

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In *Beautiful Stranger*, the novel talks about beauty as a characteristic of a person who should have slim body, perfect face with full make up, and big breast. In her novel, Hope writes, "What if I had a bigger lips and smaller nose?"<sup>1</sup> "Mirror mirror, on the wall, I just need larger breasts, that's all!"<sup>2</sup>

This novel shows the obsession of Hope to be beautiful. However, her obsession becomes a mental disease because of her over obsession. She is never satisfied with the part of her body even though she has done many plastic surgeries. She has experienced some failed plastic surgery, which makes her body or face become unfit. She also meets some doctors who she thinks, are not qualified enough. However, those experiences do not frighten her to do other plastic surgeries.

Hope is conscious with all the surgery she does. She really thinks that it is only with surgery that can make her happy. In her novel, Hope writes,

Anything I want? I want to be happy, or at least free of constant aching and despair. I want to not have crippling anxiety. I want to be able to look in the mirror and not see only what I think is wrong and unattractive. I want to be loved. Can you do all that, doctor?<sup>3</sup>

Hope becomes a person like this because of her mother. Her mother, is over confident, and always does everything she wants. She always tells Hope to be a beautiful girl because she wants to show to her parent-in-law that she has a good child. She wants to show that she has educated her daughter to be a high-class person just like her parent-in-law. This is the root of Hope's over obsession.

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1. Hope, *Beautiful Stranger, A Memoir of an Obsession with Perfection*. Gotham Books, 2004.: 145

2. Hope, *Beautiful Stranger, A Memoir of an Obsession with Perfection*. Gotham Books, 2004: 156

Hope experiences agoraphobia when she was a teenager. She prefers hiding in a small car to showing herself in a public place. She always chooses a parking lot as close as possible to the building she wants to come. Behind her agoraphobia, Hope also experiences OCD – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. OCD is a type of anxiety disorder. She has an obsession to be pretty and does a lot of surgery but none of the surgery makes her happy. She always feels ugly.

This novel shows the fact that every human has a basic desire, – always feels a lacking of everything –. The writer is interested in this novel because this novel shows the reflection of being beautiful in a woman's life. This novel shows how a woman worries her physical appearance too excessively. Beauty itself has a relative meaning. To search the meaning of beauty, a woman tries to find it from society. However, beauty's meaning in society's eyes is dependant upon to society's trend:

In the pursuit of beauty, there is pain. The Chinese cut, bound and crippled their baby girls to achieve a lumpy, painful, smelly hoof they prized as a "lotus" foot. Maori beauty required scarring and tattooing faces whilst Pacific Islanders stretched holes in their ears down to their shoulders, Amazon men and women stretched their bottom lips with wooden discs and African women dislocated their cervical vertebrae by stretching them with columns of iron rings to achieve the prized "giraffe" neck. This seems to equate to the current western penchant for rings, piercings and tattoos and for plastic surgery to mould faces and bodies to required shapes, rebuilding noses and jaw lines, peeling skin, sucking out fat and augmenting breasts with silicone implants.<sup>4</sup>

Today a beautiful woman is defined as the one who has high slim body, and big breasts. That is why for some woman, beauty can be a gift and at the same time, a curse. Beauty is a gift because beauty is something that a woman is proud of and in the other hands a curse because to be a beautiful woman in society's eyes is not easy. Yet, a woman should choose her own beauty concept and pursue the society's beauty concept; even she should be a

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lev. Sylvia. "One Must Suffer to be Beautiful" retrieved from [http://beauty-treatments.suite101.com/article.cfm/one\\_must\\_suffer\\_to\\_be\\_beautiful](http://beauty-treatments.suite101.com/article.cfm/one_must_suffer_to_be_beautiful) downloaded on 07/05/10

different person instead of herself. The writer is interesting to analyze this novel because this novel shows about woman's reflection about beauty.

## **2. FIELD OF THE STUDY**

The field of the study is literature, especially novel.

## **3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The writer limits the scope in how Hope lives her life; how she gets Agoraphobia; and how she gets obsessive-compulsive disorder. In this case, the writer uses social psychoanalytic to analyze this novel, because this theory can support the writer's opinion.

## **4. PROBLEM FORMULATION**

1. Why does Hope expect to have beauty?
2. How is the influence of childhood experiences and impact of culture in Hope's life?

## **5. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

1. To know the expectation of Hope to have beauty.
2. To find out the influence of childhood experience and impact of culture in Hope's life.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The writer hopes that this study will be useful and will give enough information to the development of literature, especially in analyzing this novel. As a material, which the reader

n analyze in many ways, this study can be used to understand the character in the novel. By reading this thesis, students of literature can have new perspectives to understand any kind of novel analyzed using the psychoanalytic social theory of Karen Horney, especially the impact of culture and childhood experienced.

## **7. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **7.1 Psychoanalytic Social Theory**

The psychoanalytic social theory of Karen Horney was built on the assumption that social and cultural conditions, especially childhood experiences, are largely responsible for shaping personality. People who do not have their needs for love and affection satisfied during their childhood develop basic hostility toward their parents and, consequently, suffer from basic anxiety.<sup>5</sup>

### **7.2 Agoraphobia**

Agoraphobia is known as the fear of open spaces or fear of the 'market place'. As added Encyclopedia of Mental Disorders' website, "Agoraphobia is an anxiety disorder characterized by intense fear related to being in situations from which escape might be difficult or embarrassing or in which help might not be available in the event of a panic attack or panic symptoms".<sup>6</sup>

### **7.3 Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)**

OCD is a type of anxiety disorder. This is a disorder in which an obsession being compulsion. The symptoms of OCD consist of obsession, the constant idea that something is going to happen, and compulsion, the constant action to try to prevent the bad things.<sup>7</sup>

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ist, Jess & Feist, Gregory J. *Theories of Personality* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). McGraw-Hill, Inc, 1221. 2002: 155

ey, Rebecca J., "Agoraphobia" retrieved from <http://www.minddisorders.com/A-Br/Agoraphobia.html> on 06/06/2009

on (anonymous), "OCD-Obsesasive-Compulsive Disorder" retrieved from <http://www.mahalo.com/ocd-obsessive-compulsive-disorder> on 03/06/2009

#### 7.4. Obsession

An obsession is an unwelcome, uncontrollable, and persistent idea, thought, image, or notion that a person cannot help thinking even though it creates significant distress or anxiety.<sup>8</sup>



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Sean A. Haycock, Ph.D., "Obsession" retrieved from <http://www.minddisorders.com/Ob-Ps/Obsession.html>  
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