

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**THE CONSTRUCTED IDEAL BEAUTY AND ITS IMPACT IN
FRANCES CHA'S *IF I HAD YOUR FACE***



By

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Degree of English Department
Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga**

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SURABAYA
2022**

DECLARATION

I declare that this undergraduate thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the degree of Sarjana Humaniora (S.Hum) of the English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga is entirely my own work and has been solely the result of my own original research. Hereby, I confirm that:

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Surabaya, 11 July 2022.



Nabila Ardianti Mumtaz

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I dedicate this thesis to myself, thank you for never giving up

I also dedicate it to both of my parents, thank you for always supporting me

Lastly, I also dedicate this thesis to all women out there, you are all beautiful in your own way

APPROVAL SHEET

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Sincerely,

Nabila Ardianti Mumtaz

“Beauty shouldn’t be about changing yourself to achieve an ideal or be more socially acceptable. Real beauty, the interesting, truly pleasing kind, is about honoring the beauty within you and without you. It’s about knowing that someone else’s definition of pretty has no hold over you.”

—Golda Poretsky

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Abstract

The concept of ideal beauty does not naturally exist in this world or even in our mind or ourselves. In fact, ideal beauty is a concept that exists because of the existence of patriarchal culture. People unconsciously accept the concept of ideal beauty. They do not even realize that it really affects the way they are thinking. Wolf has stated in her beauty myth theory that women's growth is obstructed by the use of female beauty images as a political weapon. The issue of constructed ideal beauty appears in *If I Had Your Face* novel by Frances Cha. This study aims to reveal the depiction of the constructed ideal beauty in the novel and also discovers the effect of constructed ideal beauty on Sujin and Kyuri characterization. Moreover, to analyze the object, the writer uses a qualitative research method and textual analysis as the technique. In addition, the theory applied in this study is beauty myth by Naomi Wolf. The result of this study shows the depiction of the constructed ideal beauty in *If I Had Your Face* by looking through three aspects: culture (media), violence (plastic surgery), and work. Furthermore, this study also shows that the constructed ideal beauty seen from those three aspects gives psychological effects toward Sujin and Kyuri in terms of insecurity and judgmental issues.

Keywords: *ideal beauty, media, plastic surgery, insecurity, judgmental*

Abstrak

Konsep kecantikan ideal tidak ada secara alami di dunia atau bahkan di dalam pikiran atau diri kita, pada kenyataannya konstruksi kecantikan ideal adalah konsep yang tercipta karena adanya budaya patriarki. Banyak orang secara tidak sadar menerima konsep kecantikan ideal, mereka bahkan tidak menyadari bahwa konsep tersebut sangat mempengaruhi cara berpikir mereka. Dalam hal ini, Wolf telah menyatakan dalam teori *beauty myth* bahwa pertumbuhan wanita terhambat oleh penggunaan citra kecantikan wanita sebagai senjata politik. Isu tentang kecantikan ideal yang terkonstruksi muncul dalam novel *If I Had Your Face* karya Frances Cha. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan penggambaran kecantikan ideal yang telah terkonstruksi dalam novel *If I Had Your Face* dan juga untuk mengetahui pengaruh konstruksi kecantikan ideal, pada Karakter Sujin dan Kyuri. Selain itu, untuk menganalisis objek, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan teknik analisis tekstual. Sebagai tambahan, teori yang diterapkan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori *beauty myth* oleh Naomi Wolf. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan penggambaran kecantikan ideal yang terkonstruksi dalam novel *If I Had Your Face* dengan melihatnya melalui tiga aspek; budaya (media), kekerasan (operasi plastik), dan pekerjaan. Selanjutnya, penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa konstruksi kecantikan ideal dilihat dari ketiga aspek tersebut memberikan efek psikologis terhadap Sujin dan Kyuri dalam isu insecurities dan penilaian.

Kata Kunci: *kecantikan ideal, media, operasi plastik, insecurities, penilaian*