were off, as they were between nine at night and six in the morning, the city was so dark that people might as well have been wearing blindfolds (DuPrau, 2016: 4)*

On the quotation above, there is a sentence *'the sky was always dark'* shows what is happening regularly refers to the adverb *'always'* to describe the routines about the darkness in Ember City at night. In the next sentence, there is a word *'only'* which refers to the light in Ember City that only comes from the lights inside the buildings and streetlights. From the sentence *'when the lights were off'* is to view the condition of Ember City and the sentence *'the city was so dark'* where there is an adjective *'dark'* on this sentence to describe when the city is experiencing total darkness. This quotation shows the representation of dystopian society where people have limited access to energy sources and supplies.

### (3) Social-Cultural Analysis

One of socio-cultural setting is the presence of some values in society of Ember City which are good values and bad values.

- Good Value

Good value is seen when Lina asked for help to Mrs. Murdo to look after her elderly grandmother and her toddler sister when she is out for work. Mrs. Murdo with her difficulties is still willing to give a hand to help her neighbors who seeks for a favor. Mrs. Murdo finds difficulties since she has lost her income after her stationary shop closed due to scarce of stocks. Even though she is facing some difficulties, Mrs. Murdo still shows her concern to provide help to her neighbor as explained in the following quotation:

*The next morning on her way to work, Lina stopped in at the house of their neighbor. Evaleen Murdo. Mrs. Murdo was a brisk in her manner, and in her person thin and straight as a nail, but she was kind in her unsmiling way. Until a few years ago, she'd run a shop that sold paper and pencils. But when paper and pencils became scarce, her shop closed. Now she spent her days sitting by her upstairs window, watching people in the street with her sharp eyes. Lina told Mrs. Murdo about her grandmother's forgetfulness. "Will you look in on her sometimes and make sure things are all right? She asked.*

*"I will, certainly," said Mrs. Murdo, nodding twice, firmly. Lina went away feeling better (DuPrau, 2016: 56-57).*

From the quotation above is shown the condition of Mrs. Murdo who is facing some difficulties because she has no income. However, when Lina asked her to check on her grandmother once in a while to make sure everything is alright while she is out for work, Mrs. Murdo has agreed to help Lina which is shown to Lina question to her *'Will you look in on her sometimes...'*. The phrase *'look in'* and *'sometimes'* in this sentence means checking to her grandmother for sometimes. Moreover, the sentence *'... and make sure things are all right?'* indicates the act of supervise that Lina asked to Mrs. Murdo which is only done occasionally not all day. The good value shows how Mrs. Murdo has a willingness to fulfill Lina's request to look after her grandmother by saying *'I will certainly'* which means a certainty that something will be done. Furthermore, the gesture from the phrase *'nodding twice, firmly'* shows her willingness and convinces Lina that she will do so.

- **Bad Value**

Bad value could be seen through the security guards when they lost their integrity and participates in corruption by taking the food supplies for Ember City. The following quotation explains how the guards has known what the mayor has been doing by stealing stockpiles of supplies from the storeroom and they let it happens. The narrator's description is seen through Doon's point of view.

*He could think of only one other possibility. The guards – at least some of them – already knew what the mayor was doing. They knew about it and wanted it to stay a secret. And Why? It was clear: the guards, too, were getting things from the storerooms (DuPrau, 2016: 200-201).*

From the quotation above explains how the security guards work together with the mayor to steal the basic necessities supplies that stored in the storeroom that actually the supplies are meant for people in Ember City. The sentence *'already knew what the mayor was doing'* and phrase *'to stay a secret'* refers to the mayor and the security guards are doing corruption and they keep in as a secret. The last sentence from the quotation above *'the guards too, were getting things from the storerooms'* and the phrase *'getting things from the storeroom'* shows the bad actions of the guards by taking part in stealing from the storerooms. These sentences, shows the bad value since the guards choose to commit the crime as the representation of dystopian society and social structure when name of professions are mentioned in the novel.

### C. Verbal Aspect

Verbal aspect sees how a story is structured by looking at linguistic elements which are divided into:

#### (1) Modes

The modes analysis explains how utterances show the level of events that are divided into reported speech (*discours rapporte*), diverted speech (*discours transpose*) and narrated speech (*discours raconte*):

- Reported speech (*discours rapporte*) is identified through the dialogue or direct sentence. In the novel *The City of Ember*, one of the dialogues is identified when Lina's grandmother was sick, and a doctor came to see her condition.

*“Dr. Tower,” Lina said, “My grandmother is sick. Will you come?”*  
*“I will,” she said. “But I can’t promise to help her. I’m low on medicine.”*  
*“But come and look. Maybe she doesn’t need medicine.” (DuPrau, 2016: 132).*

The dialogue on the quotation above between Lina and Dr. Tower discusses about health problem that occurs as a major problem in Ember city. Referring to Dr. Tower said in the sentence *'But I can't promise to help her'*. The pronoun *'I'* is used to indicate the first person and modality *'can't'* indicates that the speaker which is Dr. Tower does not have any ability to do anything to help Lina's grandmother. Her inability to help Lina's grandmother is explained in the next statement on the sentence *'I'm low on medicine'* where pronoun *'I'* refers to the speaker which is Dr. Tower and the phrase *'low on medicine'* indicates that the medicine has running low or run out.

- Diverted speech (*discours transpose*) is the speech from the narrator of the story through the point of view of one of the characters which is shown in character's monologue. Through the point of view of the character, the narrator tells the events that is happening. One of diverted speech is identified when Lina was walking on the main street, and she saw some of the streetlamps were off that made the street looked dark. Through Lina's thought, the narrator describes the darkness that come from Lina's point of view.



*When she came to Hafter, she slowed a little. This street was deep in shadow. Four of its streetlamps were out and had not been fixed. For a second, Lina thought of the rumor she'd heard about light bulbs: that some kinds were completely gone. She was used to shortages of things – everyone was – but not of light bulbs! If the bulbs for the streetlamps ran out, the only light would be inside the buildings. What would happen then? How could people find their way through streets in the dark? (DuPrau, 2016: 18).*

From the quotation above, the diverted speech is applied by the narrator through Lina's thought to describe the incident of the streetlamps are off when Lina is walking on the main street. The third person 'she' is used several times by the narrator that refers to Lina. The narrator uses the diverted speech to elaborate the incident as if it is coming from Lina. After that, the word 'thought' in the sentence 'Lina thought of the rumor she'd heard about light bulbs: that some kinds were completely gone' shows Lina's thought as her monologue. Moreover, there is a verb 'used to' in the sentence 'she was used to shortages of thing...' shows how the narrator telling the Lina's habit but it looks as if Lina is the one who tell the reader about her habit. Next, the diverted speech is identified clearly on the rhetoric sentences at the end of the quotation above. The sentences 'What would happen then?' and 'How could people find their way through the streets in the dark?' are monologues used by the narrator to describe the impact of the streetlamp's outage through Lina's thoughts.

- Narrated speech (*discours raconté*) is the narrator tell the story from outside by explaining the events and the description of a place or an event without involving any characters in the storytelling.

*In the city of Ember, the sky was always dark. The only light came from great flood lamps mounted on the buildings and at the tops of poles in the middle of the larger squares. When the lights were on, they cast a yellowish glow over the streets: people walking by threw long shadows that shortened and then stretched out again. When the lights were off, as they were between nine at night and six in the morning, the city was so dark that people might as well have been wearing blindfolds (DuPrau, 2016: 4).*

The quotation above shows how the narrator describes the condition of Ember City. In the second sentence and the next sentences which are the supporting sentences describe the topic sentence 'In the city of Ember, the sky was always dark'. To sentence 'the sky was always dark' is a supporting sentence since the narrator uses the word 'light' to describe the situation of the sky in Ember City. Next, referring to society in Ember, the narrator used pronoun 'people' in the sentence 'people walking by threw long shadow...' and 'people might as well have been wearing blindfolds. Therefore, from the quotation above, it is identified how the narrator place the position in storytelling outside the story when describing Ember City.

## (2) Kala (Time Setting)

Kala is an analysis to look at the story time or known as the time setting which is divided into two parts: the sequence of story time and the duration of story time. The sequence of story time is identified through progressive plot which is dominated most of the story in the novel The City of Ember. The sequence of story time in progressive plot is identified in following quotation:

*When the city of Ember was just built and not yet inhabited, the chief builder and the assistant builder, both of them weary, sat down to speak of the future.*

*“They must not leave the city for at least two hundred years,” said the chief builder. “Or perhaps two hundred and twenty.” (DuPrau, 2016: 1)*

From the quotation above, there is an adverb ‘just’ of the phrase ‘just built’ to describe the beginning of a situation when Ember City has just been built. The next adverb ‘not yet’ in the phrase ‘not yet inhabited’ which means the city is not occupied yet. Next, there is a noun ‘the future’ to describe about Ember City in the following years. There are also numeral phrases ‘two hundred years’ and ‘two hundred and twenty’ which refer to the duration of adequate time to live in Ember City. Next, the story time shows the time that exists in the story and the duration of how long the time takes in the story. Time in the story is identified through the description of the year by the narrator in The Assignment Day when Lina is attending her graduation day, as following quotation:

*The graduating students occupied Room 8 of the Ember School. On Assignment Day of the year 241, this classroom, usually noisy first thing in the morning, was completely silent (DuPrau, 2016: 5).*

The time in the story is identified on the phrase ‘On assignment Day of the year 241’ which the phrase ‘the year 241’ shows the time in the story which is the year 241. While the duration of story time is identified when the narrator tells the events that covers some duration of time that quite long but it is written in some sentences as the following quotation:

*When she grew old, and her time as mayor was up, she explained about the box to her successor, who also kept the secret carefully, as did the next mayor (DuPrau, 2016: 2)*

The phrase ‘when she grew old’ and ‘her time as mayor was up’ from the quotation above shows the duration of time throughout the character’s age. The phrase ‘grew old’ which means become older and ‘her time was up’ which means the time has finished refers to the duration of story time throughout the character’s age.

### (3) Point of View

Point of view in verbal aspect look at the point of view that is presence in the story which are: subjective and objective point of view. Objective point of view is identified when the narrator provides any information about everything that visible in the story, as the following quotation:

*Sometimes darkness fell in the middle of the day. The city of Ember was old, and everything in it, including the power lines, was in need of repair. So now and then the lights would flicker and go out. come back on (DuPrau, 2016: 4).*

The objective point of view from the quotation above shows how the narrator describe general information about the power outage that occur frequently in Ember City during the day. Therefore, the readers can imagine in their thoughts what difficulties that happens in Ember City. Next, the adverb ‘sometimes’ which means occasionally and ‘darkness’ in the sentence ‘sometimes darkness fell in the middle of the day’ describes the power outage that frequently occur. In contrast, subjective point of view is a point of view based on the narrator opinion that present in the sentence to describe places, characters, or conflicts that are facing by the characters.

*It was strange how people didn’t talk much about the blackout. Power failures usually aroused lively discussion, with clumps of people collecting on corners and saying to each other, “Where were you when it happened?” and “What’s the matter with the electricians, we should kick them out and get new ones,” and that sort of thing. This time, it was just the opposite. When Lina went to work the next morning,*

*the street was oddly silent. People walked quickly, their eyes on the ground. Those who did stop to talk spoke in low voices, then hurried on their way (DuPrau, 2016: 84).*

The word 'strange' from the quotation above shows the narrator's opinion towards the changing habit of people in Ember City. There is also an adverb 'lively' to describe the situation when they are having discussion among the people in Ember. Then, there is an adjective 'oddly' which means strange in the sentence 'the street was oddly silent' to describe the strange silence on the main streets during the day as the opposite of daily basis when the main streets usually are noisy with people chatters along the streets. Finally, there is an adverb 'quickly' to describe the way people in Ember City walk fast when they are on the main streets. This is to illustrate how the habit is changing with addition of the narrator's subjective opinion using some adverbs and adjectives that has been explained above.

#### (4) Story Telling

In this story telling analysis is to see the position of the narrator in the story. Therefore, based on the position of the narrator, the story telling is divided into the first-person narrator, the second-person narrator and the third-person narrator:

- The first-person narrator is identified by the use of pronoun 'I' through the dialogues in the novel. One of the dialogues when Doon Harrow is having an argument with Mayor Cole at the following quotation.

*The mayor glared. For a few moments he said nothing. Then he smiled, showing a neat row of gray teeth. "Miss thorn," he said. "Who might this young man be?" "I am Doon Harrow," said Doon. "I will remember you," said the mayor (DuPrau, 2016: 14).*

From the quotation above, Doon uses pronoun 'I' in the sentence 'I am Doon Harrow' to introduce himself. Then, the mayor replies 'I will remember you'. This quotation shows the use of pronoun 'I' only applied in direct sentence in the dialogue.

- The second-person narrator is identified in the dialogue that involve two speakers in the conversation as the following quotation:

*Lina walked down the Wide Hallway with Lizzie, who said, "Poor you! I thought I picked a bad one, but you got the worst. I feel lucky compared to you." Once they were out the door, Lizzie said goodbye and scurried away, as if Lina's bad luck were a disease she might catch (DuPrau, 2016: 14).*

The quotation above shows the second-person narrator by using the pronoun 'you' that refers to the interlocutors in the dialogue between Lina and Lizzie. Lizzie shows her empathy after she has found out that Lina gets a bad internship job. The phrase 'poor you!' with the pronoun 'you' is the second-person narrator. Another pronoun 'you' from the quotation is used to compare Lizzie's internship job and Lina's in the sentence '... but you got the worst' and 'I feel lucky compared to you'. This sentence shows how the speaker which is Lizzie is trying to compare herself to Lina with superlative word 'the worst' and comparison word 'compared to'.

- The third-person narrator is identified by using the name of the characters or pronouns.

*The desks were arranged in four rows of six, one behind the other. In the last row sat a slender girl named Lina Mayfleet. She was winding a strand of her long, dark hair around her finger, winding and unwinding it again and again (DuPrau, 2016: 5).*

From the quotation above, the third-person narrator is used through the name of the character 'Lina Mayfleet' and pronouns 'she' to describe the character's appearance and what she is doing. The sentence 'she was winding a strand of her long, dark hair around her finger' refers to Lina who has long dark hair and she is winding her hair repeatedly.

## Conclusions

To sum up that the novel *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau, could be concluded using three levels of Todorov's aspects: syntactical aspects consisting of 240 chronological sequences and 80 logical sequences which functions are to form a story framework with a combination of progressive plot and reverse plot. Semantic aspects that elaborate descriptions of characters who are facing difficulties as part of dystopian society living underground settings with light sources only during the day and total darkness experienced at night, good and bad values as socio-cultural backgrounds with the theme to show the depiction dystopian society and social structure represented. Verbal aspects is used to analyze the speeches that show dystopian society and its social structure representation through modes, time, point of view and storytelling.

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