THE IMPORTANCE OF INNER BEAUTY IN EDITH WHARTON'S *THE AGE OF INNOCENCE* (1920): A CULTURAL APPROACH
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Abstrak
Karya tulis ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis nilai kecantikan dari dalam diri wanita atau inner beauty berdasarkan novel Edith Wharton yang berjudul The Age of Innocence, untuk mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe kecantikan dalam diri wanita, untuk menganalisis karakteristik dari kecantikan luar dan dalam dari sisi May dan Ellen, dan untuk mengungkapkan cerita dalam novelnya tentang inner beauty dengan menggunakan teori Cultural Approach. Karya tulis ini menggunakan deskriptif kualitatif. Peneliti mendapatkan data dari novel meliputi narasi, monolog, dan dialog antar tokoh. Teknik pengumpulan data dengan cara membaca berulang-ulang, membuat catatan kecil, memahami kata-kata penting, menyusun data, menyeleksi data, dan membuat kesimpulan. Teknik data analisis adalah deskriptif interaktif yang terdiri dari tiga prosedur, yaitu: data reduction, data display, and conclusion. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan: 1) tipe kecantikan dari diri seorang wanita yang terdapat dalam novel The Age of Innocence. 2) karakteristik dari kecantikan luar dan dalam. 3) pentingnya inner beauty dalam diri wanita yang direfleksikan oleh Edith Wharton melalui novelnya.

Kata kunci: beauty, characteristic, Cultural approach, Edith Wharton, The age of innocence.

Abstracts
This research aims to analyze the value of beauty inside the women called inner beauty based on Edith Wharton’s The Age of Innocence, to identify the types of beauty in a woman, to analyze the characteristics of outer and inner beauty of May and Ellen, and to reveal the reason Edith Wharton emphasizes the story on her novel about the inner beauty by means of Cultural approach. The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. The researcher gets the data from the novel includes the narration, monologue, and dialogue between each characters. The techniques of collecting the data are reading the data repeatedly, taking notes, underlying the important words, arranging the data, selecting the data, and drawing conclusion. The technique of data analysis is descriptive interactive which comprises three procedures, namely: data reduction, data display, and conclusion. The results of this research show: 1) the type of beauty in women reflected in The Age of Innocence novel. 2) the characteristics of the inner and outer beauty. 3) the importance of inner beauty in women which is illustrated by Edith Wharton through her novel.

Keywords: beauty, characteristic, Cultural approach, Edith Wharton, The age of innocence.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Age of Innocence is a novel about New York in the 1870s that earned the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1921. It was the first time the award had been given on a woman. By the time Wharton wrote The Age of Innocence, she had seen World War I destroy much of the world. Edith Wharton’s novel examine conflicts about triangle love, separated women, social norms, upper class, married people, New York, domestic, and about the title itself, all of them were facing down by Newland Archer as the main character. The writer tends not to do research about the main character, but in The Age of Innocence has three central characters: Archer, May, and Ellen. Hence the writer do research about the two central women characters, May and Ellen.

In The Age of Innocence, as the researcher for one, several appeals appear in this novel. Beauty of women and their culture is the object which never enough to be talked. These phenomena are often used by authors of literary work to develop their perspective about the story that they made. Edith Wharton’s
"The Age of Innocence" (1920) is one of the literary works that reveal the relation between cultural approach and beauty of women. In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study of cultural beauty aspect of both women characters, May and Ellen in Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence" (1920).

"The Age of Innocence" is an interesting novel to be read. As far as the writer concerns, the research and journals of "The Age of Innocence" has been conducted by some students. Those several research and journals are: Sarah Kozloff's "Complicity in The Age of Innocence" (2001), Jean Witherow's "A dialectic of deception: Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence" (2003), Carmen Trammell Skaggs's "Looking through the Opera Glasses: Performance and Artifice in The Age of Innocence" (2004), Hossein Pirnajjmudin and Fatemeh Shahpoori Arani's "Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence: A Cultural Studies Reading" (2011), and Nir Nevron's "Realism, Irony, and Morality in Edith Wharton's The Age of Innocence" (2012).

In this research paper, I explain this novel by using Cultural approach. According to Cultural Studies by Chris Barker (2008), concepts of beauty, form and quality are culturally relative. I do choose this theory among others about beauty because this is the most appropriate one to analyze "The Age of Innocence." A cultural rule has no universal taste but relative criteria and a beautiful woman is in that relative criteria.

1.1 Object of the Study

The object of this study is divided into two, formal object and material object. The formal object is the importance of inner beauty in a woman. The material object is a novel written by Edith Wharton's "The Age of Innocence". This novel has 274 pages that are divided into book I and book II. It was originally published in 1920 by the end of World War I then it had been adapted into a film in 1993 which is directed by Scorsese. It reflects the women in upper class city of New York in the 1870s. Yet, in this paper will focuses on the novel written by Edith Wharton.

1.2 The Notion of Beauty

Beauty is a function of a culture. It has a most elusive commodity. Ideas of what is beautiful vary across cultures and change over time (Fallon, 1990). According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2016), beauty is the quality of being physically attractive; the qualities in a person that give pleasure to the sense or the mind; and a beautiful woman. As beauty was born from its culture, therefore it causes too many perceptions about characteristics of beauty. People tend to conform to what the social norms view as ideal. Standardization of beauty changes dramatically from decade by decade. What is admired in one era seems hideous in another. It is hard to account for the fact that if the photographs of the 19th century are to be believed, most of our female ancestors were complete frights.

The rise to the throne of Queen Victoria in 1837 marked the decline of the use of cosmetics. The Victorian Era was a time dominated by a strict moral code, religious values, modesty and sexual restraint. Therefore, during this period cosmetics were considered to be immoral, their use frowned upon and thought to be something that only women of dubious morals would wear. But that does not mean that ladies stopped using them altogether. Women can use make up from natural ingredients to transform women's face to be beautiful, but it is usually make painful effect. It can enhance one's natural beauty, but women are already beautiful even without.

2. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

2.1 Beauty

Beauty means different in this world, so many types of beauty in a woman. There is an implicit definition about beauty in "The Age of Innocence"'s novel. The characteristics about beauty can be seen on physical and personality from May and Ellen characters. The beauty appearance of both May and Ellen is a construction from each culture they lived in. Those types are:

2.1.1 American Beauty

Archer saw that beauty of May is only a product of New York society.
"As he dropped into his armchair near the fire his eyes rested on a large photograph of May Welland, which the young girl had given him in the first day of their romance, and which had now displaced all the other portraits on the table. With a new sense of awe he looked at the frank forehead, serious eyes and gay innocent mouth of the young creature whose soul's custodian he was to be. That terrifying product of the social system he belonged to and believed in, the young girl who knew nothing and expected everything, looked back at him like a stranger through May Welland's familiar features; " (pg. 33)

A great woman ever in New York was belonging to the beautiful May Welland looked from her beauty inside and outside.

"As he went out into the wintry night, New York again became vast and imminent, and May Welland the lovelies woman in it." (pg. 60)

This product did not offhand come but it is created by some and developed for a purpose. Like a culture with its manner which is handed down to generations.

"Untrained human nature was not frank and innocent; it was full of the twists and defenses of an instinctive guile. And he felt himself oppressed by this creation of factitious purity, so cunningly manufactured by a conspiracy of mothers and aunts and grandmothers and long-dead ancestress, because it was suppose to be what he wanted, what he had a right to, in order that he might exercise his lordly pleasure in smashing it like an image made of snow" (pg. 35)

2.1.2 European Beauty

In addition to May's beauty, Ellen first appeared in New York as a very beautiful girl about nine years old. Moreover, people concluded that her beauty better to be painted.

"She had appeared there first, in Newland Archer's boyhood, as a brilliantly pretty little girl of nine or ten, of whom people said that she "ought to be painted." " (pg. 46)

Indeed the taste of beauty is different in each culture. Ellen is a woman who has been influenced by European style of beauty. The New Yorker considered that how Ellen dressed up was so weird and odd. Janey as a New Yorker was so underestimated with Ellen's taste.

"I wonder if she wears a round hat or a bonnet in the afternoon," Janey speculated. "At the Opera I know she had on dark blue velvet, perfectly plain and flat—like a night-gown." (pg. 30)

New York had deemed Ellen was not beautiful woman, but beauty is about where she lived in. Even in Europe, her beauty had so many times to be painted by the greatest artists there.

"She tells me she is not thought handsome in New York—good heavens! Her portrait has been painted nine times; the greatest artists in Europe have begged for the privilege." (pg. 122)

Although Ellen still had her appearance beauty but New York society saw she had already lose her beauty because her recent status as a widow.

"It was generally agreed in New York that the Countess Olenska had "lost her looks." " (pg. 46)

Being different in society would be difficult thing for Ellen. She wanted to befriend with them, then she was trying to be the same as New Yorker who were stylish and followed their rule too.

"She had on a black velvet polonaise with jet buttons, and a tiny green monkey muff; I never saw her so stylishly dressed," Janey continued. "She came alone, early on Sunday afternoon; luckily the fire was lit in the drawing room. She had one of those new card-cases. She said she wanted to know us because you’d be so good to her." (pg. 115)
2.2 Characteristics of Beauty

Characteristics about beauty toward May and Ellen are the beauty product from their each culture. May who is since childhood has been formed by her parents according to the culture of New York society while Ellen even her childhood spent in New York but her beauty was influenced by Europe society because after her childhood she lived there.

2.2.1 Beauty Characters of May

Outer Beauty

- Tall
A tall girl is beautiful according to New Yorker. May is a tall girl who always looked gorgeous with any outfit. A beautiful woman always looked stunning in each she dressed up.

>“Archer saw May Welland entering with her mother. In her dress of white and silver, with a wreath of silver blossoms in her hair, the tall girl looked like a Diana just a light from the chase.” (pg. 50)

- Fashionable
Most of women really love fashion. Like Mingotts family according to the upper class in New York who always prioritizes the dishes and clothes, as does May. She is prioritizing her appearance, as well as other women who are confused about what will they wear today.

>“May : “Yes; but how will the other women be dressed?”

Archer : “Not as well as you, dear,” he rejoined, wondering what had suddenly developed in her Janey’s morbid interest in clothes.

May : She pushed back her chair with a sigh. “That’s dear of you, Newland; but it doesn’t help me much.”” (pg. 148)

Inner Beauty

- Open minded and kind hearted
A beautiful woman includes her mind and heart, May was an open minded woman and she was kind to everyone, especially to her cousin who was facing her complicated life.

>“There was nothing mean or ungenerous in the young man’s heart, and he was glad that his future wife should not to be restrained by false prudery from being kind (in private) to her unhappy cousin;” (pg. 9)

- Intelligent
Intelligent of a woman is inner beauty character in every culture include New York.

>“Ellen : May is a darling; I’ve seen no young girl in New York so handsome and so intelligent. Are you very much in love with her?

Archer : (he reddened and laughed) As much as a man can be.” (pg. 50)

- Understanding
The inner beauty of New York women that they should train is the understanding other. New York had already set May into an understanding one in every case; understand other even though she was not good in her condition and position.

“Evidently she was always going to understand; she was always going to say the right thing.” (pg.18)

- Innocent
Innocence is beautiful according to New Yorker. An elaborate system of New York’s product had created May to be a pure and innocent girl in order to be beautiful according to theirs. A girl who had no anything to be hidden, all of them had already showed off. She did not need to worry about anything because New York had set her to close her eyes of something that would hurt her.

“The result, of course, was the young girl who was the center of this elaborate system of mystification remained the more inscrutable for her very frankness and assurance. She was frank, poor darling, because she had nothing to conceal. Assured because she knew of nothing to be on her guard against; and with no better preparation than this, she was to be plunged overnight into what people evasively called "the facts of life.”” (pg. 34-35)

2.2.2 Beauty Characters of Ellen

Outer Beauty
- Josephine look with Empire style

*Empire* style and *Josephine* look from Ellen is her beauty characters include her slim and less tall body with her curls-brown hair. Ellen has appeared as a different woman in New York at that time. It can be seen from how she dressed up with *Empire* style to her hairstyle that imitated the style of an old princess from Paris. She was so different, that is why all people are looking at her.

“Newland Archer, following Lefferts’s glance, saw with surprise that his exclamation had been occasioned by the entry of a new figure into old Mrs. Mingott’s box. It was that of a slim young woman, a little less tall than May Welland, with brown hair growing in close curls about her temples and held in place by a narrow band of diamonds. The suggestion of this head-dress, which gave her what was then called a “*Josephine look,*” was carried out in the of the dark blue velvet gown rather theatrically caught up under her bosom by a girdle with a large old-fashioned clasp. The wearer of this unusual dress, who seemed quite unconscious of the attention it was attracting, stood a moment in the center of the box, discussing with Mrs. Welland the propriety of taking the latter’s place in the front right-hand corner; then she yielded with a slight smile, and seated herself in line with Mrs. Welland’s sister-in-law, Mrs. Lovell Mingott, who was installed in the opposite corner.” (pg. 7)

“…; and for a moment he could not identify the lady in the Empire dress, nor imagine why her presence created such excitement among the initiated.” (pg. 9)

Inner Beauty
- Interactive

There is something attractive for a woman who can communicate with other in her own way as well. Her presence also made the situation looked more alive than usual. Ellen had something inside that made
people interested with her. Everyone who knew Ellen well, tended to like her way in interacting and
discussing.

“Well—what harm was there in inviting her? She was the best-looking woman in the room;
she made the dinner a little less funereal than the usual van der Luyden banquet.” (pg. 66)

- Independent

Independent does not mean she can live without anybody help beside we all are social human, but it
belongs to not depending on other while it could be taken by ourself. Independent of Ellen is the beauty
inside of her. Although other New Yorker always judge about her appearance that not suitable with theirs,
Ellen here showed us that actually we can live and survive without depending on the other judgment
about us. Appearance is not the only thing people judged of.

“Few things seemed to Newland Archer more awful than an offense against “Taste,” that
far-off divinity of whom “Form” was the mere visible representative and vicegerent.
Madame Olenska’s pale and serious face appealed to his fancy as suited to the occasion and
to her unhappy situation; (pg.11)

Ellen was so confused why New Yorker thought that style was so important for them even though there
is a thing which is more important than it, such the composure to be theirselves without any pressure. In
other side, Ellen was the independent woman. As her independence, she tended to be rather unsocial with
the new place she lived in. This thing caused her to be the limelight and the subject in the society.

“Archer : It’s not fashionable.

Ellen : Fashionable! Do you all think so much of that? Why not make one’s own
fashions? But I suppose I’ve lived too independently; at any rate, I want to do
what you all do—I want to feel cared for and safe.” (pg. 56-57)

2.3 The Importance of Inner Beauty

The importance of inner beauty is the thing that cannot be given by outer beauty. The other way, the
thing that can be given by outer beauty cannot be more valuable than inner beauty gave. Nothing is
eternal in this world. Therefore, beauty appearance only is not eternal enough to make it stay alive beside
the beauty appearance can disappear at anytime. But it is not influential for kind hearted. Kindness is the
inner beauty that cannot be disappear although the beauty appearance could by old age, illness, and some
accident; but it does not apply to inner beauty. Beauty of a woman which can radiate from inside includes:

2.3.1 Broad Minded

The first importance of having inner beauty is broad minded. It gives us knowledge that can be used and
be shared to other. Know how to discuss with the interlocutor; a joke for sometimes are parts of having
broad minded. Extensive knowledge will bring the good sense of humor. As Ellen taste of humor that
had made Archer thought some time.

“The van der Luydens,” said Archer, feeling himself pompous as he spoke, “are the most
powerful influence in New York society. Unfortunately—owing to her health—they
receive very seldom.”

She unclasped her hands from behind her head, and looked at him meditatively.

“Isn’t not that perhaps the reason?”
"The reason—?"

"For their great influence; that they make themselves so rare."

He colored a little, stared at her—and suddenly felt the penetration of the remark. At a stroke she had pricked the van der Luydens and they collapsed. He laughed, and sacrificed them. (pg.57)

2.3.2 Hardly survive
The second in having the inner beauty is it can make us to survive hardly. Strength of a woman includes the way she can survive. Archer was very sympathetic to Ellen with her strength in life. She knew how to survive behind all the pressure she had experienced.

"So close to the powers of evil she must have lived that she still breathed more freely in their air." (pg. 59)

2.3.3 Blessed feeling
The third of inner beauty gives is having a blessed feeling. In order to diminish the burdens of life, having blessed feeling is an important thing. As Ellen did to herself, she blessed can came back to her hometown after too many problems that she faced. Her current little house was not mean as a house only but also a home for her lonely soul. Loneliness was not too horrible if she was in the place she came from.

" "I like the little house,” she admitted; “but I suppose what I like is the blessedness of its being here, in my own country and my own town; and then, of being alone in it.” She spoke so low that he hardly heard the last phrase; but in his awkwardness he took it up.

"You like so much to be alone?"

"Yes; as long as my friends keep me from feeling lonely.”” (pg. 56)

2.3.4 Priceless
The other thing that given by having inner beauty is it cannot be bought by price. As Archer realized that kindness of May was priceless personality which always be valid by each time. May was a kind woman who did not think about her happiness only, she always cared with others.

"I couldn’t have my happiness made out of a wrong—an unfairness—to somebody else.”

(pg. 113)

2.3.5 Longlasting
The last but not least is longlasting. Truly that inner beauty will always make the love of someone stay forever although her appearance did not attractive anymore. After May passed away, Archer realized that the inner beauty of both May and Ellen had made him stay alive as a good citizen. His days were full of useful activities. Archer learnt so many things from them both May and Ellen through their each inner beauty; the thing that cannot be taught by the beautiful appearance. His marriage with May had made Archer more thoughtful. He realized that there was good in the old ways of New York.

"Their long years together had shown him that it did not so much matter if marriage was a dull duty, as long as it kept the dignity of a duty: lapsing from that, it became a mere battle of ugly appetites. Looking about him, he honored his own past, and mourned for it. After all, there was good in the old ways.” (pg. 262)

2.4 DISCUSSION
There are cultural relations that appear in The Age of Innocence novel; they are an old New York, modern Europe, and each of their beauty construction. The theory of culture is defined as relationship between human in their whole of life. People live in the developing culture which is automatically created their
performance and personality based on that time. Culture is conceived as emerging from a group’s history. Thus, while culture is viewed as a form of social control, it is seen as impossible for managers or any other group to control the culture unilaterally and to change it in a predetermined way (Barley et al., 1988). In this novel, most of characters are New Yorker who keeps their rules tight. Culture itself as social control and indeed New Yorker who certainly take a control.

Edith Wharton as an author of this novel showed us that criteria of beauty are only valid in each place and time. The place and the time a woman lives in had become things that she identifies her beauty, a culture itself as the beauty influencer of a woman. Wharton reveals her definition about beautiful women through their characters she had made. There are beauty from outside and inside, characteristics about beauty in New York and Europe, and inner beauty with its importance. All of them are about cultural construction which has relative criteria as the same as beauty which follows its characters toward each culture and time.

Notion of beauty also have so many definition, women who called beautiful are they who have two characters of beauty: from outside and inside. Outer beauty includes symmetrical face, ideal body, light skin tone, and attractive look; while inner beauty includes kind hearted, intelligent, interactive, and trained behavior. Wharton in this novel showed us that outer beauty nothing last forever, it can disappear anytime by age and death. She pressed the story about how important to have inner beauty in herself, although the tradition has made it different in other culture, but characteristics of inner beauty is not far from kindness, intelligence, and well behaved. The difference in each culture is how she should behave in society. Wharton pressed about inner beauty because it can live forever no matter the physic going worst then disappear. Looked from her background as a daughter of the wealth family, she had been trained to be the highest value of women.

3. CONCLUSION

Based on those explanations, we can conclude that several cultures influence beauty definition. Characteristics toward beauty for both May and Ellen had their differences, truly. May is a woman who is according to New York rule involves appearance and personality. Meanwhile Ellen who is according to European tends to follow the style and ideas of them.

The important thing of inner beauty is it taught us many things about life and the way to be useful for others. If we look from Archer experience, visible that through inner beauty from two women around him had been taught him everything. Archer still feel her presence even though May was dead, it can be felt by Archer through her loyalty, wisdom, kindness, and the New York rules that she hold out. Furthermore, he also still feels Ellen presence even though they are not destined to live together. He feels her courage, friendliness, curiosities, and her brilliant ideas. All of these are about inner beauty that never will fade over time as appearance did, it is more and more live in the next generation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY