

**THE IMPACT OF AMERICAN STANDARD OF BEAUTY IN
LOUISE'S LIFE IN *THE FAT GIRL* SHORT STORY
BY ANDRE DUBUS**

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Rifki, Minggu Yuliana Ennur. 2014, **The Impact of American Standard of Beauty in Louise's Life in *The Fat Girl* Short Story by Andre Dubus**. Study program of English, Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Juliati. ; Co-supervisor: Fariska Pujiyanti.

Key word: Feminism, Standard of Beauty, Struggle

Standard of beauty traps women to follow society ideals. The standard of beauty in America and most western societies has been an overall slim with light eyes and long straight hair. So they should fulfill what the standard beauty wants. Though obviously damaging, it is socially, even morally, acceptable to support our life standards of beauty. Women live in stressful times to show how their bodies look. Driven by guilt and shame, many women castigate themselves by doing strict diet and even doing a plastic surgery to achieve the standard of beauty without thinking about the dangers that will happen to their body. The standard of beauty impacts on Louise's life within a short story titled *The Fat Girl* by Andre Dubus. Therefore, the writer conducted this study to reveal the standard of beauty pressures and impacts experienced by the main woman character in the short story and also how the main character struggles to fight the standards of beauty in her environment.

The writer looked at the impact of the standards of beauty and the efforts to struggle against standard of beauty by the main character through a feminist point of view. The result of this study reveals that there are some factors that influence Louise as the main character, such as her family, her friends and her husband who oppress her to fulfill the standard of beauty which exists in her environment. While the main character "Louise" in the story feels uncomfortable and feels pressured because she is a fat woman with eating habits. As the result, she can finally struggle herself against the American standard of beauty by keep eating and does not think about the standard of beauty.

The writer suggests to the student of English Study Program, Languages and Literature Department of University of Brawijaya who intend to conduct a research on the same short story to use different perspectives such as psychological approach.

ABSTRAK

Rifki, Mingga Yuliana Ennur. 2014, **Dampak Standar Kecantikan Amerika dalam Kehidupan Louise di Cerita Pendek *The Fat Girl* oleh Andre Dubus.** Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing 1: Juliati. Pembimbing 2: FariskaPujiyanti.

Kata Kunci: Feminis, Standar Kecantikan

Standar kecantikan memaksa kaum perempuan untuk mengikuti keinginan masyarakat. Standar kecantikan di Amerika dan sebagian besar masyarakat barat yaitu perempuan bertubuh langsing dengan mata yang cerah dan rambut lurus panjang. Jadi mereka harus memenuhi apa yang diinginkan oleh standar kecantikan. Meskipun dapat merusak, tetapi secara sosial, bahkan moral, diterima untuk mendukung standar kecantikan. Perempuan merasa stress untuk memenuhi standar kecantikan dan bagaimana tubuh mereka terlihat. Didorong oleh rasa bersalah dan rasa malu, banyak perempuan menghukum diri dengan melakukan diet ketat dan bahkan melakukan operasi plastik untuk mencapai standar kecantikan tanpa memikirkan bahaya yang akan terjadi pada tubuh mereka. Dampak dari standar kecantikan terjadi di kehidupan Louise dalam cerita pendek *The Fat Girl* oleh Andre Dubus. Oleh karena itu, penulis melakukan penelitian ini untuk mengungkapkan standar kecantikan dan dampak yang dialami oleh karakter utama perempuan dalam cerita pendek dan juga bagaimana perjuangan karakter utama untuk melawan standar kecantikan dalam hidupnya.

Penulis melihat dampak dari standar kecantikan dan upaya untuk berjuang melawan standar kecantikan oleh karakter utama melalui titik pandang feminis. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada beberapa faktor yang mempengaruhi Louise sebagai karakter utama, seperti keluarga, teman dan suaminya yang memaksa dia untuk memenuhi standar kecantikan yang ada di lingkungannya. Sementara tokoh utama dalam cerita merasa tidak nyaman dan merasa tertekan karena dia adalah seorang wanita gemuk yang memiliki kebiasaan makan. Hasilnya, dia akhirnya dapat berjuang sendiri melawan standar kecantikan Amerika dengan terus makan dan tidak memikirkan tentang standar kecantikan.

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