

THE DEPICTION OF BEAUTY MYTH IN COELHO'S *THE SPY*

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to analyze the depiction of the beauty myth experienced by the main character in Coelho's novel, *The Spy* (2006). This analysis focuses on how beauty myth is depicted in the main character and how beauty myth succeeds in destroying the main character's life. The writer uses the theory book, *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf (2002). In writing this study, the writer uses a qualitative method. The results of this study indicate that the image of beauty myth actually occurs in the main character in several ways such as personal and social point of view by giving the main character joy, money, power, jewelries, and valuables. However, quiet opposite, beauty myth also destroys the life of the main character very tragically as she has to be willing to trade all kinds of pleasures such as jewelries, beautiful dresses, and other valuables for sex which she cannot enjoy it even she must be executed without concrete evidence against her in the end of the story.

Keywords: , *Beauty, Feminism, The Beauty Myth, Women*

INTRODUCTION

Beauty has become one of the most repeating topics talked around the world. Each person has a different term to describe beauty. It is often found that people say that beauty comes from the inner side of someone. However, the fact is quite different when people totally agree that young, tall, white skin, and a woman's perfect face is the standard of beauty. Friedan (1997, p. 45), states that in other hospitals, women dying of cancer refused a drug which research had proved might save their lives: its side effects were said to be unfeminine. "If I have only one life, let me live it as a blonde," a larger-than-lifesized picture of a pretty, vacuous woman proclaimed from newspaper, magazine, and drugstore ads. The ideal beauty is always valued by the physical appearance as the example of the older woman in the magazine will never be portrayed except they are airbrushed in order to look younger even take the high risk facial and body care.

Beauty standards are almost the same wherever it is. It has been proven by the reality of what has happened around the world that always putting appearance as the first thing of all, such as the phenomena of selebgram/celebrity Instagram who always show their beauty in their feed to attract the mass attention in order to get more followers. Women must want to embody it and men must want to possess women who embody it. The idea encourages society in general to be trapped in a beauty standard for a woman who is consciously or unconsciously suppressing the woman herself.

In Indonesia, selebgram is also composed by actors and actresses who have been famous in the conventional media such as TV and Magazine. However, there are several people who rarely appear in the conventional media and tend to have a mysterious identity but have an extraordinary number of followers. According to Totoatmojo (2015, p. 72), she states that selebgram is also known as an abrupt celebrity. This phenomenon encourages the emergence of people who want to become famous instantly by creating controversy and several of them are women. For instance, in

about 2016, there was a woman named Awkarin who appeared on Instagram with an extraordinary number of followers. She posted her daily vlog and outfit every day and people were already attracted to that. Her sensual and vulgar photos also became an attraction for the boys who liked to look at and even for the girls who wanted to get the similar shape of her body. Afterwards, there were several names that were not much different from her such as Anya Geraldine, Duo Serigala, Siva Aprilia and many more. Moreover, there was a selebgram with the initials RR who was caught by the police because she was broadcasting a live broadcast of herself in a naked condition. This phenomena shows that the beauty myth still exists and controls most people's mindset both male and female.

For instance, Anya Geraldine posted a photo of herself on her personal Instagram on January 14 doing exercises at the gym to lose weight. Her photo shows her extremely slender figure in skimpy clothes that even shows off her flawless skin. Moreover, a lot of netizens gave praise comments that lead to the beauty of Anya's body shape, some even look shamelessly about making slightly sensual comments such as @neejamkinza's comment said that my dear is getting more beautiful overtime, @timihime_'s comment said you're perfect honey, and several comments like these. It shows how the beauty myth works on people, both male and female.

There is a novel called *The Spy* written by Coelho (2016), adopts the real story of one of history's most enigmatic women called Matahari who dares to defy the deep-rooted convention at that time that makes her under suspicion. The storyline of this novel also brings up the issue of the beauty myth that occurs to the main character, Mata Hari. Mata Hari is stuck in a situation where she is required to polish her appearance in order to gain recognition from the outside world and to get what she dreams and wants. Her story brings a strong issue about how women are always trapped in beauty standards that are created by society. Even the relevance of the issue could still be felt and seen today around us.

For instance, in the novel, there is a part that tells us that Mata Hari is being ignored when she comes to Paris in the very first time. Mata Hari's outfits are considered too old-fashioned and tacky so she is ignored and even her questions to some people she meets are not answered at all. In contrast, she becomes the most-popular dancer when she has already polished herself to look beautiful as society wants at that time.

Referring to the explanation above, this study takes the title, *The Depiction of Beauty Myth in Coelho's The Spy*. In this study, the writer analyzes how the beauty myth is depicted by the main character in the novel and how the beauty myth destroy the main character's life in the novel.

The scope of study is literature as one of the media to spell out the issue about beauty standards as the beauty myth. The study is limited in finding out the role of beauty myth of making the main character achieve her goals and in contrast the role of beauty myth of destroying the main character's life through the narrative elements written in Coelho's novel, *The Spy*. The scientific approach used to analyze the issue is to study beauty myths as seen in the theory book called *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf. The objectives of the study are to explain the depiction of the beauty myth of the main character in the novel and describe the role of beauty myth in destroying the main character's life. There are two functions in arranging this study which are the first is theoretical function which contains three points such as, for the writer, this study is purposed to increase and improve the writer's knowledge, critical thought, and analytical opinion. Especially, it will give a good impact for the writer's understanding about the issue of beauty myths that still occur surrounding us, for the readers, the writer hopes that this study gives more perspectives about beauty myths as a hot issue around the world and for the next literature college student, the writer does not expect too much if this study will become a worthwhile contribution as a reference but it hopefully will help a little. While the second is practical function where the writer hopes that this study is also able to make people/citizens more understand about the practice

of beauty myths happening in the society and deal with this issue more wisely in order to avoid certain people feel aggrieved, especially women.

This research is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction consisting of the background of study, the statements of the problem, the scope and limitation of the study, the objectives of the study, the functions of the study, and the systematical presentation. The issues and the objects of the study are described generally in the background of the study. The statements of the problem state the problems that are going to be analyzed. Framing and bordering the study are designed in the scope and limitation of the study. Lastly, the systematical presentation presents the contents of the study sequentially. The second chapter consists of three sub-chapters named related studies, review of literature, and theoretical framework. This chapter consists of previous studies made by some writers compared to this study, some quotations and opinions supporting the study from some experts, and information about narrative elements in the novel. The third chapter is research methodology dividing into the approach of the study, data source, data collection and method of data analysis which present the object of the study, what kind of method, and how to collect and analyze the data. The fourth chapter is data finding and analysis consisting of the selected data from the novel relating to the issues and the analysis result of them. The last, the fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion expressing what is found in the analysis result and the invitation to the reader to make or give the better one feedback.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are three related studies that the writer took in order to become a comparison to avoid plagiarism. First, Asmarani's (2016) journal article entitled "*The Impacts of the Beauty Myth on the Existential Freedom of Pecola in Toni Morrison's The Blue Eye*" becomes one of the related studies. Her journal showed that the widely spread beauty myth blocks someone's existential freedom on the physical, consciousness, or social life level with the objective of studying the destructive impacts of the

beauty myth on the existential freedom. She used feminist criticism supported by the concept of the beauty myth and beauty as well as Sartrean concept of existentialism. Her journal was published in Language Circle: Journal of Language and Literature, X/2. Another related study is conducted by Harpreet, K. (2019) entitled *Obsessions with the Myth of Beauty in Chick Lit: A Study of Bridget Jones's Diary*. This journal article focused on how beauty myths influence women's minds in Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones's Diary*. The last related study is "*The Myth of Female Beauty: Study of Representation toward Post-New Order Novels Written by Males*" which was conducted by Apristia L. D. (2019) in International Journal of Humanity Studies. The aim of this study was to identify female beauty in the post-New Order era represented by male writers and to identify factors forming the representation.

The similarity between three related studies above and the writer's study is about the concept of beauty myth which is used to analysis the object of the study while the differences are some of them used the others theory book, such as the first related study while the second related study had a difference in the object of the study and the last related study worked on another theory book, she used the theory of representation by Stuart Hall.

Generally, novels have many similarities with others' prose. As stated by Abrams (1990, p. 190), the term "novel" is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. The difference between a novel and others prose is located on the complexity of the novel itself. Discussing the elements of a novel, there are several elements that are in it including plot, characters, point of view and setting. Klarer (2005) says that plot is the logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative. In brief, the plot is sequences of events in the novel which makes a complete storyline. An ideal plot encompasses the following four sequential levels, exposition, complication, climax or turning point and resolution. Flat character renders the character in the text that is dominated by one specific trait while the term of

round character shows a persona with more complex and differentiated features.

Point of view shows the way in which a text presents persons, events and settings. Setting denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of a text develops. A good literary work will have an interaction between all these elements to reach the meaningful story as the readers who have to be able to see these structural elements as a one big connectivity so the full meaning of the story can be revealed.

In this era, there are several studies about feminism, talked about that, argued about that. As the belief of the equality rights between men and women, feminism takes a role in fighting for women's rights toward the dominance of masculine that makes women as an object and just called as the second sex or the other. As stated by Beauvoir (2010, p. 505) that this shows the young girl becoming absolutely passive. These passive roles cover all of the segments in society which make women always becoming the other, the object and the second sex for sure. There are so many feminism movements that have succeeded in reducing the women's oppression such as violence, equal rights in society and so on. However, there is one thing that has to be highlighted in relation to women's oppression that happened unconsciously called beauty myth. This idea attacks all women so gently that sometimes, even the woman herself is not aware of it.

All of the people has to agree with the concept of beauty myth in order to be recognized in society or they will be called as "wrong" creatures when they do not. Wolf (2002, p. 2) states that women who complained about the beauty myth were assumed to have a personal shortcoming themselves: they must be fat, ugly, incapable of satisfying a man, "feminazis," or—horrors—lesbians. That is the reality that happens around the society that makes everyone must accept the concept of beauty. The roles of magazines, beauty industry, fashion, media and the similar causes have made this concept firmly entrenched in the society. Even women, themselves, sometimes don't realize that they have become victims of the beauty myths that are developing in society. There are two sad phenomena that occur to women as victims of

beauty myths. The first is to use the beauty myth as a means to achieve their desires and on the other hand, the beauty myth has succeeded in destroying their lives.

It has been common knowledge that men are more attracted to beautiful women, physically appearance. Wolf (2002, p. 12) states that strong men battle for beautiful women. This idea is a common picture that occurs in society about how a man will only look for beautiful women to fulfill his desires. This idea is also what makes women willing to be trapped in beauty myths to just polish their appearance just to be called beautiful. The simple words to describe this case is that women will do anything to achieve the beauty standard in society in order to make themselves accepted in society, and farther more, to achieve their desires.

The term of beauty that is agreed upon by most of society becomes a currency with which women can use their beauty as an asset to make money. Wolf (2002, p. 20) states that since men have used women's "beauty" as a form of currency in circulation among men, ideas about "beauty" have evolved since the Industrial Revolution side by side with ideas about money, so that the two are virtual parallels in our consumer economy. More than that, women are the currency itself. It indirectly states that a woman looks like a million dollars, she's a first-class beauty, her face is her fortune. In other words, beauty is evaluated as wealth. In the theme of work, beauty standards have had an important role in making money for a woman while also having many possibilities of women's oppression.

Culture stereotypes women to be beautiful. As told by Wolf that most folklore circulating in society is about women who have to be beautiful and interesting stories will happen to her, while there is no choice not to be beautiful because everything will become boring and there are no interesting stories there. With this idea, women, again and again, will do everything to fulfill the beauty standards that society wants in order to get the interesting stories to happen to her.

Many of us are not yet sure that women are interesting without "beauty". Because of that perception, women are going to compete to be beautiful as society wants. When women have tried

to meet the criteria of beauty, another problem arises again. However, it is undeniable that beauty provokes harassment. The idea of this myth encourages men to act arbitrarily to women even to the point of harassing them. It can also provoke women to think that rather than being a victim of abuse by men, it is better to give themselves up to be the object of men's gratification in order to profit from it.

As women focus on fulfilling the beauty standards that society wants them to be, they become blinded, consciously or unconsciously, to self-harm. Wolf (2002, p. 218) states that hunger makes women's bodies hurt them, and makes women hurt their bodies. It is not only about diet, but also about buying something to support beauty and appearance to spend a large amount of money. Women are expected to be perfect as which magazines tell the ideal beauty of the women.

As men, they also become victims of beauty myths. This idea states that it prevents men from actually seeing women. In other words, this idea is not good for men, too. This idea controls how men should see women. The myth succeeds to undermine the sexual attraction. Wolf (2002 : 176) said that attraction is a dialogue or dance or high-wire balancing act that depends on the unique qualities, memories, patterns of desire, of the two people involved; "beauty" is generic. Attraction is about a sexual fit: two people imagining how they will work together.

Pornographic takes the importance place in destroying men's views of women because the link between beauty pornography and sex is unnatural. Wolf (2002 : 152) states that the link between beauty pornography and sex is not natural. Beauty pornography, men need it because they are visually aroused while women aren't, is not biologically inevitable. Those are because they were trained to respond like that. The idea encourages men to feel that they have power to rape women until the assumption that arises in society is the girl is raped and the boy rape. Cultural representation has created a situation among the young in which boys rape and girls get raped as a normal course of events.

As the problem that arises, pornography again has an important role in understanding rape

that occurs to women by showing the image that women are also happy to get it. The idea makes society deal with those incidents. Moreover, Wolf (2002 : 138) also states that what is happening now is that men and women whose private psychosexual history would not lead them to eroticize sexual violence are learning from such scenes to be interested in it. In other words, our culture is depicting sex as rape so that men and women will become interested in it.

This study focuses on the depiction of beauty myths in Coelho's *The Spy Novel*. The theory used to analyze the novel is *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf. The depiction beauty myth in the novel can be seen from several perspectives as been found in the theory book, *The Beauty Myth*, such as in the scope of work, culture, sex, and hunger. Each scope discussed in the theory book has the representative action relating the story line in the novel.

Thus, the writer uses the theory by Naomi Wolf called *The Beauty Myth* by focusing the analysis in the discussion of the role of the beauty myth in influencing every scope of life such as in getting a job, getting someone else's judgments, running the marriage relationship and sex. Moreover, the discussion above gives two contradictory statements about how beauty myth can be used to mean desire while on the other hand it can be the destroyer of life.

METHOD

This study was analyzed using a qualitative approach by interpreting the literary work to find the conclusion of the study as the characteristic of a qualitative approach. "Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data." (Creswell, 2014: 32). The conclusion of that statement is the writer has to make interpretations of the meaning of the data and hook the meaning of the data to the social issue.

The data were taken from several narratives which have relating issues with the theory book, *The Beauty Myth*, in “*The Spy*”, a novel written by Paulo Coelho which was released in 2016. The data collection were through several steps. First, the writer reads the novel carefully line by line, chapter by chapter. The second, the writer notices narrative elements that are connected to the social issue happening around. Next, the writer makes notes of the important details of the narratives. After that, the writer looks for the theory book and reads and understands the theory. In order to increase the data sources, the writer reads such as e-books, journals and websites which have the related points to the object and the issue. Finally, the writer gathered all the data in order to be analyzed. The method of analyzing was conducted through some steps like, reading the novel several times, understanding and interpreting the narrative details, connecting the narrative details with the appropriate theory chosen. The result of the study is written in a descriptive essay consisting of the conclusion of the data which has been analyzed before.

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer presents the analysis of the beauty myth phenomena toward the main character and also the people around her because this phenomena can also occur on both male and female. On one hand, the beauty myth seems to have an advantage of bringing women to achieve what they want, even though the beauty myth has more dangerous roles for the woman who always becomes the victim of all the events that happened. In a novel that tells the journey of a woman's life to meet her death by being executed to death because she is considered a war spy, there is a practice of beauty myths that can be explored. She encountered a series of life events that led to the practice of beauty myths either to fulfill her life goals or an event that harmed her.

The Depiction of Beauty Myth on Main Character

Like a double edged knife, the beauty myth can be the tools for the woman to achieve her

desires besides it may be able to destroy her life. Matahari as the main character of this novel also uses the beauty myth to achieve her desires when she realizes that she is beautiful and unlike the other girls of the same age.

“I cannot blame my parents for anything, except perhaps for having given birth to me in the wrong town. Leeuwarden, a place most of my fellow Dutchmen will have never even heard of, is a town where absolutely nothing happens and every day is the same as the last. Early on, as a teenager, I learned that I was beautiful from the way my friends used to imitate me.”
(Coelho, 2016, p. 17)

The quotation above indicates that the main character does not like the town she lives in and assumes that that town becomes the one of the reasons why she cannot get what she wants through the words *I cannot blame my parents for anything, except perhaps for having given birth to me in the wrong town. Leeuwarden, a place most of my fellow Dutchmen will have never even heard of.* Furthermore, the main character also considers that town as an underdeveloped region through the words *a town where absolutely nothing happens and every day is the same as the last.* The words, *Early on, as a teenager, I learned that I was beautiful from the way my friends used to imitate me,* indicate that the main character assumes that she can be successful in terms of achieving her desires through the aspect of her beauty that she has already known from the way people look at her.

The next quotation is from the main character who uses the beauty myth to attract the officer who places an ad in the newspaper. It can be shown from the quotation below:

“One day, out of boredom, I began reading the classified ads in the newspaper of a neighboring town. And there it

was: Rudolf MacLeod, an officer in the Dutch army of Scottish descent, currently stationed in Indonesia, seeks young bride to get married and live abroad. There was my salvation! Officer. Indonesia. Strange seas and exotic worlds. Enough of conservative, Calvinist Holland, full of prejudice and boredom. I answered the ad, enclosing the best and most sensual picture I had.” (Coelho, 2016, p. 21 -22)

This quotation clearly shows that the main character uses a beauty myth to achieve her desire that can be seen in the words, *I answered the ad, enclosing the best and most sensual picture I had.* Before that, she also mentions the bad things she does not like about the place she lives in at that time through the words *there was my salvation! Officer. Indonesia. Strange seas and exotic worlds. Enough of conservative, Calvinist Holland, full of prejudice and boredom.* In brief, the main character is pretty sure that her appearance could attract the officer to choose her and she will be free from the place she hates so much, moreover she could get the pleasures she was dreaming of.

This quotation proves the beauty myth works on the main character’s target. It can be shown from the quotation below:

“... I noticed Rudolf smelled like alcohol, but did not pay it much mind. He was likely nervous in my presence, me a young woman who, according to all my friends, was the most beautiful in the class.

He asked me to marry him in our third and final meeting. Indonesia. Army captain. Voyages to far away places. What more could a young

woman want from life?” (Coelho, 2016, p. 22 - 23)

This is totally smooth how the beauty myth can work on the main character’s target. The event indicated by the words, *he asked me to marry him in our third and final meeting.* More clearly, the previous paragraph mentions that the main character is the most beautiful girl in her class and could even make the officer nervous through the words, *he was likely nervous in my presence, me a young woman who, according to all my friends, was the most beautiful in the class.* Moreover, this is the aim of using the beauty myth, achieving the main character's desires, even though she says that these are what young women really want, *Indonesia. Army captain. Voyages to far away places. What more could a young woman want from life?.* The narrative in this section summarizes the success of beauty myth in achieving the main character’s desires.

Magazines sometimes could make a common truth in society in order to make people follow their standards, for example in the case of being beautiful.

“I know you must be tired of seeing these vulgar strip-tease dancers on every corner, each saying she’s the successor of the great Mata Hari. But life is like that: No one learns.” (Coelho, 2016, p.93)

This is what happens when women look at the content of magazines which tells them that beauty must be like that. Some of them will do the same thing to get that point, even if they have to do an amoral thing such as becoming vulgar strip-tease dancers. It can be shown in the words above, *I know you must be tired of seeing these vulgar strip-tease dancers on every corner, each saying she’s the successor of the great Mata Hari.* There is said that some of them have the same motivation in imitating a famous dancer at that time, Mata Hari.

Beauty Myth as Destroyer of Life

As stated in the previous sub-chapter, the beauty myth is like a double edged knife and in this subchapter the writer explains the other side of the edge, the destroyer of life. Mata Hari as the main character in this novel is not only always meeting the good situation in her whole life when applying the concept of beauty myth. She even had to swallow bitterness at the end of her life by being executed. The first worst experience she had is being raped in her school.

“All the man I’ve known have given me joy, jewelry, or a place in society, and I’ve never regretted knowing them-all except the first, the school principal, who raped me when I was sixteen.” (Coelho, 2016, p.20)

It is a phenomenon that happens in society when the beauty myth has worked on them. The man only knows that a beautiful girl has some characteristics and they will be happy if they can have one. The school principal uses his power to get what he wants, a beautiful girl. Based on the concept of beauty myth at that time, the main character was predicted to be the prettiest girl in her school. Armed with his power, the principal rapes the main character and makes her hates him very much, *all the man I’ve known have given me joy, jewelry, or a place in society, and I’ve never regretted knowing them-all except the first, the school principal, who raped me when I was sixteen.*

She is not only raped, even the concept of beauty myth has made people lose their conscience. In the case of this character, the people in his village, Leiden, were even jealous instead of cursing out loud and confronting the rapist, the school principal. It can be shown in the quotation below:

“Later, when I became famous in Paris for my dance performance, these girls told others and, before long, all of

Leiden knew what had happened. The principal had already retired, and no one dared confront him. Quite the opposite! Some even envied him for having been the beau of the great diva of the time.” (Coelho, 2016, p.21)

This is what the concept beauty myth brings to the society, destroying a woman’s life by making people feel normal that rape happens to women who are considered “beautiful”, even if they could, they would want to do that, too. It can be seen in the words, *the principal had already retired, and no one dared confront him. Quite the opposite! Some even envied him for having been the beau of the great diva of the time.* In many cases, women will always be victims of sexual violence on the pretext of their beauty to make people do it. It can be seen in the experience of the main character who has already been known as the victim of rape but no one dares to speak up for her. Instead, some people want to have a chance to do that to her.

The concept of beauty myth, although it gives the main character an advantage, it also forces the main character to do things she doesn't like in exchange for the benefits she gets. This part can be shown in quotation below:

“I will always be grateful to Monsieur Guimet. He gave me my first chance to perform, at his private museum, and in very expensive clothes he had imported from Asia for his personal collection, although it did cost me half an hour of sex and very little pleasure.” (Coelho, 2016, p.57-58)

The words *he gave me my first chance to perform, at his private museum, and in very expensive clothes he had imported from Asia for his personal collection,* are Monsieur Guimet’s favors that were given to Mata Hari. There are the advantages that are gotten by her even though she has to exchange for them with doing sex with

Monsieur Guimet. Through the words, *and very little pleasure*, it can be concluded that Mata Hari feels unhappy with that. Mata Hari is trapped in the concept of beauty myth she has done with by being forced to do things she does not like.

“He laughed at his own joke. I also laughed to please him, and then began to get dressed. I had long since lost any illusion of being loved for who I was and now accepted, with a clean conscience, flowers, flattery, and money that fed my ego and my false identity. For certain, I’d go to my grave one day without ever knowing love, but what difference did it make? For me, love and power were the same thing.

...

He put a fat envelope with a thousand francs on the table.”
(Coelho, 2016, p.87)

The quotation above continues the previous analysis that shows the feelings of sadness, emptiness and loneliness experienced by the main character. Even though she has money and all of the joy, she admits that she never feels loved by others. It can be shown by the words, *I had long since lost any illusion of being loved for who I was and now accepted, with a clean conscience, flowers, flattery, and money that fed my ego and my false identity*. She has to willing to change money and all the valuables stuff with sex. It can be seen in the words, *he put a fat envelope with a thousand francs on the table* and *I also laughed to please him, and then began to get dressed*. It indicates that she has made sex with that man, Adolphe Messimy, a deputy in the National Assembly.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter consists of two sub-chapter, conclusion and suggestion. Briefly, this chapter contains a brief description of the conclusions from the results of the analysis in the previous chapter and also suggestions for further research that is still related to this research. As stated by the previous chapter in data findings and analysis, the depiction of the beauty myth of the main character really happened in certain ways. As personal, beauty myths can be found from the way the main character sees herself who feels more beautiful than other girls her age. It's also supported by how other people have said the same way about that. From a social point of view, the main character easily gets what she wants by relying on her beauty and body. There are some examples of those such as: she is getting married easily to an army officer, she is becoming a famous dancer by seducing powerful men around her, she is having a lot of jewelry, gowns, and other valuable stuff. Tragically, the beauty myth also totally destroys her life. By seeing as the beautiful one in her era, she has to swallow deep disappointment by being raped by her school principal when she was very young. Later on, she has to accept the distant husband who always gave her nightmares because of knowing she was not virgin anymore when married him. Moreover, she has to be willing to trade all kinds of pleasures such as jewelries, beautiful dresses, and other valuables for sex which she cannot enjoy it. Then, the most terrible thing is when she must be executed without concrete evidence against her, just because she wants to be an emancipated and independent woman in a world ruled by men.

The writer truly realizes that this study still has many imperfections. In this study, the writer only focuses on how beauty myth is depicted on the main character and how beauty myth destroys the main character’s life. In advance, the writer hopes that the next study can explore deeper detail of how beauty myths could grow on people’s mind and what has to do to control that in order to make it less destructive.

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