

good, otherwise, they are released to Elsewhere. Elsewhere, the community believes it to be outside of the community residency but in actuality, death is awarded for their incapacity to serve no more.

Rules became rituals when followed unquestioned. Nightly rituals of sharing day-to-day events and feelings have become part of their lives to put a check and restrain from having extreme emotions. Jonas's father is a nurturer and takes care of the children born to birthmothers. His father examines every child and follows the procedure to state whether the child is perfectly healthy and if not, he just injects something which makes a child fall asleep forever and then puts him in a box and dumps him, unknowingly killing him. The concept of death is obliterated from their world which restricts them to appreciate the life of a human, just like everyone is restricted to give birth. Birthing is a separate profession and only birthmothers possess the right to get pregnant and give birth. Jonas could see beyond what readers find in later chapters that he can see colours where everyone sees the world in shades of black and white. He was selected to have the memories of humanity and he will receive them by one of the Elder, receiver of memories or Jonas named him The Giver. Through time Jonas learned the feelings of true happiness, excitement, pleasure, sadness, grief, fear, and bravery. He learned about colours, hills, weather, rain, clouds, beauty, nature, oceans and every other thing that exists in the real world but not in their communities. As Giver told him, "We gained control of many things. But we had to let go of others" (Lowry, *The Giver*, 95). In the end, Jonas escaped from the community because of the realisation of the wrongs elders were doing and also because of the realisation of what it is to be a human.

Another novel, *Gathering Blue* also a companion to *The Giver*, sets in a futuristic society where after the ruins, very less resources are left to live with unlike in *The Giver*, they have risen

call it a festival and show their charisma of power. In the end, Kira realises everything the guardians told was a lie. She stayed in the village and did not escape with her father because of the friends she had in her village. This is the plot summary of the dystopia shown in *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue* for the readers to understand the analysis attempted in this dissertation.

1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The present study will critically examine the select novels through the lens of dystopian fiction.

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

1. To analyse the different measures taken by the author to present dystopia in the lives of people.
2. To find out the common themes the author has used in the select novels.
3. To rationalise the similarities and differences between the two dystopic worlds.
4. To understand the development of deviation and conformity in the protagonists of the select novels.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What are the similarities and differences in the lives of the people living in the dystopian worlds of novels?
2. How do the rules of a dystopian world become incentives for the protagonists to show deviance and conformity?

3.1 DEVIANCE AND CONFORMITY

Deviance is not different or rare but it is what we should call socially unacceptable. It is not an act done but the reaction it induces from people makes the act deviant and the doer of it deviant. These deviants are non-normative or reside out of the mainstream. Conformity, on the other hand, states the compliance to the rules of government or opinion presented. It induces positive reactions from society, unlike deviance which induces negative reactions. To prevent society from such a menace, the state introduced formal sanctions for violating social norms and rituals. Rules are made to limit or punish deviance. It is also important to note that deviance and its punishment vary from society to society. Something could be deviance in one society but not in another one, or for the same deviance, deviants are punished seriously and mercifully in different societies. In an authoritative society, rules tend to become rituals because of the inability to raise doubt and being a conformist. So given the power of sanctions, why does anyone do deviant things? This is the question that needs to be answered by different explanations about the novels.

3.2 BIOLOGICAL APPROACH

There have been many explanations and theories proposed from time to time to understand why deviance occurs or what could be the reason an individual deviates to commit such deviances. If we first discuss the theory of the medical criminologist, Cesare Lombroso, he introduced the biological reasons to explain deviance in deviants. In 1876, he theorised that deviants were subhuman, throwbacks to a more primitive version of humanity. Strong physicality and a weak mentality that resembles early human beings are the traits of every deviant. He may have given

importance to the evolutionary concepts, as early humans could not debate or discuss, they could not plan or understand complexity, and they preferred brawn over brains.

In the novel *The Giver*, Protagonist Jonas has a healthy body and mind like everyone in the community. Physically or mentally weak people have no place in the communities. But among all of the young people, Jonas was the only one who knew the meaning of the word violence and experienced it when he received the memories from the Giver. Now as per the above theory one can deduct that a body capable of doing violence with the knowledge of it and the reasons to change the society does do violence. "So if you escape, once you are gone--and, Jonas, you know that you can never return--", Jonas nodded solemnly" (Lowry, *The Giver* 155). Deviance is shown by Jonas irrespective of the consequences which further proved that people like Jonas when realising the importance of change or finding the fault in the society could adopt violence to achieve their own goals.

Another biological aspect of which Jonas is the most relevant suspect of being deviant. He possesses blue eyes which differentiate him from everyone in society. He showed the readers that this totalitarian government is falling apart and it has already begun from the birth of Jonas with

the blue eyes. The deviance has already occurred and once again the reason is biological. "The Committee of Elders was sitting together in a group, and the Chief Elder's eyes were now on one who sat in the midst but seemed oddly separate from them. It was a man Jonas had never noticed before, a bearded man with pale eyes" (Lowry, *The Giver* 61). Another person who helped Jonas in being deviant was the Giver. He also possesses blue eyes and is always in defiance of the other Elders of the community. He holds the memories of mutiny and could even lie as others do not know lying. In this dystopia, one gets arrested for such defiance of laws that are to the social deviance caused.

proposed by Peter Wason in 1960. People cherry-pick the information about them and label them as deviants. When an individual is labelled and tired of failing to prove his conformity, he then adopts the labelled behaviour and joins the labelled group to find a meaningful place for himself in society. He then gets used to the satisfaction of committing it and commits again and again.

Jonas's identity in *The Giver* was stigmatised with the involvement of his capacity to see beyond. His fate had already been decided when he was born. "Jonas was identified as a possible Receiver many years ago. We have observed him meticulously. There were no dreams of uncertainty". (Lowry, *The Giver* 62) The moment he was labelled to be the next Receiver of Memories, opinions and expectations started to form. The Chief Elder has not only labelled him but also attached a past failure to his identity. "We failed in our last selection," the Chief Elder said solemnly. It was ten years ago when Jonas was just a toddler. "We have not been hasty this time," she continued. "We could not afford another failure." (Lowry, *The Giver* 61). This was a huge mistake on behalf of the Elders which would be proven disastrous in the end for their regime.

Elders force an identity on Jonas, that someone from the past has already failed to serve this position and a ten-year-long wait is fulfilled. This made Jonas nervous and subconsciously suppressed deviant. This could be the main incentive for his deviancy shown in later chapters of the novel. Everyone has formed a bias about him as he is serving an honorary position under an honorary Elder. "You've been greatly honoured," his mother said. "Your father and I are very proud." "It's the most important job in the community," Father said." (Lowry, *The Giver* 67) Labelling not only changes his perspective but also changes the behaviour and perspective of his friends towards him. He already started fearing losing them because he was assigned to a very important task which consumes all his voluntary time. "Jonas was stunned. What would happen