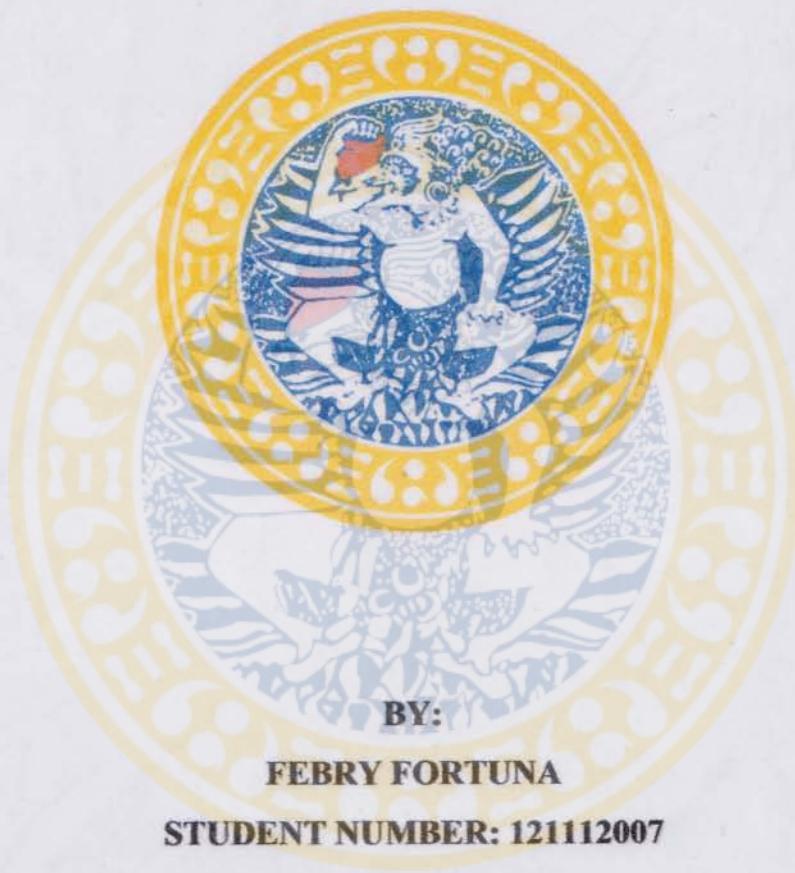


**THE SOCIETY'S OPPRESSION IN CONSTRUCTING THE
BEAUTY STANDARD: A FEMINIST READING OF SCOTT
WESTERFELD'S NOVEL *UGLIES***

A THESIS



BY:

FEBRY FORTUNA

STUDENT NUMBER: 121112007

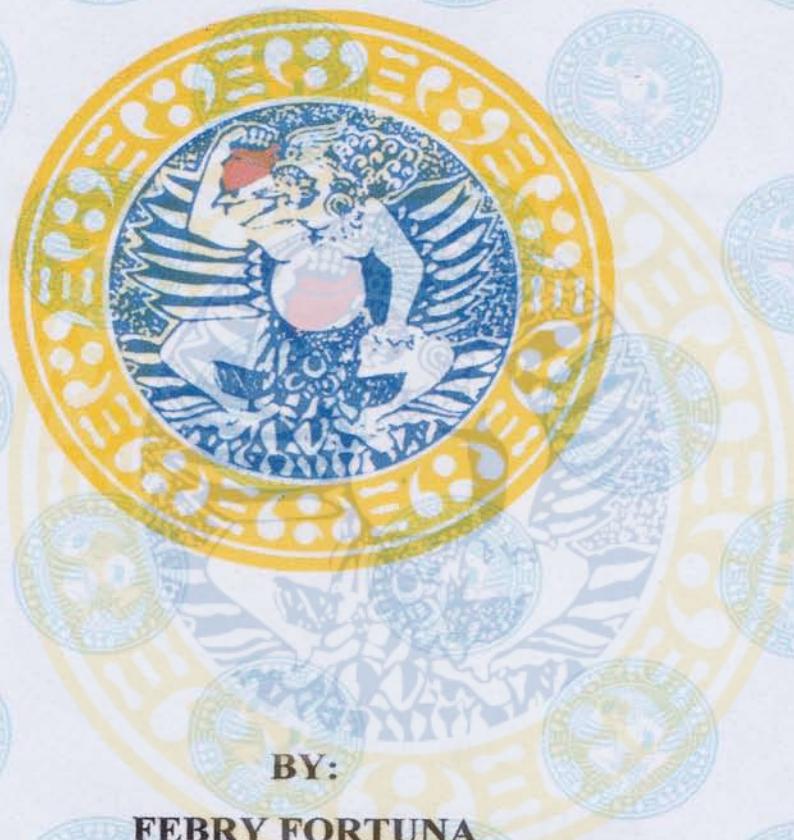
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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A THESIS

**Submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Sarjana Degree of
English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga
Surabaya**

BY:

FEBRY FORTUNA

STUDENT NUMBER: 121112007

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA**

2016

DECLARATION

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Surabaya, 16th June 2016

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Dedicated to:

My mom, Sulastri

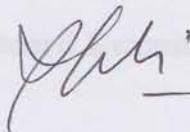
The strongest woman I know



Approved to be examined

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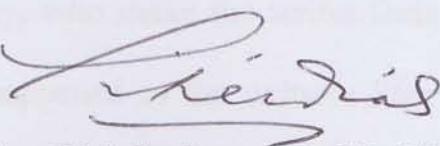
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Surabaya, 16th June 2016

Febry Fortuna

“You have to be unique and different,

and shine in your own way.”

- **Lady Gaga**



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ABSTRACT

Beauty is one of the most important aspects to a woman, both physical appearance and behaviour. These features are called the concept of beauty, which may have different definitions based on the culture of a certain society. Scott Westerfeld wrote a novel related to the concept of beauty entitled *Uglies*. The purpose of this study is to reveal the concept of ideal beauty presented in *Uglies* and also women's reaction toward the oppression. The society members are highly oriented in physical beauty and grouping people based on their physical appearances. The concept of ideal beauty in this story becomes interesting because it can only be reached through plastic surgery; thus, it will be appropriate to apply beauty myth theory by Naomi Wolf in analyzing this novel. Besides, the writer also uses theory of ideology by Althusser to analyze both Repressive State Apparatus and Ideological State Apparatus that appear in the novel. *Uglies* shows the rejection and isolation that must be faced by women if they break the rules. Moreover, the women must bear the brain lesions caused by the plastic surgery while the men do not. It was founds that the government has an important role in creating the society's ways of thinking, the government's power to rule people make it become the authorities that decide the "good things" and "bad things". The results indicate that government oppressed women to do certain things so they would not rebel against the government and the prevailing system.

Keywords: *ideal beauty, ideology, oppression, plastic surgery*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Beauty is a vital and central element of human experience especially for women, because women wants to look beautiful so they can be fit in the society. Beauty is associated with pleasure and influences personal choices which make women do many things just to be beautiful so they can feel the satisfaction. According to Seyyed Hossein Nasr in Razavi and Ambuel, “To live in this world is to live in a world of duality and also opposition... such as harmony and complementarity as seen in the yin and yang in the chinese tradition... as can be seen in such realities as truth and falsehood, beauty and ugliness, or goodness and evil” (44). However, in the twentieth century beauty came to be regarded as dispensable altogether, while in the seventeenth century beauty was considered a marginal concept.

Defining the real meaning of beauty is not easy, because it is a highly relative thing to quantify. There are some aspects that affect someone’s view on beauty standards, such as families, society, peer group, and also culture. In addition, beauty standards itself have already been shifting over time. Standards of beauty have changed as the time goes by, based on cultural values that also change over time. However, “humans who are relatively young, with smooth skin, well-proportioned bodies, and regular features, have traditionally been considered the most beautiful throughout history” (*Physical attractiveness*).

On 2006, Scott Westerfeld wrote a novel entitled *Uglies* with the object of beauty concept that will be analyzed in this present study with feminist theory about the concept of beauty and its effect toward women's identity construction, since this novel mainly discussed about the importance of being beautiful that consists of body modification in order to look pretty and also women's oppression in society. Scott Westerfeld was born in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Vassar College with a B.A. in Philosophy in 1985. He now divides his time between Sydney, Australia and New York City due to his works. Westerfeld is the author of 20 Novels, which some of them written in a series (Westerfeld, *Uglies*).

This novel received two awards which is, New York Times bestseller and Best Books for Young Adults in 2006 by the American Library Association (*2006 Best Books for Young Adults with annotations*). It was first published in 2006 and re-released in 2011 with a new cover. The book is the first installment of a trilogy, the *Uglies* series, which also includes the books *Pretties*, *Specials*, and *Extras*.

The main issue in this novel is about body modification among the society where almost all of the people in this novel feel that body modification is a normal thing to do, in this case the body modification is plastic surgery. Body modification is the deliberate altering of the human anatomy or human physical appearance (Thompson & Sue 379-398). The purpose of plastic surgery in this novel is just in terms of aesthetic, rather than to enhance the self-expression. Scott Westerfeld once talks in an interview with Simon and Schuster's book newsletter about the inspiration behind the novel. Westerfeld thinks that the future will allow people to have greater control over their appearance and he states that, "we are

heading toward a world in which lots of people will get to decide how they look. That will change what we think of as beautiful, and what beauty means to us” (Westerfeld, “Uglies”). Government chooses body modification as the only way to change the member of society in order to make a society where all the people are physically equal. But beneath it, government wants to control women through a plastic surgery where they will lost their intelligence and make them obedient toward government.

It can be seen on the cover of the novel, Westerfeld put a sentence that illustrated the important message throughout the whole story, “In a world of extreme beauty, anyone normal is ugly”. Westerfeld want to emphasize the main idea in his novel through this sentence, because *Uglies* is a story about a heterogenous society where the government oppressed the member of society to be beautiful with the plastic surgery, so everyone will fulfill the concept of beauty in that society. The beauty standards presented in this novel were applied for both men and women, but women require some aspects that men do not. For women, there are some exceptions like women will get brain lesions and women’s physical appearance will be changed more dramatically than men.

Some people, on the other hand, try to rebel the goverment for applying a regulation that clustered people to some groups based on their type of beauty, such as Littlies that consist of young, cute, and innocent children under twelve years old; Uglies that consist of pre-teen starts from twelve years old until under sixteen years old; New Pretties that consist of sixteen years old where they do not have to work, they just maintain their social activity; Middle Pretties that consist

of New Pretties who have already picked a job and they are allowed to marry and have children; and the last is Late Pretties or Crumblies which consist of parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. They receive life extension surgery that support them until their middle hundreds and two-hundreds.

On the social commentary written by Kristi Scott and Heather Dragoo, they comment about the role of body modification in *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld. They stated that the world created by Westerfeld in *Uglies* presents an extreme body modification which becomes the norm in a society. In this social commentary, the authors discussed about phenomena of plastic surgery to reach the ideal beauty. The object is Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies* trilogy, which is *Uglies*, *Pretties*, and *Special*. All of this series consist of a society that accepts plastic surgery as the only way to become beautiful so they can fit the society. "The desire to adorn, decorate, enhance and maul the body modifies its natural composition and creates new aesthetics of human form and beauty" (Scott and Dragoo 2-11).

The previous study, a dissertation written by Philip Gough titled "*Who am I? Who was I?*: The Posthuman and Identity Formation in Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies Trilogy*" in 31 August 2010 at Roehampton University, he already discussed about the presence of the posthuman influences identity formation in adolescent fiction which is *Uglies* trilogy. In his study, Gough used a posthuman theory to analyze the posthuman aspect in each character. He discovered that in this trilogy, Westerfeld focuses on the formation of human body. Unlike the first series, "the most radical enhancement in the trilogy is the Specials, cyborgs that are highly

technologised, but even their technology illustrates and emphasizes the importance of group membership and collective identity in adolescence" (60). "The presence of the posthuman and the futuristic setting suggest the potential for new modes of identity formation, but only serve to place conventional modes within the context of a society dependent and shaped by technology but maintaining while conventional values and notions of humanity" (63).

As the story of the novel mainly describes about beauty ideals, it can be seen that the concept of beauty is constructed by the society (parents, peer group, and government). In this situation some of teenagers try to rebel the circumstances because it binds them. Teenager is a term used to mark the change from childhood to adulthood. During puberty, rapid mental and physical development occur. In teenager stage, teen is in the process of creating identity and that is why the social oppression can affect their choices in their lives. This novel shows that constructing someone's ideology can be conducted since they are in young especially teenagers because this is a stage where they develop their identity (Marcia in Oswalt, "James Marcia and self-identity"). According to Erikson, "Youth will also observe their peers, and adults they admire, to develop and improve their social skills... During this process youth will experience both successes and failures along the way as they experiment with different approaches during their interactions with others" (Erikson in Oswalt, "Erik Erikson and self-identity"). This case leads to some concept of beauty in a society because they construct it and teenagers receive it as they try to imitate the ideal beauty concept.

According to the previous explanation, government has a power to construct the concept of beauty in society. Government's ideology about the necessity of being beautiful makes the society members wants to have a plastic surgery in order to fit the society, although it only gives them physical enhance. This ideology is implemented to the society members since they are in young age, which results plastic surgery look like a tradition rather than a compulsion.

The feminist theory is a precise method applied in this research because this novel tells about the oppression toward women in such way like an obligation to be beautiful and the beauty ideal itself is constructed by the society around women rather than based on their own desires. These reasons make the writer use feminist approach in analyzing this novel. Naomi Wolf in 1990 published *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty are Used Against Women*. Her theory about beauty myth focuses on how media and public influence affect women's perception about their body, this theory has a relation with the issue because it helps the writer in the analysis (Jenainati and Groves 158).

This novel presents a story where the equality between men and women has not been achieved because women would get brain lesions when they got a plastic surgery while men did not. The government decides to control women's mind so that woman can be more manageable and it also can repress the potential of rebellion. The oppression to become beautiful is something that must be questioned because it will construct a beauty standard in society that sometimes can burden someone. Here, the oppression comes from the government and the society instead of a specific gender (male or female). They do it in order to create

a society that fit some specific criteria like beauty, so that the people will be accepted in that society. In other words, the government's oppression has been made to control the society and bind them indirectly.

In this research, the main purpose is to define the concept of beauty in the novel and how women receive it and does it affect their self identity and their self-confidence. According to Scott and Dragoo, body modification practices use to show someone's group identity. Some people want to do body modification in order to get self satisfaction, they focuses more on the process rather than the result (10). On the other hand, *Uglies* presents plastic surgery as the only way for someone so they can be accepted in the society. It has no relation with self satisfaction nor self expression but it just the matter of the rules that already established by the government.

These *Uglies* series are a fantasy that becomes reality, because people nowadays consider the physical appearance as an important thing and plastic surgery becomes a proper way to be pretty although it is considered dangerous or extreme.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer states some problem statements in this analysis:

1. How is the concept of ideal beauty in society presented in *Uglies*?
2. How is main female character's response towards government's ideology about ideal beauty in *Uglies*?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research associated with statement of the problems are:

1. To identify about the concept of ideal beauty in society presented in *Uglies*.
2. To discover about main female character's response towards government's ideology about ideal beauty based on *Uglies*.

1.4. Significance of the Study

In analyzing the concept of beauty in Scott Westerfeld novel *Uglies*, the writer uses feminist theory. This research tries to discover the effect of social construction of beauty concept toward woman's self-confidence and also toward their self identity depicted in the novel. Therefore, this study aims to reveal how society oppressions affect woman's mindset, and how people receive the concept of beauty in their mind so that they can determine what is called beautiful and what is not. This study reveal the inequality between men and women, where women are meant to be controlled by the government, while men are not. Besides the feminist theory, the writer also uses dominant ideological theory to find the concept of government's ideology depicted in this novel. Dominant ideology theory used to support the feminist theory because the oppression comes from the government. Through this study, the writer found that men domination towards women still exists in the society and it will leave women as object. The findings of this study will redound to the benefit of common people, especially English Department students of Universitas Airlangga considering that the concept of ideal beauty plays an important role in societies today. The greater demand of

women to look beautiful justifies the need for more effective way to be physically beautiful. Thus, societies that apply plastic surgery as a norm tend to consider normal people as ugly. The readers will be guided on the process of defining beauty concept among the society and how it affects women's self-confidence. The writer also hopes that this study would become a worthy addition among the study using feminist approach.

1.5. Theoretical Background

This study applies feminist theory toward Scott Westerfeld's *Uglies*. The purpose of this analysis is to find out how social oppressions affect someone's mindset. In this novel the social oppression constructs the standard of beauty among the society, and it determines what is called beautiful and what is not. There is a connection between beauty and feeling, and there are different capacities for appreciating beauty. Since beauty and feeling have a connection, therefore, beauty is considered as a source of pleasure (*Beauty and Ugliness – Definitions Of Beauty*). However it will affect people's mindset especially teenagers, who perform plastic surgery in this novel, because they are in the stage of searching and creating identity.

Uglies mainly discusses about the concept of beauty, and this novel presents some concepts of what is considered as beautiful and what is considered as ugly. The writer uses feminist theory in *Uglies* because the equality between men and women has not been achieved. However, beyond the inequality between men and women, this novel presents a structure that puts men and government above the women. Then the oppression toward women's physical appearance also

bind them because it is the only way for women to be accepted in the society where they live. According to Naomi Wolf, “women experience feelings of inadequacy, self hatred, and imperfection on being bombarded with visual representations of “ideal body”, and while women have achieved a great deal of public influence, they have lost their private relationship with their body” (Jenainati and Groves 158). Naomi Wolf focuses on how women perception about ideal body has been constructed by what they see, in fact almost all of the construction of ideal beauty has been made from male gaze.

The writer also applies Althusser's theory about dominant ideology. According to Althusser, every society has two structures: infrastructure and superstructure. Infrastructure contains economic base, while superstructure contains political-legal and ideology. Althusser states about two states which can be said as RSA (Repressive State Apparatus) because the State can be used by the ruling classes, represented by the government, police, prisons, etc. to oppressed the lower classes; and ISA (Ideological State Apparatus) which belongs to the private domain, represented by families, some schools, parties, etc. (Althusser 153-158)

According to the theory, the writer identify the concept of ideal beauty and how women's response toward this concept, especially related to government's ideology about ideal beauty. Therefore, the analysis uses feminist theory and it is also supported by the state apparatus theory, since the story mainly discusses about women who are oppressed by the government to be beautiful.

1.6. Method of the Study

To make a proper analysis, the writer uses qualitative method. According to Creswell, a research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue. A research consists of three steps, which are to pose a question, collect data to answer the question, and present an answer to the question. Qualitative research is a type of research that aims to investigate a question without attempting to quantifiably measure variables or look to potential relationships between variables. "It is viewed as more restrictive in testing hypotheses because it can be expensive and time consuming, and typically limited to a single set of research subjects" (5). As this study uses a qualitative method, the data are analyzed through the information inside the *Uglies* story. Descriptive explanation in this study is about the concept of beauty presented in *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld and its impact toward someone's self-confidence.

In this research, the writer uses *Uglies* novel by Scott Westerfeld as the data source. This novel is examined by the writer to collect the research data. *Uglies* novel consist of some data that are needed for the research, thus, the writer tries to collect the data then examines it to get the result of the research. The other sources are books or online journal articles that have relations with the topic.

In this study, the data collection technique used is close reading. The writer performs close reading to the novel, online journals, and books that support the issue. In data analysis, feminist theory is applied to the data that have already been gathered in order to find gender inequality, and Althusser's theory about

dominant ideology is applied to the data that already gathered in order to find the ideology itself.

In this research, the writer analyzes the data that have already been collected from the novel in doing the analysis. Savenye and Robinson in J. Michael Spector's *Handbook of Research on Educational Communications and Technology* claim that researchers generally analyze for patterns in observations through the entire data collection phase (Savenye and Robinson 774). The first step is to determine the topic or the aims of the research, the second step is collecting data from *Uglies*, the third step is to analyze the data using feminist theory and also dominant ideology theory, and the fourth step is making conclusion. From these processes, the writer could find the concept of beauty presented in this novel and find how it affects people's mindset in defining what is called beauty and what is not.

1.7. Scope and Limitation

Scope and limitation is an important thing in a research because it intends to gain a comprehensive analysis. In this study, the writer uses *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld and it focuses on the concept of beauty presented in this novel. The writer analyzes the concept of beauty to discover how it affects women's mindset in defining beauty through the major character's perspective. However, the writer focuses only on the major character named Tally because she represents women and her response toward the concept of ideal beauty. The social oppression also analyzed in this study because the concept of beauty in this novel is formed by the government and the society itself. Therefore, the government's ideology is also

analyzed by the writer as well. Both of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of this novel are discussed as they give more explanation to support the data analysis. Furthermore, in this study the writer uses two theories which are feminist theory and dominant ideology theory. The other minor characters (Shay, Peris, Dr. Cable, Sol, and Ellie) related to the issue are also analyzed in order to gain data as many as possible so that the main purpose of the research can be achieved.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

- Ideal beauty* : beauty standards set by the government that indicate gender inequality.
- Ideology* : a manner or the content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture.
- Oppression* : a person or group in a position of power controls the less powerful in cruel and unfair ways.
- Plastic surgery* : a surgical specialty involving the restoration, reconstruction, or alteration of the human body. It includes cosmetic or aesthetic surgery.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the writer serve some theories related to the analysis of the novel. There are two theories used, the first is beauty myth theory by Naomi Wolf, the second is theory of ideology by Louis Althusser. Feminist theory explains the way women are viewed as objects and how the women characters react to the social oppression around them, while the theory of ideology is used to find how the RSA (Repressive State Apparatus) and ISA (Ideological State Apparatus) work in social life and their effects to the characters.

2.1.1 Naomi Wolf's Beauty Myth

In the early 1960s, there was a period of a feminist activity that began in United States and then it started to reach all over the world. This period is called the second-wave feminism, which focuses on sexuality, family, workplace and many more specific issues than the first-wave feminism that only focused on gender equalities between men and women. According to Simone de Beauvoir, women tend to be perceived as “other” in patriarchal society. It happens because of male-centered ideology is accepted as a norm and it places women as the “second sex” (Beauvoir 46).

The increasing of the pressure towards women on the social standards of physical beauty becomes Naomi Wolf's main reason in writing a book *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women*. The book was released in

1990; it mainly discusses about how women are oppressed by their social environment which leads to behaviour disorders. Women will consider physical beauty as an important thing and they must follow the standards to be accepted in the society. Wolf also mentions about five things in which women are oppressed, they are work, religion, sex, violence, and hunger (17-18).

One basic idea in Wolf's theory is about female liberation and female beauty. She wants to differentiate between female liberation and female beauty, because it has no relation with each other. A woman should be liberated without being burdened by physical beauty matter. In fact, many women are ashamed with their physical appearance (bodies, faces, hair, and clothes) because of the social standards of beauty. Beside the low self confidence, the images of female beauty that are used repeatedly in the society will also give some bad effects (self-hatred, physical obsession, and terror of aging) (232).

The idea of 'beauty myth' by Wolf believes that women are forced to follow the beauty standards so they can be accepted in the society. However this kind of society will spread the belief that physical beauty can be used as a measurement of women, and that women must follow the beauty standards, so that men want them because of an assumption that men must want such women (152).

In applying this theory, the writer starts with the idea that physical beauty is a basic measurement for women in a society. As people begin to adopt the concept of beauty standard, women will be forced to be the same with the established standards which require some aspects in women's physical appearance

and lead them to do anything to maintain their physical attractiveness. Thus, to analyze the construction of beauty standards in *Uglies*, it should be elaborated by recognizing the physical features that appear in the novel and also the women's characters reaction toward the beauty standard.

2.1.2 Louis Althusser's Theory of Ideology

Louis Althusser, a French Marxist theoretician, proposes an idea about dominant ideology which discusses about the way ideology works in society. According to Althusser, there are two major states which can be said as RSA (Repressive State Apparatus) and ISA (Ideological State Apparatus), each of these State Apparatus is performed by different institutions. Marxist theory states that the superstructure comes from the infrastructure and reconditions ways of life and living so that the infrastructure continues to be produced. While Althusser states that infrastructural economic base can determine the functioning of the superstructure (in Leitch 1483-1496).

2.1.2.1 Repressive State Apparatus

Repressive State Apparatus is a state that can be used by the ruling classes to oppress the lower classes by violent and coercive means, it is represented by the government, police, prisons, courts, army, etc. The ruling classes can oppress because they possess State power. The Repressive State Apparatus are considered as organized state because they are controlled by the same ruling class. Its functions are to repress people and can be violent at the same time so that people will obey the rules created by the ruling class, and punishment can be given to the people who break the rules (Althusser 127-186).

2.1.2.2 Ideological State Apparatus

Ideological State Apparatus is a state that belongs to private domain, it is represented by families, schools, parties, etc. In contrast to RSA which represses people to create a fear with violences, ISA tends to use an ideological approach that is simultaneously applied in society. Thus the punishment given in the ISA is in the form of social ridicule, rather than violence.

Althusser states that ISA and RSA must be applied together at the same time, because it is impossible to achieve state power until a class can dominate the other classes. However, the ruling class will control both of the RSA and ISA so that they can control the other classes. Schools, families, and churches are the main facilities to spread the ideology where people learn and receive the ideology since they were young and it will be adopted in their behaviours. Thus, people who break it will receive social ridicule (Althusser 127-186).

2.2 Review of Related Studies

Before this study, there was another study of *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld which discussed it using posthuman theory. In the previous study conducted by Philip Gough who wrote a dissertation that presented in Roehampton University titled “*Who am I? Who was I?*”: *The Posthuman and Identity Formation in Scott Westerfeld’s Uglies Trilogy*, Gough used posthuman theory in analyzing the main object which is *Uglies* trilogy by Scott Westerfeld. Posthuman theory involves some forms of technology that will threaten the survival of humanity. Gough stated that human body is often being the topic discussed in this theory, which is modified, invaded or harvested so that it might be integrated with technology that

will be used to control or replace humanity. The message in the *Uglies* trilogy is about the technology of plastic surgery that can make the lost in humanity, as the people get operated only to enhance their aesthetic appearance which also means that they change their identity only to fit the society (7).

Furthermore, Gough used the *Uglies* trilogy as the main object which contains *Uglies* as the first series, *Pretties* as the second series and *Specials* as the third series. He used the trilogy because each trilogy provides a different process of human transformation into cyborg. According to Gough, the first series told about the main character's journey as she was a human, then in the second series the main character turned into a beautiful posthuman, afterall in the third series the main character finally appeared as a cyborg (4). In the process of analysis, Gough used every character in the trilogy novel to find the effects of posthuman. He did not focus on a certain character because his purpose of the study was to find the effects of posthuman toward the people in society, that is why he needs to gather the information from any characters presented in the novel.

Futher research was done by Frith, Shaw & Cheng in 2005. It used the second wave feminism theory toward women's magazines advertising. In their research, they focused on beauty concept among the society. They took women's magazine advertising as the main object because advertising has long been criticized by Western feminist scholars as a pervasive cultural institution that represents women in a problematic and often unacceptable way (Kates, Shaw, & Garlock 33-49). However, attractive female bodies and sexual stimuli have

historically been used in the U.S. to grab the viewer's attention and attempt to lend interest to a product or service (Frith & Mueller 2).

According to their research, in an age of global media where global versions of women's magazines are becoming available across cultures, it shows the importance to examine in which various races are depicted as "beauty ideals" in global media. The "beauty ideals" also can be found in *Uglies*, it even describes the physical and facial features of women that are classified as beautiful.

The purpose of *The Construction of Beauty: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Women's Magazine Advertising* was to compare the construction of beauty in women's magazines from United states, Singapore and Taiwan to determine whether culture or ethnicity might play a role in how beauty is constructed in advertising. The other purpose was to compare the portrayals of beauty in women's fashion and beauty magazine advertisements from Asia and the United States to help understanding how beauty is constructed across cultures. In the process of analysis, they used the magazines from United States, Singapore and Taiwan as the primary data in order to show different races and they also used data from various sources such as books, journals and articles which contain related studies to the topic.

The other theory used in this thesis was dominant ideology by Althusser which was also used by Ira Kristanti Bumbungan on her thesis *Caste as a Dominant Ideology in Indian Society in Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things* in 2004. In her thesis, Althusser's theory of ideology was applied to find the dominant ideology in the novel. Bumbungan's purpose was to find the caste

system happened in Indian society. She used socio-cultural approaches in analysing the Indian culture and tradition, she assumed that socio-cultural approach would provide a brief understanding of Indian caste system.

The God of Small Things tells a lot about the social conditions of Indian society, Bumbungan in her thesis decided to analyze the caste system happened in the novel. She stated that the caste presented in the novel was interesting because it was situated among the influence of Christianity and Marxism. In the process of analysis, Bumbungan used the novel *The God of Small Things* as the primary data and she also used data from various sources such as books, magazines, and online articles in some websites which contain related social studies to Indian caste systems.

The three previous studies above applied feminism theory and theory of ideology on different media such as magazines and novels, one of them used the whole of *Uglies* trilogy which was analyzed using posthuman theory. In this present study, the writer tries to find out the concept of ideal beauty in society presented in *Uglies*. Furthermore, this study focuses only on the first series since it contains feminist issues, as in the first series shows a lot of inequality between men and women especially in the form of sexuality, family and workplace. The writer's purpose is to find the concept of beauty and also the main female characters' response toward the ideology that has been already applied by the government. This study uses *Uglies* novel as the primary data and also data from various sources such as books and online articles on the websites that related to

the topic. These resources help the writer to understand more about the theory applied in the thesis and also give some new comprehensions.



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

There are various definitions of beauty among the society. Each person has her or his own opinion in defining beauty, and it is based on the concept of beauty which has been prevailing in the society. Since the definition of beauty has been constantly changing throughout time, culture is one of the main reasons that influence the concept of beauty. People from different cultures will have different perceptions of what is called beautiful and what is called ugly, because the concept has already penetrated their minds.

In this chapter, the writer would like to find the concept of ideal beauty presented in *Uglies* and women's response in it toward the concept of ideal beauty that was already established by the government as has already been explained in the first chapter. The first part of the analysis consists of Naomi Wolf's beauty myth theory as the framework. Beauty myth theory is used to illustrate the concept of ideal beauty in the society that is found in the novel. The physical features that are classified as beautiful and ugly will be revealed in this illustration. The second part of the analysis consists of Althusser's theory of ideology as its framework. Theory of ideology is used to illustrate the government's ideology about ideal beauty presented in the novel. The writer believes that government oppressions have a big role in constructing society member's mindset. Moreover, several punishments would be given to the society

members who break the rules that have already been established by the government.

3.1. The Concept of Ideal Beauty in *Uglies*

Women are all unique, have different physical appearances and also experience that are bound together and create some versions of beauty depends on people's perception. Women are made of different shapes, size, colors and these aspects will create a term called true beauty. It would be too simplified if one thinks there is only one kind of ideal beauty without considering the uniqueness of women (Herrick, *What Is the Real Definition of Beauty*). Since this novel is situated in dystopian society, Westerfeld as the author wants to warn about what's coming with social ranking systems and he also mixes the recognition of what has already been around the society and an exploration of the way human beings react to the system (Anika).

In this novel, Westerfeld showed the government and society that oppressed women in order to fulfill the concept of ideal beauty as stated on page 44:

Everyone judged everyone else based on their appearance. People who were taller got better jobs, and people even voted for some politicians just because they weren't quite as ugly as everybody else... (44)

Nonetheless, in reality, this issue can be seen in the society. The concept of ideal beauty in a society takes a huge part in constructing society members' perception about the definition of beauty and also ugliness. This resulted in the number of

women who want to look beautiful so they can be accepted in the society, because women who have the same physical appearance as the concept of ideal beauty will gain lots of advantages rather than women who are classified as ugly. So, although the plastic surgery is categorized as a dangerous matter, women will undergo the plastic surgery to reach their ideal physical appearance.

The concept of ideal beauty in this novel is greatly determined by the physical appearance and the behaviour that are really affected by gender roles. These features are the main key to group the society member, whether they will be considered as a good citizen or bad citizen. Thus, this part of analysis is divided into physical appearance of ideal beauty and behaviour of ideal beauty. Within these two features, we can recognize the concept of ideal beauty presented in *Uglies*.

3.1.1 Physical Appearance of Ideal Beauty

Every individual may have a different physical appearance from the other - it is called uniqueness of the body. The most incredible thing is that each person is different, people have different skin color, hair color, and other physical features. This diversity makes no culture or concept could ever define beauty, which resulted into various concepts of ideal beauty among the society. The concept of beauty has changed over time, therefore, *Uglies* uses some kinds of beauty concept in millennium era since it was written in 2005. In millennium era, plastic surgery has become more common than before although people know that it can harm their health. *Uglies* tells about a neighborhood where the government tries to eliminate one's uniqueness and makes everybody's physical appearance almost

the same. “They rubbed you raw, and you grew all new skin, perfect and clear. The old marks of accidents and bad food and childhood illness all washed away” (25).

In *Uglies*, the concept of ideal beauty becomes an irony because of the rules that force women to look beautiful so they can be accepted in the society, even worse, the only way is offered through plastic surgery. In this novel, the result of plastic surgery cannot be decided by the one who undergoes it, yet the result is decided by the government and based on the rules, as it is mentioned that “The doctors pretty much do what they want, no matter what you tell them” (41).

The doctors here are part of the government, they work for the government to operate people who will undergo the plastic surgery. The doctors' leader is Dr. Cable, who is also the leader of Special Circumstances – the organization responsible for keeping pretties and uglies in the city. However, the government provides everything including the plastic surgery, and entrusts the Special Circumstances to oversee the doctors so they will operate people based on what the government wants. This is one factor showing the concepts of ideal beauty in *Uglies* which are set by the government in order to create an absolute beauty. The rule to do the plastic surgery at the age of sixteen and to make every woman looks the same can eradicate the uniqueness that can be found in each woman. This practice is carried out on behalf of aesthetics matter, yet it is done to please to the eye of men. As Naomi Wolf said, “cosmetic surgery processes the bodies of woman-made women, who make up the vast majority of its patient pool, into man-made women” (220).

The main character – Tally Youngblood – is a main female character who will turn into sixteen in just a few months, which is the time for her to do the plastic surgery so she can move into New Pretty Town and leave Uglyville. In the Uglyville, Tally Youngblood makes friends with Shay who is also waiting for the plastic surgery because they are in the same age, “... Anyway, it’s just to see what you and I will look like in only . . . two months and fifteen days” (Westerfeld 45).

As depicted in the novel, Tally was so excited to undergo the plastic surgery, so she could meet her bestfriend – Peris – who had already moved into New Pretty Town. Peris was so ashamed when Tally came to meet him in New Pretty Town and told her to come back only after Tally turned pretty. Peris was three months older than Tally so he could move to the New Pretty Town earlier. When he met Tally who was still ugly, he said that he wanted to see her to be pretty, As Peris said, “... I want to see you pretty” (19). However, Peris once said to Tally that they could be best friend again only after Tally turned pretty and she agreed (20). Tally always tried to remind herself of her promise to Peris, she committed that she had to become pretty for him (25). This situation describes about a man’s demand a woman to obey him so she can be called as a good woman, since the man is the one who decides something.

Tally together with Shay often visited the New Pretty Town to see what happened there. Different from the Uglyville where everyone has different physical features which are classified as ugly, in the New Pretty Town everyone has beautiful look and all of the women there have almost identical physical

features. In the Uglyville everyone was called by their ugly nickname, Tally was called Squint because of her squinty, narrow-set, indifferently brown eyes (17), while Shay was called Skinny because of her skinny body (36). On the other hand, in New Pretty Town everyone was called by their real name because they had already got rid all the flaws they ever had before by the plastic surgery. However, the separation between the pretties and uglies is intended to reduce the confidence of the uglies so that they want to undergo plastic surgery. Besides, the pretties do not like to meet up with the uglies because being beautiful makes someone becomes more confident. As Tally said, “it must be horrible to see an ugly face when you’re surrounded by such beautiful people all the time” (25).

Uglies presents a story consisting of physical appearances that are classified into what is called beautiful and ugly. It seems that the concept of ideal beauty had already been found and everyone must fulfill the criteria or they would be judged as ugly and could not be accepted in the society. Naomi Wolf has raised the issue, as she said that ideal beauty is ideal because it does not exist. Women are not perfect because their physical appearance will be gradually change as the time goes by. The beauty myth provokes women to always look attractive based on men’s eye. However, the ideal beauty can not be achieved in natural way but through plastic surgery so that women can look younger and attractive all the time (Wolf 176). From this statement, ideal beauty cannot be achieved only by changing people’s physical appearance. It differs from *Uglies*, the society in *Uglies* believes that there is a concept of ideal beauty and the most important thing is everyone must fulfill the concept. Although plastic surgery can be

considered giving an illusion to people who perform it, so they can have more confidence than before.

There are some physical features of what called as beautiful as described in the novel. One day Tally saw some women while she sneaked into New Pretty Town, she described that there was something magical in their large and perfect eyes. “Something that made you want to pay attention to whatever they said, to protect them from any danger, to make them happy. They were so . . . pretty” (8). It has been said that the eye is the window to the soul; therefore, the ones who have bigger eyes will be considered prettier than the ones who have slanted eyes. People would refer it as the symbol of a woman’s innocence and purity. Other physical features are long lashes, full lips like a kid’s, smooth and clear skin, symmetrical features, tall and thin body. Plastic surgery also gets rid of the scar in the skin and makes the skin smoother and unblemished. “It was a hand that said: “*I don’t have to work very hard, and I’m too clever to have accidents*”” (18). When someone looked at them, it seemed that their physical appearance could convey something.

The big eyes and lips said: I’m young and vulnerable, I can’t hurt you, and you want to protect me. And the rest said: I’m healthy, I won’t make you sick. And no matter how you felt about pretty, there was a part of you that thought: *If we had kids, they’d be healthy too. I want this pretty person...* (16-17)

Tally, on the other hand, has all physical features of what called as ugly. “She put her fingers up to her face, felt the wide nose and thin lips, the too-high

forehead and tangled mass of frizzy hair" (8). Similar with Tally, Shay also has all physical features of what called as ugly. "She had long dark hair in pigtails, and her eyes were too wide apart. Her lips were full enough, but she was even skinnier than a New Pretty" (28). There is an irony when Tally tried to get a mask to cover her ugly face while in New Pretty Town, although there are some various kinds of masks, Tally only managed to get a pig mask. Therefore she was called a "piggy" by the other Pretties. Actually pig is a symbol of ugliness, laziness, and greed in ancient christian symbolism, while in the islamic culture pig is often reffered to as unclean (Venevica, *Symbolic*). "Tally felt uglier every second she spent her time in the New Pretty Town" (13). It means that Tally had lost her confidence because she had already understood the concept of ideal beauty in her society, and she realized that she did not have any feature of ideal beauty. Everytime Tally looked at them, she felt overwhelmed by the feeling that she did not belong.

In the Uglyville, everyone can design their own ideal physical appearance and their own morpho although the doctor will not consider the design and still change everyone based on the concept of ideal beauty. Based on the concept that Tally had already known, she wanted to have almond-shaped brown eyes, straight black hair with long bangs, and the dark lips set to the maximum fullness (39-40). The way Tally reacts to the Pretties shows that the ideal beauty in her society has already had a fixed rule, and all of the society members have already known the concept because they were taught about it since they were kids (40).

Whatever is deeply, essentially female--the life in a woman's expression, the feel of her flesh, the shape of her breasts, the

transformations after childbirth of her skin--is being reclassified as ugly, and ugliness as disease. These qualities are about an intensification of female power, which explains why they are being recast as a diminution of power. (Wolf 232)

Wolf explains that the characteristic of ideal women in society is based on sexual characteristics that does not exist on women's body, so plastic surgery is needed to make women's body to be ideal. However, beauty ideal on women's body does not appear by itself, but it was created by the society (232). It shows that the concept of ideal body of a woman cannot be achieved in natural way. If a society has already set the concept of ideal beauty, then it should appreciate the natural form of a woman rather than oppress and force them to fit the concept of ideal beauty, because it will only lead them to have low confidence and probably hate themselves unless they get the operation and get rid of all the ugly physical features.

After all, Tally's explanation about pretties' physical feature indicate that the concept of ideal beauty consist of large eyes, full lips, pointed nose, long eyelash, smooth skin without any scar, tall and thin body which can be reached only through plastic surgery without considering the dangers of plastic surgery toward the body.

3.1.2. Behaviour of Ideal Beauty

Another interesting aspect in the concept of ideal beauty is about behaviour. Behaviour deals with how to behave well in the society as has already widely known. In patriarchal society, people form gender role beliefs or sex-typed

expectations, for example, given that women perform more childcare than men in most industrialized societies, women are believed to be especially nurturant and caring. Given that men are more likely than women to hold higher status jobs in industrialized societies, men are believed to be especially dominant and assertive. Gender roles then influence behavior through social and biological processes. In social interaction, people respond more favorably to others who conform to gender role expectations (Wood & Karten 341-347).

Women are expected to do something referred to as feminine while men expected to do something referred to as masculine. *Uglies* mentions about the behaviour of a men and women, which significantly different from each other. Culture has the major influence in constructing the concept of beauty including the behaviour. In *Uglies*, the behaviour will be changing after the process of plastic surgery because of the brain damage caused by the plastic surgery. Women are portrayed as less smart, they often say and do something stupid (7). As in the patriarchal society where women are considered not as smart as men, especially beautiful women. In reality, a lot of men believe that a beautiful woman is not too bright. They consider that most of beautiful women also weak and need to be protected by them. Allman stated that beautiful women always got attention for their physical appearance. It became the reason they never had to develop a personality in order to get people to like them. Women's intelligence never have a relation with their physical appearance, but there is some minor correlation that the more beautiful a woman is, the more likely she is to be smarter, more creative, etc." (Allman, "Why")

This argument is a common thing happened in reality, and it also can be seen in *Uglies*. Beautiful women act like they do not have a good personality, they just have fun all day and giggle while talking something unimportant which makes them look like they are not smart enough. All they ever care is their look and they do not care about what they do as long it is fun for them. While in New Pretty Town, Tally is amazed by the difference between the Uglyville's dorm and New Pretty Town's dorm. The occupant in the Uglyville's dorm often quarrel with each other and the rules are too strict, while the occupant in the New Pretty Town's dorm looks very close with each other (12).

...this dorm didn't have any rules. Unless the rules were Act Stupid, Have Fun, and Make Noise. A bunch of girls in ball gowns were on the roof, screaming at the top of their lungs, balancing on the edge and shooting safety fireworks at people on the ground. (12)

Tally as the main female character in the novel ever tried to meet her bestfriend in New Pretty Town, although the city was forbidden for her since she meant to stay in Uglyville. She sneaked around to get in the city and involved in some troubles in her way. Tally was chased by a group of Pretties before she could meet Peris who said "Just promise me that you won't do any more stupid tricks... like coming here. Something that'll get you into trouble" (19). From those passage, Tally that represents a woman was described as a sloven who caused trouble. Peris that represents a man was the one who helped Tally to escape the crowd of people chasing her. Tally as a woman can not save herself and need Peris as a man to help her from the trouble she has been made (20).

In this novel Peris seems to act like a hero who saved Tally from the trouble she caused before, Tally was so powerless and had no idea to save her own life. Even after she could escape and left Peris, "She wished she had her interface ring to give her instructions" (20). It indicates the superiority of a man, because a woman is portrayed as weak and not independent while the man is portrayed as a hero and saver who helps the woman when she was caught in trouble she had made. As Wolf said that women's identities are not naturally weak, but ideal imagery make women meant to be weak. A beautiful heroine can not be accepted in the society since heroism is about individuality, interesting and changing, while beauty considered as generic, boring, and inert (59).

3.1.3. The Apparatuses of Physical Beauty-Oriented Society in *Uglies*

The existence of physical beauty-oriented society cannot be separated from both internal and external factors within the society. This orientation can lead in grouping some people based on their physical appearances. This novel's issue is about the isolation of some people that are categorized as ugly, and it makes them separated from those who are beautiful. However, this grouping still exists although this issue restricts an individual's freedom because it has brought lots of advantages to the government. According to Althusser, there are two major states performed by different institutions that instill the ideology to people in order to create the dominant ideology in a society. Thus, this part of analysis is divided into RSA presented in *Uglies*, and ISA presented in *Uglies*. Within this two features, we can recognize the way dominant ideology works in *Uglies'* society.

3.1.3.1. Repressive State Apparatus Presented in *Uglies*

Physical beauty is considered as the most important thing in *Uglies'* society because this society's main purpose is to create people with no distinguishing features. All of them are operated so they can fulfill the ideal beauty in the society. Therefore, this ideology is represented by the government, special circumstances, and doctors who operate people. They oppress the society members because they possess the State's power, and require the society members to obey them. As Althusser said that the State is a machine of repression, which enables the ruling classes to ensure their domination over the working class. The State is thus first of all what the Marxist classics have called the State Apparatus. This state belongs to legal practice, i.e. the police, the courts, the prisons. These legal practice assigned to oppressed people toward violation and also threats, and the punishment will be given for breaking the rules (Althusser 137). From this statement, it can be seen that the government has the power to control the legal practice such as those in the novel. In *Uglies*, the Special Circumstances is an organization responsible to control people to get plastic surgery, while the doctors operate people under the supervision of the Special Circumstances and based on the government's order.

The Special Circumstances' leader – Dr. Cable – talked personally to Tally when she had already turned sixteen. Tally was asked by the Wardens to meet Dr. Cable because she had troubles with her plastic surgery procedure. During that time, Tally experienced some forms of oppression from the ruling class. The oppression needs to be done since the repressive state apparatus works by

oppressing people toward violation until they reach their purpose. The special circumstances looked cold, commanding, and intimidating who makes Tally feel intimidated at the beginning of the meeting (101). Tally has ever heard about the Special Circumstances but she never fully understands their job because it is never taught in the school.

Tally bit her lip. “What’s Special Circumstances?”

Dr. Cable sat back... “This city is a paradise, Tally. It feeds you, educates you, keeps you safe. It makes you pretty... Sometimes there are threats from the environment that must be faced... Sometimes there are Special Circumstances.” (106-107)

From that conversation, Tally finally realizes that Special Circumstances is the organization that controls the problem caused by the rebellions and always tries to keep the balance of the city in their own way. The special circumstances can do violation toward anyone who break the rules, they use punishments and also threats to control the society members to keep everyone obey them. As it mentioned by Althusser that Repressive State Apparatus use violation in order to reach their purpose (137).

Tally was once asked by Dr. Cable to disclose the location of Smoke City where all the rebellions stay together, but Tally was suspicious about Special Circumstances’ real plan since they were most likely being tricky. They had always wanted her to be a spy, an infiltrator. “She wondered just how long this had been planned. How many times had Special Circumstances tried to get an ugly to work for them before?” (134). “She remembered all the tricks Special

Circumstances had played on her today—how they'd kept her waiting for an hour in the hospital, waiting and thinking she would soon be pretty, the brutal flight here, and all the cruel faces in the halls" (109). It shows that Special Circumstances will do anything to catch the rebellions who break the prescribed rules, they are very tricky and they try to repress the society members to follow their order or there will be consequences if the society members refuse to obey it. It happened to Tally who refused to infiltrate the Smoke City, as Dr.Cable said "Then I'll make you a promise too, Tally Youngblood. Until you do help us, to the very best of your ability, you will never be pretty" (110). Tally cannot believe what Special Circumstances wants her to do, she must choose between her life or her friends' lives.

Sol laughed. "I guess it would be a bit of a shock at your age, Tally. But of course we old folks know all about Special Circumstances. They may be tough, but they're just doing their jobs, you know. It's a tough world out there." (117)

However, the Special Circumstances would not stop until they get what they want because they represent the repressive state apparatus which is tasked to oppress people using violation and also threats.

3.1.3.2. Ideological State Apparatus Presented in *Uglies*

Different from RSA which is performed by the legal practice to repress the society members, ISA is performed by private domain. According to Althusser, Ideological State Apparatuses belongs to private domains. The private domains can affect someone's ideology as well as the ruling class because the ideology

from private domains can be considered as family beliefs or even self beliefs rather than rules. It shows that schools and families also have a role in instilling the ideology (Althusser 144).

In *Uglies*, people under sixteen will be placed in a dorm and attend a school that teaches about the concept of ideal beauty. They are given an application to create their own dreams of ideal beauty based on the concept. “Everyone made morphos, even littlies, too young for their facial structure to have set. It was a great waste of a day, figuring out all the different ways you could look when you finally became pretty” (40). In the school, children are taught about the conflicts that can raise because of the physical diversity. They were taught that people killed one another because they have different skin color, it is the reason given by the school to children in order to justifying the rule to get plastic surgery and make everybody equal (44-45). It can be seen that the school has a big role in creating children’s mind about the danger of physical diversity and suggests them to do the plastic surgery to make everyone equal, so there will be no jealousy and conflicts. Furthermore, the school also provides once a year school trip which takes place at Rusty Ruins. “The Rusty Ruins were the remains of an old city, a hulking reminder of back when there’d been way too many people, and everyone was incredibly stupid and ugly” (48). The teachers always associated ugly people with stupidity and children will accept it as their beliefs so that children will understand the importance of doing plastic surgery. This school trip aims to warn the young generations that diversity leads to stupidity and ugliness, that is why they must do the plastic surgery so they would not be hurt

each other. Children accept this ideology better than the repressive act by the government, because they would not assume it as a rule but they accept it as their belief.

The other private domain is family, Tally's parents – Sol and Ellie – also plays a role in constructing the ideology. Tally has refused to help Dr. Cable for infiltrating the Smoke City, on the other hand when Tally listens to her parents' words she feels like anything they say is right and she must do it for her own good.

Tally, we all make promises when we're little. That's part of being an ugly—everything's exciting and intense and important, but you have to grow out of it. After all, you don't owe this girl anything. She's done nothing but cause you trouble (116).

Tally found herself unconsciously agree to her parents because she belief them. As Althusser said that private domain can instill the ideology on someone without any repression nor violation because they will accept it as their belief (144). Tally's mother – Ellie – tries to emphasize the necessity to follow the rules so that Tally can live her life as a normal person rather than being a fugitive because she wants Tally to follow the rule .

"In any case," Ellie interrupted, "why make a fuss? This'll all be over in no time. Just have a nice chat with Special Circumstances, tell them everything, and you'll be headed where you really want to be... Sweetheart... what other choice do you have." (119)

After the conversation with her parents, Tally decides to cooperate with Dr. Cable from Special Circumstances. Tally agrees to infiltrate and let them know the location of Smoke City, although it means that she has betrayed Shay and breaks her promise.

“So, Tally. You’ve reconsidered... And you’ll answer all our questions now? Honestly and of your own free will?”

Tally snorted. “You’re not giving me a choice.”

Dr. Cable smiled. “We always have choices, Tally. You’ve made yours.” (129).

The conversation above proves that Tally’s parents can affect her way of thinking, in other words, the Ideological State Apparatus can affect her way of thinking rather than the Repressive State Apparatus. Tally’s parent can make her obey them without any repression or even violence, they can assure her only with their family’s belief. Furthermore, Tally also has learned from her school subject that taught about the importance of doing plastic surgery because it can make everyone become equal to avoid the conflicts. Tally has received this ideology from her parents and school since she was young which make her perceive it as her belief rather than a repressive rule. Therefore, instead of obeying Dr. Cable Tally simply obey her parents’ words because she believes them. After all, the Ideological State Apparatus will also work as well as the repressive state although it does not give any punishment or violence but simply social ridicule towards the person who fights against the rules.

3.2. Woman's Response to the Concept of Ideal Beauty in *Uglies*

In the previous analysis, there has been shown how society and government can oppress women to be what they want. Women must look beautiful so they can be accepted in the society, although they need to do a plastic surgery without concerning about their own health. It is a dangerous process with the only purpose is to change the physical appearance. *Uglies* presents a society where aesthetic appearance is an important matter for people so they can blend with other social members. The plastic surgery actually causes some side effects that can affect someone's brain. For some people who have already known the side effects, they gather together and plan to rebel against the existing rule.

3.2.1. Side Effects of Plastic Surgery in *Uglies*

The plastic surgery rules actually are applied to everyone after they turned into sixteen. Both men and women must do the plastic surgery to make them look physically attractive, so they can move to New Pretty Town to meet other people who have already got the plastic surgery. The difference is women will deal with a side effect of plastic surgery that causes brain damages that make them become manageable, while the men do not deal with it. One day, Tally was told by David's mother – Maddy, an insurgent and former doctor – that there is a side effect of plastic surgery which is brain damage made by the doctor under the government's order to make someone become easier to manage (271-272).

“There has to be,” Maddy said. “Our data showed that everyone has the lesions after their first operation. So when someone winds up in a challenging line of work, the authorities somehow cure

them. The lesions are removed secretly, maybe even fixed with a pill like the bone plastic, and the brain returns to normal. There must be a simple cure.” (271)

From those passages, it seems that the brain damages happen to everyone who has done the plastic surgery. In fact, there are some proofs that the brain damages only happen to women. Peris is one of the proofs that men do not get brain damages from the plastic surgery. Peris still acts like the same person even after the surgery, in other words, he still has the same behaviour. “His eyes narrowed... he looked like the old Peris: serious, thoughtful, even a little bit unhappy” (125). Tally said that Peris still felt the same, just a bit taller and thinner but he was warm and solid, and still Peris (19-20). Tally also aware of his voice, his brown eyes, the way his forehead crinkled when he was confused that exactly the same as Peris when he still ugly (16). It proves that Peris still acts like he was before, he still has the same behaviour like he had before the operation. Besides, he also still cares with Tally, especially when he hears that Tally does not get the operation even after her birthday. He tries to calm her down and supports her, although it means he must visit Tally at the Uglyville.

Tally turned away, unlacing her grippy shoes as she collected herself. She'd felt so abandoned since her birthday, it had never occurred to her that Peris would want to see her, especially not here in Uglyville. But here he was, worried, anxious, lovely... (122)

Even after the operation, Peris still cares about Tally. He does not feel clumsy when he takes care of Tally who is still ugly, instead he listens to Tally about her

problem and tries to convince her not to worry and that she will get the operation soon.

Peris's behaviour is very different from Shay, who has finally gets the plastic surgery before Tally can get it. Shay becomes a very different person, she considers the rebellion is a wrong way and tries to make everyone who rebels to get a plastic surgery like her. Shay becomes someone who is easy to grumble, she keeps complaining about life as an ugly because although she has already turned pretty, she is assigned by the government to live with the rebels so she can persuade them.

Shay stayed with them, complaining about the food, the ruins, her hair and clothes, and having to look at all the ugly faces around her. But she never seemed bitter, only perpetually annoyed... Perhaps the brain damage made her pliant. (407)

Tally feels that Shay is not the same anymore, she seems enjoying being beautiful and forgets about rebelling against the government. Shay is the one who keeps telling about the side effects of getting the plastic surgery to Tally, but now she becomes a calm person and she thinks that it is the right thing when she got the plastic surgery. Shay become a totally different person than before she got operated.

“You grew up because of an operation? Doesn’t that strike you as weird?”

“It wasn’t because of the operation.”

“Then why?”

“It was just good to come home, Tally. It made me realize how crazy the whole Smoke thing was.” (395)

From the conversation between Tally and Shay, it can be seen that Shay has already had a brain damage because she becomes a very different person. Shay who used to be one of the most passionate rebels, becomes a person who thinks that rebellion is a wrong thing to do. It can be seen that Shay already controlled by the government in order to persuade other rebels to get a plastic surgery and also to obey the government rules. Shay can remember her actions before which include rebelling towards government but she now consider it as a wrong actions and suggest everyone in Smoke city to follow her way and get operated.

Shay is aware of the brain damage a person can get when they get the operation, but after she turns pretty she considers that it is non sense and she keeps convincing everyone around her that plastic surgery has no deal with brain damages. Shay became belief of what teachers told her in school, she considered that ugliness leads to chaos and suggest other rebels to get operated so they can live in peace and stop worrying about rebellion.

“I *like* the way I look,” Shay insisted. “I’m happier in this body. You want to talk about brain damage? Look at you all, running around these ruins playing commando. You’re all full of schemes and rebellions, crazy with fear and paranoia, even jealousy.” (408)

Shay is sent by the government to infiltrate the Smoke City where the rebels gather together, she is assigned to provoke and convince them that plastic surgery is a good thing and that will make their lives easier since all the people

who live in Smoke City is very poor and struggling to survive. Instead of regretting that she has already got the plastic surgery, she feels sorry for Tally because she is the one who influences Tally not to get the plastic surgery. “To Shay, her new attitude was simply the result of growing up, moving on, leaving all the overheated emotions of ugliness behind” (408-409).

Those evidence can proves that Shay has already changed, she has different attitude and also different way of thinking. She supports the plastic surgery by the government now, it is contrary to her commitment before she got the plastic surgery. Shay still can remember her friends and her past, but she consider it as a wrong act. Besides, Shay always blame Tally for not doing plastic surgery and she always keep telling Tally that brain damage is not exist. Her excuse for her new behaviour and way of thinking is about she already growing up and can think clearly than Tally who she consider as childish. This sample proves that a brain damage only happens to women because Peris still can be himself and take care of Tally even though he has already got the plastic surgery, while Shay becomes a totally different person after she got the plastic surgery and brain damaged on the other hand.

The other proves is that in Uglyville’s dorm, both men and women often getting into fights with each other. In other hand, in New Pretty Town’s dorm, the women are so closed and there is no more fight between them. This difference can proves that women’s behaviour will be changed during the plastic surgery, while men did not. It dismissed the statement of the novel that mentions brain lesion happened to both men and women.

Wolf stated that the stereotypes toward women is used to fit the myth, women are allowed to have a mind or a body but not both which means beauty without intelligence or intelligence without beauty (59). *Uglies* presents a society where the government oppress women to get plastic surgery which give them brain lesion so that women can be more manageable. It means that the government wants to make all of the women become beauty without intelligence, in order to suppress the rebellion. After all, women meant to be tamed in the society which indicates the possibility of women's rebellion is higher than men's, it can be caused by many kinds of factors so that the government prefers to control women's mind rather than men's.

3.2.2 Woman's Rebellion Toward The Government's Rule

Initially, Tally that represents women in *Uglies* to accept the government's rules about being operated and turned into beautiful in the age of sixteen. She knows nothing at all about the risk of being operated because it is a normal thing happens in her society and everyone she knows has already done the same thing including her parents and all of her friends. Tally once dreams about being pretty and lives happily with all of her friends, until she finally meets Shay who knows about the side effects of the operation.

Tally is taken to the Smoke by Shay to meet the other rebels, where they explain to Tally about what happens after the operation. Finally she knows that a person can suffer from a brain lesion after the process in order to make them become more manageable so that there will be no rebellion among the society. Tally begins to join with the rebel group, they plan to rebel against the city and

the rule that bind their freedom. Tally with the help of her rebel friends began to carry out the rebellion, rather than hiding all day in the Smoke City like every rebels did before. On their runaway Tally had felt tired because of her lack of sleep, “A little escape was one thing, but I didn’t know you guys were going to drag me all the way out here. I’m through with this whole rebellion thing, I’ve got a wicked hangover, and I really need to wash my hair” (401). After the authorities attack the Smoke City, Tally and David – the rebels – try to escape from the Specials who destroy the Smoke city with axe. They help each other so they can save their lives, and they do not want to be taken to the government facility and turned pretty.

Another hovercar roared over them, and he pulled her around the corner of the building and down behind a drum that collected rainwater from the gutters. “You noticed her too?” He grinned, showing a missing tooth. “Maybe if we both run at once, one of us might make it. If the other puts up a fight...” (290)

Some of the rebels are captured by the authorities including Shay. Tally feels guilty because she is the reason why the authorities know the location of Smoke City. Once Shay comes back to Smoke City, she has already turned pretty and suffered from brain damage. It makes Tally feel like she is the one who is responsible for the trouble and for her actions before. However, Tally realizes that she is the only one who can make the change, so she volunteers herself to be operated and take a risk to get brain damage. Tally has written a note about her decision, in case of her risk so she can remember her real purpose.

That way, even as a pretty, unable to comprehend why she would ever want her brain fixed, Tally could at least read her own words and know what was about to happen. (420)

However, Tally decides to rule New Pretty Town's social scene after she turned pretty by the operation. She will lead a rebellion in the place where everyone in Smoke City can never reach. Tally, a woman, takes a huge responsibility and risks herself just to free not only herself but also everyone from the government's rule. Tally said that she will go back to the city and get caught, so that Dr. Cable will give her the operation (415).

Afterall, Tally decides to rebel toward the government because the government already oppressed the women for their own purpose. In *Uglies* women are meant to be tamed by men and also the government by eliminating their intelligence during the plastic surgery. Women can not decide their own lives but they are controlled by the government. Wolf stated that the myth already make female become less rebellious because the men and the society will consider them to be a bad women. In order to be a good women, women must obey the rules and denied ways to see themselves as heroines (276). This study discovers that Tally decides to be a heroine who fights toward the government because she believes that women are meant to be equal with men. Tally accepts to see herself as a heroine, and believe that women can still be good women although they must against the myth.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the analysis, the writer can conclude that the society in *Uglies* always judges a person based on its concept of ideal beauty. The concept of ideal beauty presented in *Uglies* is assessed in terms of physical appearance and behaviour. Physical appearance will change through the process of plastic surgery, while the behaviour will be changing after the process of plastic surgery. The doctors who performed the plastic surgery will be supervised by the Special Circumstances to make sure that the operation is based on the rules set by the government. The government's purpose is to eliminate the diversity in society and create a concept of ideal beauty that must be applied by all of society members. The physical appearances in *Uglies* use some beauty concepts of millenium era, while the behaviour tends to represent beautiful women as not smart.

The plastic surgery in *Uglies* has side effects, namely brain damages which result the person can be controlled by the government. The writer found that the brain damage in this case happens to women rather than men, although the novel mentioned that the brain damage happens to both men and women. It shows that the government wants the women to be more manageable. It means that men are not controlled by the government because in *Uglies* men are considered as superior in the society. The inequality makes Tally Youngblood, the main character of the story, tries to rebel against the government and she wants to abolish the rules that oppressed the society members.

As the government takes the major control over the society members, it assigns some authorities to ensure that the society members comply with the government's rule. One of the most powerful organizations in *Uglies* is the Special Circumstances which supervise and control the social life. The Special Circumstances represent the Repressive State Apparatus because they will do anything possible even violate people in order to reach their purpose, while the Ideological State Apparatus in *Uglies* is presented by the family and school. From the analysis, the writer found that both of Repressive State Apparatus and Ideological State Apparatus work well on the female lead character although both of them use different approaches.

After all, this novel tries to reveal the effects of government's oppression toward women. It can be seen from the rejection and isolation that must be faced by women if they do not comply with the rules which require them to look beautiful through the plastic surgery. Besides, the government also hides the fact that women will get a brain damage when they get operated. However, the reason why the government tries to control the women's brain still cannot be found in this novel because *Uglies* is the first series of a trilogy. The further research is needed to find the government's hidden motives so that it can complement the findings of this study.

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*Appendix I***Synopsis of *Uglies***

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld is the first in a trilogy of novels set in a futuristic world in which everyone is surgically altered at the age of sixteen to be pretty. In this novel, Tally cannot wait until her birthday when she will be turned pretty and allowed to live in New Pretty Town with her best friend Peris from childhood. However, when Tally's new friend, Shay, runs away, Tally is told by Special Circumstances that she will remain ugly all her life unless she agrees to track down Shay and bring her back. Uglies is a novel that questions the idea of social pressure to be beautiful and the quest of young people to conform to one specific idea of normal.

Tally's constant companion and best friend, Peris, is three months older than her and therefore is given the operation to become pretty sooner than she. Tally misses Peris so much that she sneaks into New Pretty Town at the risk of great punishment to see him. Tally is nearly caught, causing her to have to make a dramatic escape from the roof of his building. As Tally rushes back to Uglyville, she runs into another ugly who has also snuck into New Pretty Town, Shay. With their similar circumstances and the loneliness of being the last of their friends to turn pretty, Tally and Shay become good friends.

Shay begins to question the need to become pretty and makes veiled comments about her desire to remain an ugly. Tally misses most of these comments because she cannot imagine anyone wanting to remain ugly. However, a short time before their shared birthday, Shay tells Tally she plans to run away to a place called the smoke, a community of people who have chosen to remain ugly. Tally refuses to accompany Shay. However, on Tally's birthday she is taken to Special Circumstances where Dr. Cable tells Tally that if she refuses to help them find Shay, she will be forced to remain ugly for life. Faced with a life as an outcast and the pleading of her friend, Peris, Tally finally agrees to make the trek to the Smoke and activate a special locator upon her arrival.

Tally makes the long, dangerous trip to the smoke alone, almost getting burned and falling off a cliff. Finally Tally makes it to the Smoke. At first Tally finds the people of the Smoke ugly and unbearable to look at, their habits of eating fresh meat and cutting down trees outrageous, and their ethic of hard work too difficult. After a while, however, Tally finds herself growing accustomed to these new ways of living and even finding enjoyment in some of it. When David, the son of the founders of the smoke, tells her how his parents ran away from the city because of knowledge that the city leaders were somehow altering people's minds as well as their bodies during the pretty operation, Tally knows she cannot betray these people. Unfortunately, when Tally destroys the locator, it automatically releases a signal.

Special Circumstances descends on the Smoke and arrests everyone in sight. Tally and David manage to escape. Together Tally and David return to the city in an attempt to rescue David's parents and others from the Smoke who have been taken there. Their rescue mission is successful, however, David's father has died in an experimental surgery. Soon after, David's mother finds a cure for the brain lesions inflicted during the initial pretty surgery, but cannot find a patient to test it on. For this reason, Tally agrees to allow herself to be turned pretty so that she can be the first test patient. Tally does this to make amends for bringing Special Circumstances to the Smoke.

(Book Rags)

*Appendix 2***Characters of *Uglies***

- **Tally Youngblood** is the main character of the story. She is clever and loves tricks. Her Ugly nickname is Squint. As the story progresses, she begins to stray from the rules of her city, and her assignment. She falls in love with David at the Smoke. Together, Tally and David rescue the Smokies after the Smoke is captured by Special Circumstances. In the end, she gives herself up to be Pretty and help Shay.
- **Shay** is Tally's new friend in Uglyville. She is an Ugly nicknamed Skinny. They meet while Tally is fleeing from New Pretty City. Shay teaches Tally how to hoverboard and more about the outside world and the Rusties. Shay prefers to refer to Tally by her name, however, they occasionally call each other by their Ugly nicknames to provoke each other. After a fight, Shay decides to "grow up" and go to the Smoke. Shay realizes Tally's ultimate betrayal, but no longer cares once she is made Pretty.
- **David**, the son of the founders of the Smoke, was not born in any city. Shay has an interest in David but he does not reciprocate her feelings. David helps change Tally's feeling towards the cities. He wears hand sewn clothing, made from animal skins, and has survival skills which he passes on to Tally.
- **Dr. Cable** is the head of Special Circumstances, and the one who denies Tally the operation until she finds Shay
- **Peris**, Tally's best friend, is three months older than Tally and thus has become a Pretty. He helps Tally decide to betray Shay. His Ugly nickname was Nose.
- **Ellie Youngblood** is Tally's mother who helps Tally decide to turn in Shay. She is a Middle Pretty.
- **Sol Youngblood** is Tally's father who helps Tally decide to turn in Shay. He is a Middle Pretty.

(Wikipedia)

Appendix 3

Author's Biography

Name	: Scott David Westerfeld
Born	: May 5, 1963. Dallas, Texas, USA
Nationality	: American
Occupation	: Writer, composer, media designer
Genre	: Young adult, science fiction
Period	: 1990s – present
Alma Mater	: Vassar College (B.A. in Philosophy)
Award	<p>: - <i>So Yesterday</i> won a Victorian Premier's Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Evolution's Darling</i> was a New York Times Notable Book (2000), and won a Special Citation for the 2000 Philip K. Dick Award - <i>The Secret Hour</i> won an Aurealis Award - <i>Peeps</i> and <i>Uglies</i> were both named as "Best Books for Young Adults" in 2006 by the American Library Association - <i>Leviathan</i> won the 2010 Locus Award for Best Young Adult Fiction. Russian translation of <i>Leviathan</i> was awarded by Mir Fantastiki as Best Young Adult Fiction in 2011 - <i>Leviathan</i> was nominated for an ORCA (Oregon Reader's Choice Award) in the intermediate division
Bibliography	<p>: - Novel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Polymorph</i> (1997) • <i>Fine Prey</i> (1998) • <i>Evolution's Darling</i> (2000) • <i>So Yesterday</i> (2004) • <i>Afterworlds</i> (2014) • <i>Zeroes</i> (2015)

- Succession Series

- *The Risen Empire* (2003)
- *The Killing of Worlds* (2003)

- Midnighters Trilogy

- *The Secret Hour* (2004)
- *Touching Darkness* (2005)
- *Blue Noon* (2006)

- Uglies Series

- *Uglies* (2005)
- *Pretties* (2005)
- *Specials* (2006)
- *Extras* (2007)
- *Bogus to Bubbly: An Insider's Guide to the World of Uglies* (2008)
- *Uglies: Shay's Story* (2012) (a graphic novel)
- *Uglies: Cutters* (2012) (a graphic novel)

- Peeps Series

- *Peeps* (2005)
- *The Last Days* (2006)
- *Blue Noon* (2006)

- Leviathan Series

- *Leviathan* (2009)
- *Behemoth* (2010)
- *Goliath* (2011)
- *The Manual of Aeronautics* (2012)

(Wikipedia)