



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

THESIS

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

JEMBER UNIVERSITY

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**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**

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DEDICATION PAGE

I would like to dedicate this thesis to:

1. My father, Soetjipto for making me who I am and my mother, Sihatin 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,

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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.

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