



THE BEAUTY MYTH IN TONY MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

THESIS

Written by:

Risqiyatur Rahmah

Nim. 070110191043

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2012



THE BEAUTY MYTH IN TONY MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

THESIS

**A Thesis Presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University
as One of the Requirements to Get
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Studies**

Written by:

Risqiyatur Rahmah

Nim. 070110191043

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

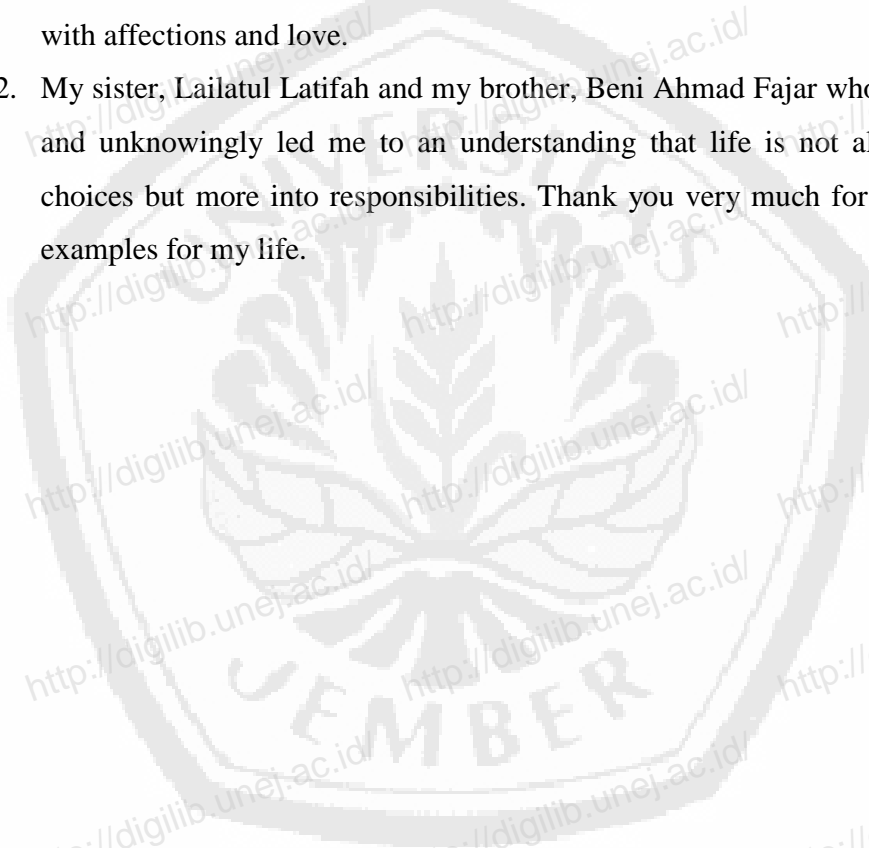
JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2012

DEDICATION PAGE

I would like to dedicate this thesis to:

1. My father, Soetjipto for making me who I am and my mother, Sihatini Pujiwati for supporting me all the way. Thank you so much for nursing me with affections and love.
2. My sister, Lailatul Latifah and my brother, Beni Ahmad Fajar who knowingly and unknowingly led me to an understanding that life is not always about choices but more into responsibilities. Thank you very much for being good examples for my life.



MOTTO

“Pretty is something you born with.

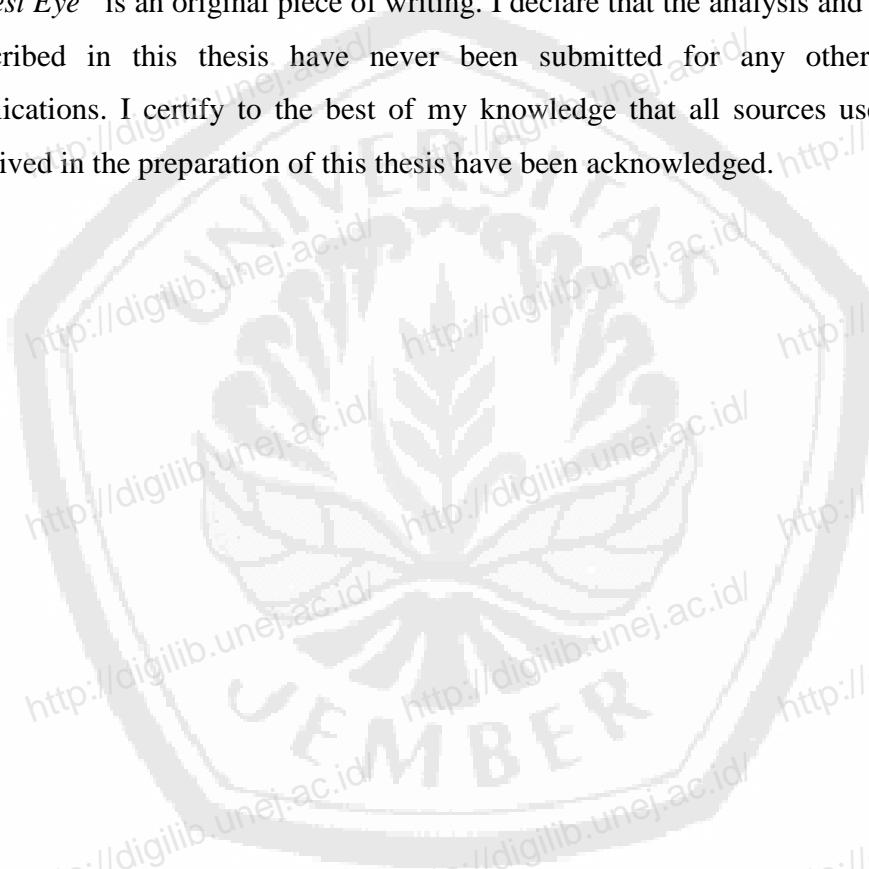
But beautiful, that’s an equal opportunity objective.”

(Anonym)



DECLARATION PAGE

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “*The Beauty Myth in Tony Morrison’s The Bluest Eye*” is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.



Jember, June 22 2012

The Writer,

Risqiyatur Rahmah

070110191043

APPROVAL SHEET

Approved and accepted by the examination committee of English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Jember, June 22 2012

The Examination Committee,

Secretary

Chairman

Agung Tri Wahyuningsih, S.S, M. Pd

NIP. 197807232003122001

Drs. Hadiri, M. A

NIP. 194807171976031003

The Members

1. Dra. Supiastutik, M.Pd (.....)
NIP. 196605141998032001
2. Hat Pujiati S.S, M.A. (.....)
NIP. 198009082005012001
3. Erna Cahyawati, S. S., M. Hum (.....)
NIP. 197308271999032004

Approved by,

Dean of Faculty of Letters

Jember University

(Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A.)

NIP. 195909181988021001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My best praise is due to Allah SWT, the Almighty God who has given the support and intellectual contribution in writing this thesis. The achievement of this thesis also cannot be separated from the valuable help from many people. Therefore, I would like to give appreciation to the following people who have supported me so that I also express my sincere thanks to:

1. Drs. Syamsul Anam M.A, as the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Drs. Albert Tallapessy, M.A., Ph.D. the Head of English Department who have given me chance and permission to write this thesis.
2. Dra. Supiastutik M.Pd as my first advisors and Hat Pujiati S.S, M.A as my second advisor, who have provided their precious time in guiding me finishing this thesis.
3. All the lecturers of Faculty of Letters due to the knowledge they conveyed during my study in this faculty and also the Staffs of English Department who have helped me to complete the administration for the thesis examination.
4. My bestfriend, Ayu Novianti who helped me all the time, Dipta Renanda who supported me each step of the way and Akhmad Yani Yanuar who taught me to get up after a fall and start again. Thank you so much.

I am sure that my thesis will not complete without all of their helps and prayers. May Allah will always give mercy to all of those people.

Jember, June 22 2012

Risqiyatur Rahmah

SUMMARY

The Beauty Myth in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*; Risqiyatur Rahmah, 070110191043; 2012; 43 pages; English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University.

The Bluest Eye is the first book of Morrison, a novel of initiation concerning a victimized adolescent Black girl who is obsessed by the White standards of beauty and longs to have blue eyes. The novel describes about Pecola, the main character in the novel and a symbol of the black community's self-hatred and belief in her own ugliness. Others in the community, including her mother, father, and her neighbour named Geraldine, a middle-class black woman who cares for physical appearance; act out their own self-hatred by expressing hatred toward her. Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* lends itself to rich conversations about race, class, gender, and sexuality. It further illustrates discrimination, exclusion and symbolic violence against Pecola because of her physical appearance which is incompatible with the concept of beauty.

This study aims at investigating how beauty discourse in the novel encourages me to find out the construction of the discourse represented and examining the beauty myth that shackles the female character's mind. The writer applies two appropriate approaches to give clear description and further explanation in accordance with problems: Feminist and Marxist approaches. Feminist approach is taken into account because the black women's characters in the novel suffer through the construction of femininity in a racialized society; it constructs femininity in a racialized society. Marxist approach that is applied in this thesis also deals with class of society.

The data of this study is qualitative. The writer collects data from the statements and narration in the novel focusing on the obsessions, efforts, and discourse of beauty particularly spotted to the main character. Those data are then

analyzed using inductive method. This study finally reveals that the construction of Caucasian beauty is counterfeit because human race cannot be singularized.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FRONTSPIECE	ii
DEDICATION PAGE	iii
MOTTO	iv
DECLARATION PAGE	v
APPROVAL SHEET	vi
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vii
SUMMARY	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Rationale	1
1.2 The Problems to Discuss	3
1.3 The Scope of the Study	3
1.4 The Significance of the Study	3
1.5 The Goals of the Study	3

1.6	The Approaches to Use	4
1.7	The Research Method	5
1.8	The Organization of the Study	7
CHAPTER 2.	THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	8
2.1	Previous Research	8
2.2	Feminist Theory	9
2.2.1	Feminist Movements	9
2.2.2	Feminist in Literature	11
2.2.3	Structure of Society and Marxist Theory	12
2.2.4	Standards and Beauty Myth	15
CHAPTER 3.	THE COUNTER ON WHITE'S BEAUTY MYTH IN TONY MORRISON'S <i>THE BLUEST EYE</i>	21
3.1	Pecola's Struggle against Beauty Myth.....	21
3.1.1	In Fighting against Sexual Abuse Done by her Father	22
3.1.2	In Dealing with Discrimination and Alienation	26

3.2 Construction of Beauty Discourse and its Function	
in <i>The Bluest Eye</i>	32
CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION.....	41
BIBLIOGRAPHY	44
APPENDIX	47

