

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter presents the background of the study, the reason for choosing the topic analyzed in the study, the scope of the study, the question raised in the study, the aim of the study, methodology, and finally the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Operation or aesthetic surgery according to Sander L. Gilman (2000) is common in certain countries. In South Korea operation has long been widespread, Choe Sang-Hun (2011) mentions that until recently operation in Korea was something to keep quiet about but nowadays people go public often talking proudly about it on TV.

According to Sang-Hun (2011), in doing the operation people must endure pain to be beautiful. In addition, he also mentions that in Korea an eye job is so common these days that it is not even considered operation. As society has become more open about the practice, operations have become increasingly extreme. Double-jaw surgery which was originally developed to repair facial deformities, and involves cutting and rearranging the upper and lower jaws has become a favorite procedure for South Korean women who are no longer satisfied with mere nose jobs or with paring down cheekbones to achieve a smoother facial line.

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu

The idea of having an operation to become pretty can also be seen in one of young adult fiction which is *Uglies*. In the novel, operation can be seen as an ideology that is spread in society. Concern with the fact that the novel is written for young adult, the writer believes that it is important to read the ideology of the novel to give readers information about what will they read concerning the issue of ideology.

Ideology is understood as a kind of cultural common sense that does not need to be articulated, discussed, or justified. Anything that is ideological is believed subconsciously without being asked why (Althusser, 1971). In other words, in terms of ideology, people are persuaded to do things subconsciously.

Karl Marx (1845) in *The German Ideology* mentions that hitherto men have constantly made up for themselves false conceptions about themselves, about what they are and what they ought to be. The phantoms of their brains have got out of their hands. They, the creators, have bowed down before their creations.

The German Ideology can be considered as the fundamental thinking of ideology in the modern era. Many experts on ideology, such as Althusser (1971), John Lyle (1997), and Ian Mason (1995) develop their concepts of ideology which were based on Marx analysis.

John Stephen (1992), one of the ideologists, examines ideology as a discourse of narrative fiction produced for children aged between infancy and early adolescence. In his book, he mentions that often, such writers are concurring or responding to attempts to change social practices and assumption as expressed by significant groups within society.

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Stephens (1992) argues that, writing for children is usually purposeful, intended to foster a positive apperception of some socio-cultural values, which are shared between author and audience. There are less obvious social and ethical ideologies pervading in children's fiction in the representation between the individual and society.

Based on Stephens' (1992) explanation, the research emphasizes on reading the ideology on a novel of *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld. *Uglies* as a young adult literature tells about life of Tally Youngblood, a 15 years old girl who is dreaming of becoming pretty, like all of her friends in their upcoming 16th birthday. Tally always believes that the only way to become pretty is through operation, until she meets Shay. Shay persuades Tally to abandon the operation and follow her to runaway to the *Smoke* (a place where people refuse to take an operation). Shay's runaway causes Tally into trouble. Tally has to face *the special circumstances* which force her to find Shay, unless she decides not to have the operation. The journey in finding the *Smoke* and Shay changes Tally's life. Tally is no longer a town girl who only dreams of operation and becoming pretty, she finds out that there is something wrong with the operation, something that makes people blind to see reality.

In terms of ideology, which Marx (1845) mentions a false consciousness, this research paper analyzed *Uglies* by employing Marx's Ideology theory. The theory is used as a tool to critically read the novel and analyze the construction made by Westerfeld.

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic

This study was conducted by the writer for some reasons. Firstly, the issue is current where many teenagers are really concerned about their physical appearances and styles. It can be seen from the phenomenon in advertisements, magazines, movies, and their style, where the audiences are subconsciously forced to become beautiful in terms of physical appearance, without realizing that physical appearance is not the only factor that can make them beautiful.

Secondly, the portrayal of ugliness is related to the concept of beauty which is one of the subject matters that is often portrayed in this novel. Therefore, it is interesting to study *Uglies* as one of adolescent novels with issues about ideas production to become pretty through operation, and how people are subconsciously led to believe to have a certain kind of physical appearance to be called as pretty. Along with this idea, the writer is interested to conduct a study on ideology and the way it operates on people in the novel.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

The research provides an analysis on the ideology of ideological state apparatus that is being constructed in *Uglies* with the view of Marxism. Due to the broad issues of Marxism, the study is limited to find out the ideology and the way it operate in *Uglies*.

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu

1.4 Research Questions

In finding answers for this research the writer asked:

1. What is the concept of “state apparatus” in relation to prettiness?
2. In what ways does “the state apparatus” ideology operate in *Uglies*?

1.5 The Aim of the Research

The research investigates the ideology of the “state apparatus” in *Uglies*. It aims to figure out the construction of prettiness that is being constructed by the “state apparatus”. In addition, this research reveals Marxist’s critique on the portrayal of the pretty and ugly as the ideology of “state apparatus” in the novel. In order to analyze the data, the writer uses ideology perspective as proposed by Karl Marx (1845) in order to read the ideology of the text.

1.6 The Significance of the Research

As previously stated, through this research, the writer reveals the Ideology structured by the “state apparatus” and how it affects social thought in the society. Basically, this research aims to enrich information on social construction which is performed by the state apparatus in a group of people (the *uglies*) with an analysis from ideology perspective. For practical usage, this research is expected to be a reference for those who are interested in researching various literary topics with the perspective of Marx’s ideology.

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu

1.7 Research Methodology

The study employed a qualitative approach and textual analysis method using ideology perspective proposed by Karl Marx (1845). Qualitative approach is considered suitable as it is aimed at understanding the social world from the viewpoint of respondents through detailed descriptions of their cognitive and symbolic actions, and the richness of meaning associated with observable behavior (Wildemuth, 1993).

In addition, Alwasilah (2002) mentions that “Qualitative research principle emphasizes that every (temporary) finding is based on data, therefore findings are becoming more valid before being stated as a theory”. From the explanation above, this qualitative data is able to describe the data about portrayal of beauty and ugliness in terms of ideological perspective in the novel in more detail because of its capability in obtaining rich explanations.

1.8 Clarification Terms

1.8.1 Ideology

Ideology is defined as “false consciousness” (an inability to see real conditions because they are masked by false ideas), this is taken up in Marxist discourse of the 19th century. This constitutes the first definition of ideology: something that is false or misleading because of it is mystifying. Ideology in this sense is a discourse that always misrepresents concrete realities for murky, vague, metaphysical explanation (Nealon, 2003).

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

I.8.2 State Apparatus

State apparatus in this term means not only the specialized apparatus (in the narrow sense) whose existence and necessity has been recognized in relation to the requirements of legal practice, i.e. the police, the courts, the prisons also the army, which intervenes directly as a supplementary repressive force in the last instance, when the police and its specialized auxiliary corps are 'outrun by events' and above this ensemble, the head of State, the government and the administration (Althusser 2002).

1.8.3 Power: power is the primary value in the political world, yet many would deny that it is the primary value in their personal world. (French, 1985)

1.8.4 Adolescent (Young Adult) Literature: Young adult literature will be define as literature in prose or verse that has excellence of form or expression in its genre (*Merriam- webster's encyclopedia of literature*, 1995, cited butcher& Hinton, 2010)

1.9 Paper Organization

The paper of the research is presented into four chapters. Each chapter is organized as follow:

CHAPTER I

Introduction

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

This chapter presents this introduction, which discusses background, theoretical framework, research questions, reasons for choosing the topic, aim of the research, significance of the research, scope of the research, research methodology, clarification terms, and paper organization.

CHAPTER II

Theoretical Foundation

This chapter discusses the subject of the research, data collection, and the analysis of the collected data.

CHAPTER III

Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the way the study is conducted. It also deals with the research method, research procedure, research subject, and the techniques of data collection and data analysis.

CHAPTER IV

Findings and Discussion

This chapter consists of research findings and the discussion of the data obtains from the novel by Scott Westerfeld.

CHAPTER V

Conclusion

Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu

This chapter consists of conclusion, as the interpretation toward the result of the research and provides suggestions for readers and others researchers who might have an interest in doing the research which is comparable to the field in this present research.



Asep Saepudin, 2012

Questioning Prettiness: *Self-Agency in Scott Westerfeld's Uglies*

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia | repository.upi.edu