



**SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AS A RESULT OF STEREOTYPING  
AS REFLECTED IN THE PALACIO'S *WONDER***

**A Final Project**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements**

**for The Degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

**in English**

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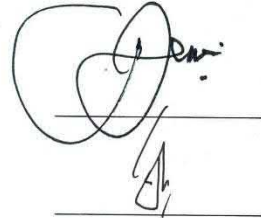
## APPROVAL

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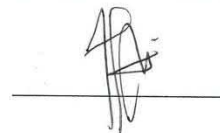
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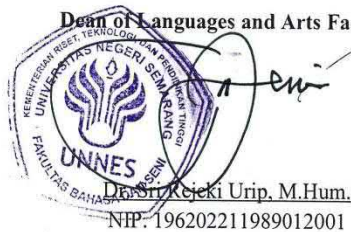


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## DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I Laeli Nur Azizah hereby declare that this final project entitled *Social Discrimination as A Result of Stereotyping as Reflected in The Palacio's Wonder* is my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at my university or other institutions. Information from the published and unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given in the references.

Semarang,



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## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

Trying to be kind with everybody in any kind of situations

For:

My Parents

My Family

My Support System

All of My Friends

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

First of all, I praise the Almighty Allah SWT for the blessing, guidance, opportunity, health, and mercy to enable me to complete this final project. I would like to deliver my sincere gratitude to my advisor, Bambang Purwanto, S.S., M.Hum., for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research to the final completion. This final project would not also have been possible without the help, support, and patience of my parents, my family and all of my friends. My appreciation also goes to the Head of English Department, Widhiyanto, S.Pd., M.Pd., Ph.D, and all lecturers and staffs in English Department for the assistance and priceless lessons.

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## ABSTRACT

**Azizah, Laeli Nur.** 2019. Social Discrimination as A Result of Stereotyping as Reflected in The Palacio's *Wonder*. Final Project. English Department, Languages and Arts Faculty, Universitas Negeri Semarang. Advisor: Bambang Purwanto, S.S., M.Hum

**Keywords:** stereotyping, physical appearance, social discrimination, self-argumentation.

Stereotyping of physical appearance is main discussions in this final project. It happens to the main character in novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio who suffered complicated health. The presence of stereotyping often leads to social discrimination. It turns out not only stereotyping occurs in adults. In this novel, it also occurs among children. Here, physical disability is the main factor that causes stereotypes which created social discrimination. We frequently use people's appearances to form our judgment about them and to determine our responses to them. The aim of this research is to analyze how the stereotyping occur to August Pullman then it causes the social discrimination and also gives a great impact to his life. In this research, I used structuralism approach by Ferdinand de' Saussure to analyze the stereotyping of physical appearance as reflected in the novel. The results showed that stereotyping is unfair to the people we judge because stereotypes are based on our preconceptions and negative emotions about other people. Many people will judge and put their impression to another people based on the appearance. So, not infrequently people will do physical abuse or we usually called as a bullying to the people who have physical disability. Stigma and discrimination against people with disabilities has always been a problem. Actually, people with physical disabilities do not only face their physical problems but in fact they have to face social and psychological problems in their life. In the other hand, those discriminations will give some effects to the people who accept it. Then, people who have physical disability may difficult to make a friend and socialize with the society and they have lost their self-confident.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>APPROVAL</b> .....	ii
<b>DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY</b> .....	iii
<b>MOTTO AND DEDICATION</b> .....	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b> .....	v
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	vi
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	vii
<b>CHAPTER I</b> .....	1
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>1.1 Background of The Study</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic</b> .....	4
<b>1.3 Statements of The Study</b> .....	5
<b>1.4 Objectives of The Study</b> .....	5
<b>1.5 Significance of The Study</b> .....	6
<b>1.6 Outline of the Study</b> .....	6
<b>CHAPTER II</b> .....	8
<b>REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b> .....	8
<b>2.1 Review of Previous Studies</b> .....	8
<b>2.2 Theoretical Background</b> .....	16
<b>2.2.1 Structuralism Theory</b> .....	16
<b>2.2.2 Stereotypes</b> .....	19
<b>2.2.3 Discrimination</b> .....	21
<b>2.2.4 Social Discrimination</b> .....	22
<b>2.3 Theoretical Framework of Analysis</b> .....	24
<b>CHAPTER III</b> .....	27
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</b> .....	27
<b>3.1 Research Design</b> .....	27
<b>3.1.1 Qualitative Data</b> .....	27
<b>3.2 Object of The Study</b> .....	28
<b>3.3 Role of The Researcher</b> .....	29

3.3.1 <i>Data Identifier</i> .....	30
3.3.2 <i>Data Collector</i> .....	30
3.3.3 <i>Data Interpreter</i> .....	30
3.3.4 <i>Data Analyst</i> .....	30
3.4 <b>Procedure of Collecting Data</b> .....	31
3.4.1 <i>Reading the novel</i> .....	31
3.4.2 <i>Identifying the data</i> .....	31
3.4.3 <i>Inventorizing the data</i> .....	31
3.4.4 <i>Classifying the data</i> .....	32
3.4.5 <i>Analyzing the data</i> .....	32
3.4.6 <i>Reporting the Result of Data Analysis</i> .....	33
3.5 <b>Procedures of Data Analysis</b> .....	33
<b>CHAPTER IV</b> .....	35
<b>FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION</b> .....	35
4.1 <b>Social Discrimination as a Result of Stereotyping Presented in <i>Wonder</i></b> ....	35
4.1.1 <i>Stereotyping of Physical Appearance</i> .....	41
4.1.2 <i>Stereotyping of Disabled Children</i> .....	45
4.2 <b>The Effects of Stereotyping and Social Discrimination to The Main Character</b> .....	49
4.2.1 <i>Friendless</i> .....	54
4.2.2. <i>Self Confident</i> .....	57
4.3 <b>The Main Character Solves the Stereotyping from Society</b> .....	60
4.3.1 <i>Self-argumentation</i> .....	62
4.3.2 <i>Friendship</i> .....	64
4.3.3 <i>Family</i> .....	66
<b>CHAPTER V</b> .....	69
<b>CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS</b> .....	69
5.1 <b>Conclusions</b> .....	69
5.2 <b>Suggestions</b> .....	70
<b>APPENDICES</b> .....	77



## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of The Study**

Unconsciously, society frequently use people's appearances to form their judgments about people and to determine their responses to people. Without realizing it, judging someone by just looking from his appearance has become an instinct that just appears in our mind. On the other hand, it can actually lead to discrimination or self-assessment of someone we have just met. For example, if you see people who are physically different from people in general or see someone with mental disabilities, consciously or not, as strangers, we will see them with different looks and with various judgments that appear in our mind. Stereotypes about people who have special needs as if it has inherent in community life. Sloping views, fear, bullying or disparaging people with disabilities are frequent discrimination. Bullying itself is one of the things that plays a big role in the occurrence of social discrimination.

Discrimination is a common issue which already familiar in our social environment. It happend in many aspect such as, ethnic, religion, education, and psychological or we can call as bullying. In the novel entitled "Wonder", Palacio told us about discrimination of physical appearance that happend in people who have a physical defect. As we know, that it's also happend in our life nowadays. People with disabilities, mentally and physically usually get a bad treatment from

their social environment. Moreover, they didn't allow to study in normal school. In fact, a lot of them have a great skill and not infrequently they get an appreciation because of their creation. Like in this novel, the author showed us how the main character who has physical defect can be an excellent student in the normal school.

According to Alberta Human Right Commission that is commission which created by the government of Alberta, that physical disability is defined in the *Act* as any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness. This includes, but is not limited to, epilepsy; paralysis; amputation; lack of physical coordination; visual, hearing and speech impediments; and physical reliance on a guide dog, service dog, or wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device. The purpose of this commission actually to protect the society from discrimination in certain area. "The purpose of the *Alberta Human Rights Act* is to ensure that all Albertans are offered an equal opportunity to earn a living, find a place to live, and enjoy services customarily available to the public without discrimination." (*albertahumanrights.ab.ca, 2012*)

I think that's one of such a movement from the government which is important to imitated and to developed by another country. Moreover, the discrimination issue has been already common issue in society. It's important to give a lesson to people about the effect of discrimination to the victim and also about the right of human being to live with a peaceful and pleasant. Hopefully, society will know how to treat another people well, without any exception.

Stereotyping is defined as an oversimplified, usually pejorative, attitude people hold toward those outside one's own experience who are different. They are a result of incomplete or distorted information accepted as fact without question. A stereotype is simply a widely held belief that an individual is a member of a certain group based on characteristics. Due to the process of overgeneralization within social perception, stereotyping leads to a great deal of inaccuracy in social perception. Slowly, society has been making a slight transition away from stereotyping. Unfortunately it is a difficult process, especially since it relies on second-hand sources about the information for the majority of our knowledge. The main outlet of second-hand information is the mass media. As a result of depending largely on the second-hand source of mass media, mass media in turn plays a major role in determining the content of our culture. Stereotyping is a product of culture, therefore, mass media have a strong influence in supporting and tearing down stereotypical characteristics. In this novel, precisely stereotyping occurs among children. Where they already have the behavior of judging a person just by looking at their face or physical only. This kind of thing is certainly worth reviewing, because after all stereotyping is uncertain the truth and also needs to be studied to provide lessons for the community not to do things like that.

Actually, children are innocent people who have not yet deserved bad treatment from people around. In this novel, Augie has felt something that is rarely obtained by children in general, which is social discrimination from his friends or people who saw his face. This happened because Augie's physical condition is not as perfect as other people. Therefore, he got a painful thing when meeting new

people. The existence of social discrimination that he obtained, this made his confidence get down and made him embarrassed about his physical form. I think this kind of problem is worth to discussing, because it turns out that the assessment of the people around us greatly influences our confidence. Moreover, it happened in children's lives where they are still looking for identity and also playful friends. Where they should be at their young age, they should be able to enjoy childhood happily. Even when they get a special need or something that made them look unusual.

I choose *Wonder* novel by R.J. Palacio as the object of the research. *Wonder* is a novel about a boy with abnormal face named August Pullman as the main character. August, who is suffered from some complicated health, is discriminated by his society because of his physical appearance. People always notice at him wherever he is and it makes him uncomfortable. It is interesting to find out how most society was easy to judge the other people just from their appearance. Basically, the face is not the only reflection of themselves. This is certainly interesting, because during this time the problem of bullying is not over. The majority of people still prefer to judge people from the outside only. It just like social discrimination as a result of stereotyping that described on Palacio's *Wonder*.

## **1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

There are several reasons of analyzing social discrimination as a result of stereotyping into the following statements, as follows:

1. Stereotyping occurs almost in all aspects of life and the presence of stereotyping often leads to social discrimination that arises as a result of stereotyping.
2. In this novel, stereotyping occurs among children, so it is possible for children to rely on someone just by looking at their face or physically.
3. The existence of social discrimination and the judgment of the people around us greatly influence a person.

### **1.3 Statements of The Study**

Related to the background of the study above, the writer had identified some problems below:

1. How is social discrimination as a result of stereotyping described on Palacio's *Wonder*?
2. What are the effects of stereotyping and social discrimination to the main character?
3. How could the main character solve the stereotyping from society?

### **1.4 Objectives of The Study**

Based on the research problems above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe how social discrimination as a result of stereotyping described on Palacio's *Wonder*.
2. To describe the cause and effects of stereotyping as a means of social discrimination to the main character.
3. To describe how the main character faces up the stereotyping from society.

### **1.5 Significance of The Study**

I expect to give benefits in the result of this study, especially for the English literature students, literature critics, and the readers. This topic will make the reader aware of the bad behavior of “body shaming” and about discrimination toward people who have special needs or disabilities. I think, this topic is very important to be discussed in this research, because many people don’t know about the impact of stereotyping itself toward someone who becomes a victim. It is important to educate the public so that it is not easy to judge a person just by looking at the outward appearance only. The habit of looking at others is also one of the aspects of why this topic exists. In everyday life, this topic can be a new knowledge about stereotyping of physical appearance. In its application, this topic will make the reader aware about the bad judge a person is bad because of the basis of appearance or do discrimination against people who have special needs or disabilities. For Literature Critics, the result of the study will provide essential information about social discrimination as a result of stereotyping of physical appearance.

### **1.6 Outline of the Study**

The outline of the study consists of five chapters, as the following:

Chapter I contains background of the study, reasons for choosing topic, statement of problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and outline of study.

Chapter II is review of related literature. This chapter is divided into three sub-chapters. They are review of previous studies, theoretical background, and theoretical framework of analysis.

Chapter III presents the methodology that used in analysing the data. It consists of research design, object of the study, roles of researcher, procedures of collecting the data, procedures of data analysis.

Chapter IV presents the analysis. This chapter contains results and analysis of the study. The analysis will be directed to the study of structuralism approach supported with the concept signified and signifier by Ferdinand de Saussure.

Chapter V is a conclusion and suggestion. It consists of the conclusion of the study based on the analysis and the suggestion from me as the writer.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, I will discuss the review of related literature which consists of review of previous studies with similar topic and related topic or issues to this study, review of related theories, and theoretical framework. The description of each subchapter is presented as follows.

#### 2.1 Review of Previous Studies

There are some relevant previous studies that use the related novel “*Wonder*” for their research. Then, there are also some relevant previous studies that mainly talk about stereotype, discrimination and physical disability. Here, some of the previous studies that are related to this final project.

The first article, entitled *A Child Character’s Development in R.J. Palacio’s Children’s Realistic Fiction Novel Wonder* (Rindra, 2014). The results showed that the main character developed through four key narrative events and different focalization. Both were examined to explicate the dynamic changes in his personalities and attitudes. The development was also contributed by the six characters’ focalization which mostly revealed the shifts of direct and indirect speech, and the cognitive and perceptual views. The second article, entitled “*The Influence of Social Condition On The Personality of The Main Character in R.J. Palacio’s Wonder*” (Rahmayanti, 2017) delivers a social discrimination of R.J. Palacio’s *Wonder* focusing on August Pullman’s perspective. It analyzed the personality development of August Pullman against the discrimination in his



society. Generally, physical appearance takes a big role in interaction. Actually, discrimination from society makes people changed. They try to adapt based on current condition in order to survive. They change not only their appearances but also their psychological aspects such as attitude, behaviour, and mindset. The third article, entitled *Engaging Children in Discussions of Disfigurement and Disability: The Wonder of Palacio's Wonder* (Casalme, 2015). This study examined children's engagement with *Wonder* by RJ Palacio and explored the ways in which the children's literature could be used to promote critical, reflective and broad discussions of complex themes, such as disfigurement and disability, among young children.

The fourth article, entitled “*Stereotyping Physical Attractiveness , A Sociocultural Perspective*” (K. Dion, Pak, and L. Dion, 1990) proposed a sociocultural hypothesis that physical attractiveness is less likely to be a salient evaluative cue in cultural contexts where collectivism, rather than individualism, is the basis for the dominant system of values. The fifth article, entitled “*We Look Like Our Names: The Manifestation of Name Stereotypes in Facial Appearance*” (Zwebner and Goldenberg, 2017), they deliver about research demonstrates that facial appearance affects social perceptions. They examine a social tag that is associated with us early in life—our given name. The hypothesis is that name stereotypes can be manifested in facial appearance, producing a face-name matching effect, whereby both a social perceiver and a computer are able to accurately match a person's name to his or her face. The sixth article, entitled *Personality Judgments Based on Physical Appearance* (Naumann, Rentfrow, and

Gosling, 2009). This study examined the accuracy of observers' impressions on 10 personality traits based on full-body photographs using criterion measures based on self and peer reports. When targets' posture and expression were constrained (standardized condition), observers' judgments were accurate for extraversion, self-esteem, and religiosity. The seventh article, entitled *Appearance Discrimination, "Lookism" And "Lookphobia" In The Workplace* (Cavico, Muffler, and Mujtaba, 2012). The article provides a discussion of societal norms concerning "attractiveness," the existence of appearance discrimination in employment, the presence of "preferring the pretty", and then the authors examine important civil rights laws that relate to such forms of discrimination. Finally, recommendations for employers and managers are provided for fair and non-discriminatory hiring and promotional practices.

The eighth article, entitled *Discrimination And Stigmatization Of Physically Disabled Student In A General Educational Environment In Pakistan: A Case Study* (Idress and Ilyas, 2012). This study explores the educational environment of students with physical disability. It addresses the experiences of discrimination and stigmatization with physically disabled students and the impact of discrimination and stigmatization on their self perception. The result indicates most of students with mobility impairments seemed positive towards life and admitted that general education had promoted their self confidence. The ninth article, entitled *Stereotypes* (Bordalo, Coffman, Gennaioli, and Shleifer, 2013). It presents a model of stereotypes in which a decision maker assessing a group recalls only that group's most representative or distinctive types. Stereotypes

highlight differences between groups, and are especially inaccurate (consisting of unlikely, extreme types) when groups are similar. The tenth article, entitled *The social complexities of disability: Discrimination, belonging and life satisfaction among Canadian youth* (Daley, Phipps, and Branscombe 2018). They address the critical gap by examining the complex social experiences of youth with a disability and the culminating effect on life satisfaction. They find that life satisfaction is lower among youth with a disability. Moreover, many experience disability-related discrimination, which has a negative effect on life satisfaction. The twelfth article, entitled *Effects of the “Beauty Is Good” Stereotype on Children’s Information Processing* (Ramsey and Langlois, 2002). They tested schematic information processing as a function of attractiveness stereotyping in two studies. The findings have implications for how attractiveness and gender stereotypes affect children’s information processing, how attractiveness schemata may be organized, and why physical attractiveness stereotypes are maintained.

The eleventh article, entitled *The Child with a Disability: Parental Acceptance, Management and Coping* (Kandel and Merrick, 2007). This research indicates that family reaction to the birth of a disabled child changes according to the type of disability and the child's diagnostic category. The differences are probably an indirect consequence of anticipated or actual reactions by those surrounding the disabled child and the family, in addition to parental reactions. The thirteenth article, entitled *Bullying: Definition, Types, Causes, Consequences and Intervention: Bullying* (Smith, 2016). Bullying is repetitive aggressive behaviour with an imbalance of power. Research, especially on school bullying, has increased

massively in the last decade, fuelled in part by the rise of cyberbullying. Victims suffer from bullying, but some of those who perpetrate bullying can be socially skilled and get at least short-term benefits from their behaviour. Individual, family, school class, school and broader country factors can influence the chances of involvement. The fourteenth article, entitled *Bullies, Victims And Bully-Victims Impact On Health Profile* (Seixas, Coelho, and Nicolas-Fischer, 2013). Bullying affects an important number of students in school today. Bully-victims show the most controversial profile, similar to bullies in their higher levels of self-esteem and self-confidence, but also similar to victims in their higher levels of rejection and weakness. The fifteenth article, entitled *Observing Bullying at School: The Mental Health Implications of Witness Status* (Rivers, Poteat, Noret, and Ashurst, 2009). This study explores the impact of bullying on the mental health of students who witness it. The results suggest that observing bullying at school predicted risks to mental health over and above that predicted for those students who were directly involved in bullying behavior as either a perpetrator or a victim.

The sixteenth article, entitled *Structuralism* (Javad B, Masoud JN, 2016). Saussure in his linguistic analysis regards two components for a sign: a phonic component, which is called “signifier” and a mental and conceptual component called “signified”. Signified is not one thing, but a concept of a thing, a concept that comes to our mind when we speak the signifier. Therefore, signifier forms the material aspect of the language. Any spoken and written meaningful form is signifier.

The seventeenth article until the twenty second article talk about discrimination matters. The first article, entitled *The prevalence of discrimination across racial groups in contemporary America: Results from a nationally representative sample of adults* (Boutwell BB, Nedelec JL, Winegard B, Shackelford T, Beaver KM, Vaughn M, et al. 2017). The second article, entitled “*Commentary: Social determinants, social discrimination, social justice, and social responsibility* (Dinesh Bhugra, 2017). The third article, entitled *Discrimination in employment, religious symbols and the “actual knowledge” of the employer* (Akhtar, Z. 2019). The fourth article, entitled *Are they not Nigerians?* (Arimoro, A. E., 2019). The fifth article, entitled *The problem of stigmatizing expressions: The limits of anti-discrimination approaches* (Quinn, P. 2017). The sixth article, entitled *Eroding the protection against discrimination: The procedural and de-contextualized approach to S.A.S. v France* (Nieminen, K., 2019).

The twenty third article until twenty seventh article talk about physical disability and its problem. The first article, entitled *Social Validity and Treatment Integrity Data: Reporting in Articles Published in the Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities, 1991-1995* (Armstrong, Kevin & Ehrhardt, Kristal & Cool, Ray & Poling, Alan., 1997). The second article, entitled *Inter-rater Reliability of the Anxiety Disorders Interview Schedule for DSM-IV in High-Functioning Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder* (Ung, Danielle & Arnold, Elyse & De Nadai, Alessandro & Lewin, Adam & Phares, Vicky & Murphy, Tanya & Storch, Eric., 2014). The third article, entitled *Literacy Interventions for Students with Physical and Developmental Disabilities Who Use Aided AAC Devices: A*

*Systematic Review* (Machalicek, Wendy & Sanford, Amanda & Lang, Russell & Rispoli, Mandy & Molfenter, Nancy & Mbeseha, Margaret., 2010). The fourth article, entitled *The Contribution of Academic Skills to the Successful Inclusion of Children with Disabilities* (Kemp, Coral & Carter, Mark., 2006). The fifth article, entitled *The impact of physical impairments on academic performance* (Heller, Kathryn & Alberto, Paul & Meagher, Teddi., 1996). So, there are several environmental and psychological factors that may affect the academic performance of students with physical impairments. Environmental factors (such as pain, fatigue, and absenteeism) and psychological factors (such as motivation, self-concept, and social-emotional problems) need to be identified in students with physical impairments, and modifications are required to minimize their effects.

The twenty eighth article, entitled *The Racial Difference as Reflected in Solomon Northup's Novel 12 Years A Slave* (Aditya Rizky, 2018). This final project is about racial difference as reflected in Solomon Northup's Novel *12 Years A Slave*. The background of this study is to know and reveal the racial differences that once occurred in America and also the other aspects of racial difference that might occurred. It also talked about how the African American shows the action to fight their freedom and equality. The twenty ninth article, entitled *Inequality for the African Americans as Hughes' World Vision Toward Racial Discrimination Reflected in Not Without Laughter* (Aryani, 2014). This final project is about revealing the author's personal experience and world vision toward racial discrimination which are reflected in Hughes' *Not Without Laughter*. The results of this study are; First, the African Americans experience racial discriminations in the

aspects of education, employment, housing, and in public places. Second, the social structure when the novel was created is reflected in the novel's structure which presents the real condition of the Whites and the African Americans in the American society. Third, there are some events of racial discrimination experienced by African American people in *Not Without Laughter* which are the reflection of the author's personal experiences of racial discrimination which also reflects the author's world vision toward racial discrimination that racial discrimination brings disadvantages and injustice for the African Americans because it restricts the African Americans in getting the equal opportunity as the Whites get in society.

The thirtieth article until thirty fifth article talk about stereotype. the first article, entitled *Stereotypes And Stereotyping: A Moral Analysis* (Lawrence Blum, 2010). The second article, entitled *Gender Stereotypes in Advertising on Children's Television in the 1990s: A Cross-National Analysis* (Beverly. A Browne, 1998). The third article, entitled *The Stereotypical Nature of Stereotyping* (Richard N. Williams, Ximena de la Cruz & Wayne J. Hintze, 1989). The fourth article, entitled *Stereotyping across intersections of race and age: Racial stereotyping among White adults working with children* (Priest N, Slopen N, Woolford S, Philip JT, Singer D, Kauffman AD, et al. (2018). The fifth article, entitled *Stereotypes and Prejudice in the Perception of the "Other"* (Cătălin-George Fedor, 2014). The last article, entitled *Influence of gender stereotypes on advertising offensiveness and attitude toward advertising in general* (Bruce A. Huhmann & Yam B. Limbu 2016).

Those articles speak differently from my research since my research focuses on social discrimination as a result of stereotyping as reflected in the Palacio's *Wonder*. Those articles are also relevant to be considered as the bases of my present research. Based on the study that is presented above. It can be inferred that research concerning about the concept of stereotyping of physical appearance as reflected in the Palacio's *Wonder* and social discrimination using Structuralism approach has not been comprehensively conducted. It is high time to uncover the struggle of people who has physical disability for the benefit of the reader especially student related to literature knowing about the real life dealing with stereotyping of physical appearance and social discrimination. It has been inspired me to propose this research.

## **2.2 Theoretical Background**

In this section I would like to review the theory that I use for this research which is Structuralism. This theory is used to analyse the aspects of stereotyping of physical appearance along the story and also social discrimination that happen because of physical disability. I also mentioned the theoretical studies relevant to the topic of the study which discuss the concept of stereotypes, discrimination, and social discrimination. The expansion of each topic of subchapter will be presented as the following description.

### ***2.2.1 Structuralism Theory***

According to the book *Literary Criticism* (Blessner, 1998), structuralist theorist are interested in identifying and analyzing the structures that underlien all culture phenomena and not just literature. Flourishing in the 1960s, structuralism is an



approach to literary analysis grounded in structural linguistics, the science of language. By using the techniques, methodologies, and vocabulary of linguistics, structuralism offers a scientific view of how we achieve meaning not only in literary works but also in all forms of communication and social behavior.

Saussure proposed that words are signs made up two parts : the signifier (a written or spoken mark) and a signified (a concept). Before structuralism, literary theorist discussed the literary convention that is the various genres or types of literature such as the novel, the short story, or poetry.

In the other hand, Levi-Strauss defines structuralism with reference to ideas of what we understand by structuralism in general goes with the view that the world around us is the product of ideas. Structuralism tries to find out the logic which underlines these ideas. The world as a logical pattern. It is the second assumption of structuralism. The concept of structuralism always focuses on the logical order or structure underlying general meaning. The structuralists explain structuralism entirely with reference to logics. The death of the subject is the slogan most closely associated with structuralism. Structuralism goes with a very big proposition: The non-structuralist notion of society is that the people are the authors of their thoughts and actions. Thus, the structuralists go to the extreme of saying that people do not speak; rather, they are spoken by the underlying structure. People do not create societies, but are created by societies (Blessner, 1998: 95-96).

Structuralism has its methodology. It starts with certain metaphysical assumptions. These assumptions are of three kinds,. First, the world is a product of

ideas, whatever we see in this world – a house, a garden, a family and a state – is nothing but a creation of ideas. This assumption has its roots in Kant's philosophy. It is also an assumption of structuralism. It tries to find out the underlying structure or logic of general ideas. It also claims to show how we or rather our ideas produce the world we see. When Levi-Strauss, for example, claims to have discovered the underlying structure of kinship system in tribal society, he is claiming to have discovered the underlying structure of kinship terminology, the ideas with which these societies talk about. It means that whatever Levi-Strauss puts into principle has a degree of truth in the view that people with different ideas live in different worlds.

#### 2.2.1.1 Binary Opposition

There are some opposites that have organized human culture nowadays. Those opposites create society's ideals of what is ordinary and what is different, or what is beautiful and ugly, and from a young age we subconsciously conform to these without even knowing, and even as adults we continue to create these oppositions in our minds. This occurs because people have the tendency to assign values to each of the pairs, creating a type of hidden hierarchy within society. It also happened when we are learning a language. We are introduced to concepts and ideas through binary opposition. Another example, we cannot conceive the concept of hot when we do not know what cold is, and the same example above for good and bad, beautiful and ugly, ect. The use of binary opposition in literature is a system that authors use to explore differences between groups of individuals, such as cultural, class or gender differences.

This explains the contemporary critics known as structuralists' belief that "things cannot be understood in isolation- they have to be seen in the context of the larger structures they are part of" (Barry, 2002: 39). This may be true since binary oppositions provide a systematic foundation which enables human to understand abstract and seemingly chaotic concepts or ideas more easily by putting the ideas into complementary pairs, such as body and soul, cause and effect, truth and lies, etc. Therefore, it can be concluded that binary opposition is one of many systems that governs human's mind to comprehend and derive meaning of concept and idea.

In the other hand, binary oppositions, like Saussure suggests, are the means by which the units of language have value or meaning; each unit is defined in reciprocal determination with another term, as in binary code. It is not a contradictory relation but, a structural, complementary one (Fogarty, 2005).

Binary opposition comes from Saussure's theory on structuralism. According to Saussure, binary opposition means the units of language that have value or meaning; each unit is defined in reciprocal determination with another term, as in binary code. It is not a contradictory relation but, a structural, complementary one (litencyc.com, 2005). In other words, binary oppositions are pairs of related terms or concepts whose meanings are mutually exclusive.

### ***2.2.2 Stereotypes***

Stereotyping is the tendency to attribute personality characteristics to people on the basis of their external appearance or their social group memberships. Unconsciously, we often do those stereotyping toward people who are not ordinary. Our stereotypes about physically attractive people lead us to see them as more

dominant, sexually warm, mentally healthy, intelligent, and socially skilled than we perceive physically unattractive people (Langlois et al., 2000). And our stereotypes lead us to treat people differently. The physically attractive are given better grades on essay exams, are more successful on job interviews, and receive lighter sentences in court judgments than their less attractive counterparts (Hosoda, Stone-Romero, and Coats,(2003) and Zebrowitz and McDonald, (1991)).

By most historical accounts, Lipp mann (1922) introduced the term ‘stereotype’ to refer to the typical picture that comes to mind when thinking about a particular social group. Whereas early research conceptualized stereotyping as a rather inflexible and faulty thought process, more recent research emphasizes the functional and dynamic aspects of stereotypes as simplifying a complex environment. Stereotypes are cognitive schemas used by social perceivers to process information about others (Hilton & von Hippel, 1996). Stereotypes not only reflect beliefs about the traits characterizing typical group members but also contain information about other qualities such as social roles, the degree to which members of the group share specific qualities (i.e., within-group homogeneity or variability), and influence emotional reactions to group members.

Stereotypes imply a substantial amount of information about people beyond their immediately apparent surface qualities and generate expectations about group members’ anticipated behavior in new situations (to this extent they can, ironically, be seen as ‘enriching’; Oakes &Turner, 1990). Yet, of course, stereotypes also constrain. In general, stereotypes produce a readiness to perceive behaviors or characteristics that are consistent with the stereotype. At the earliest stages of

perceptual processing, stereotype consistent characteristics are attended to most quickly. For instance, because cultural stereotypes associate Black people with violent crime in the United States, White people are quicker to recognize objects associated with crime (e.g., a gun) when primed with a Black person than a White person (e.g., Payne, 2001). The stereotype that I will discuss in this research is about stereotypes for those who have physical imperfections and different from people in general. Unconsciously, sometimes we as humans who consider themselves perfectly physically and mentally will consider other people who have a different appearance as a strange. This is one of the stereotypical actions which later will lead to prejudice, it can be in the form of compassion, disgust, fear, or other judgments of people with disabilities. Those prejudices that arise from these stereotypes can lead to the emergence of discrimination such as bullying, friendless or bad treatment, and underestimates.

### ***2.2.3 Discrimination***

Stereotype toward people's appearance may create a discrimination. It will happen because society make such a standard for people appearance. So, people who have a physical disability would be discriminated, it just because their physical appearance are different with other ordinary people. An individual need not be actually harmed in order to be discriminated against. They just need to be treated *worse* than others for some arbitrary reason.

Schaefer (1989) states that "Discrimination is the process of denying opportunities and equal rights to individuals and groups because of prejudice or other arbitrary reasons while, prejudice is a negative attitude toward an entire

category of people, often an ethnic or racial minority”. In the context of intergroup relations, discrimination has a pejorative meaning. It implies more than simply distinguishing among social objects, but refers also to inappropriate and potentially unfair treatment of individuals due to group membership. Discrimination may involve actively negative behavior toward a member of a group or, more subtly, less positive responses than those toward an ingroup member in comparable circumstances.

In human social affairs, discrimination is treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing is perceived to belong to rather than on individual merit. According to Allport (1954), discrimination involves denying ‘individuals or groups of people equality of treatment which they may wish’ (p. 51). Jones (1972) defined discrimination as ‘those actions designed to maintain own-group characteristics and favored position at the expense of the comparison group’ (p. 4). Discrimination is generally understood as biased behavior, which includes not only actions that directly harm or disadvantage another group, but those that unfairly favor one’s own group (creating a relative disadvantage for other groups).

#### ***2.2.4 Social Discrimination***

Social discrimination is defined as sustained inequality between individuals on the basis of illness, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or any other measures of diversity. Social justice is aimed at promoting a society which is just and equitable, valuing diversity, providing equal opportunities to all its members, irrespective of their disability, ethnicities, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion, and ensuring

fair allocation of resources and support for their human rights. Any number of diverse factors, including those mentioned above, but also education, social class, political affiliation, beliefs, or other characteristics can lead to discriminatory behaviours, especially by those who may have a degree of power in their hands.

Howells (1984:54) stated that “Discrimination is the acts of discriminating against someone for his or her distinguish differences of showing favoritism of prejudice in treatment”. From this statement it means that discrimination is giving different treatment based on the prejudice. As I said before, someone’s physical appearances are often caused a social discrimination especially someone who has physical disability. Unconsciously, we will notice and make some judgments or assumptions to someone who just met if they have an abnormal appearance. It also can lead us about doing a social discrimination.

Based on (UNESCO 1967), all human beings belong to the same species and descend from the same stock. Thus, no illness—be it mental or physical, acute or chronic—should lead to discrimination of any kind whatsoever. Social discrimination against people with mental illness, physical disability, and people who has a special needs are a global issue and it covers a range of spheres which influence daily living and daily functioning. Social discrimination appears to be lodged in the system and, therefore, can be pervasive and intrusive, and stop people from reaching their full potential and, more importantly, labelling them changes their identities. Micro-identities related to race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, and other components all get trumped by the label of being mentally ill. Social discrimination is

defined as sustained inequality between individuals on the basis of illness, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or any other measures of diversity.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework of Analysis**

The framework of analysis in this study is based on reading literature books and sources that related to the topic. Therefore, I use a theory that relevant to this research in order to analyze the problem and reveal it. This research concerns on analysing the social facts and use the binary opposition based on structuralism approach by Ferdinand De Saussure and Goldman as reflected in *Wonder*.

In this research, I will analyze about the stereotyping of the main character's appearance. This analysis deals with Structuralism approach developed by Ferdinand de Saussure. I choose the theories and arguments by the literature or experts to support the analysis of this research. Besides, I will use the theory of genetic structuralism to analyse the intrinsic element and the social facts to support my research data from the novel.

Firstly, I read the novel a couple of times to understand the novel more better, then finding the supporting data to answer problem statement one by examining the aspects of stereotyping of physical appearance, social discrimination, and social treatment toward people who has physical disability. Secondly, I will analyze *Wonder* novel by using the concept of binary opposition based on Ferdinand de Saussure's structuralism. Thirdly, I will analyze the intrinsic aspect, either in partial or in whole intrinsic aspects of the novel *Wonder* and also



the social culture's author. And the last, researcher will analyze social and historical background, psychological aspect and self-argumentations of the main character.

After finding the supporting data, then I collect the data in the form of words, phrases, and sentences in a table. I classified the overall data in several appendices. The next step is interpreting the data using the theory of Ferdinand de Saussure and analysing it. Related with the research, I use some sources to make this research well-constructed by reading the book that related to my topic, previous study, journals, and also the data from the internet. Below was the mind mapping:

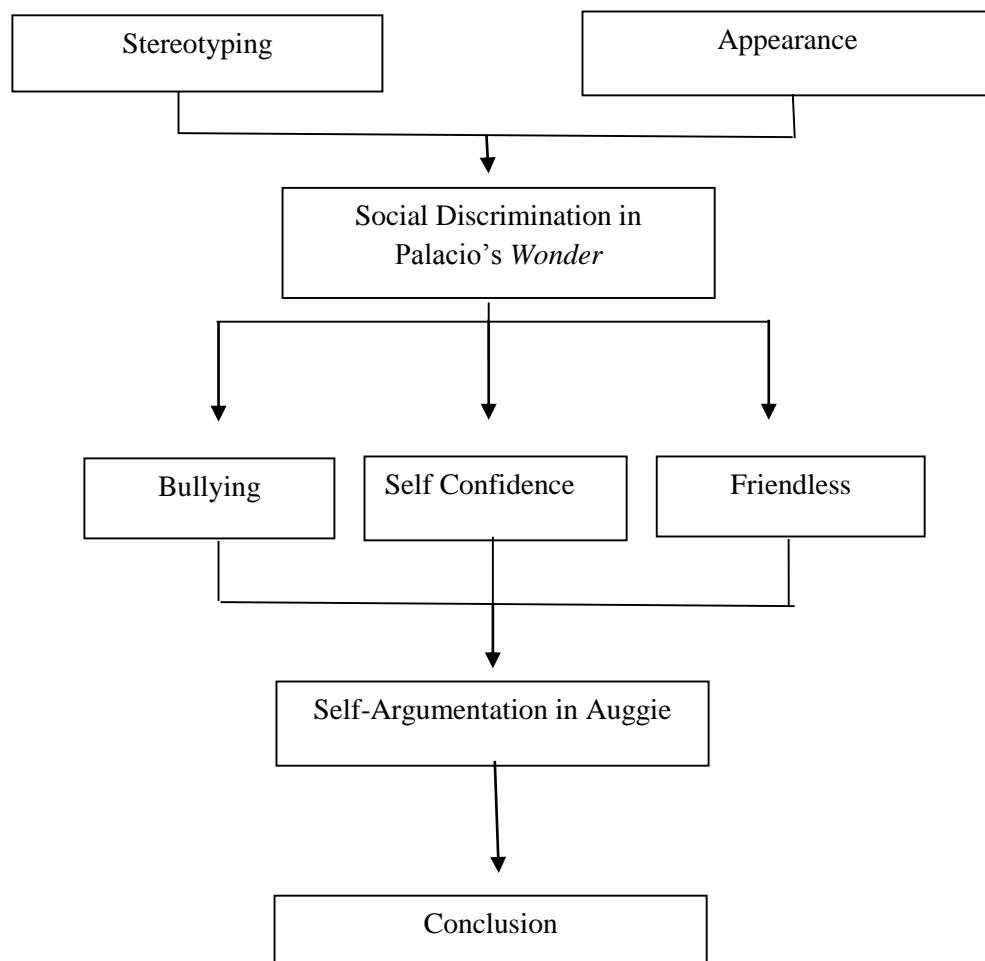


Figure 2.1 Diagram of Analysis

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In this last chapter of my research, I will present the conclusion after conducting the study. It points out the main idea from the previous chapters that have been discussed. Besides, I also provide some suggestions for the English Department students and the next researchers who want to conduct research in literature related to the problem of this study.

#### 5.1 Conclusions

After I completed the analysis of the *Wonder* novel using the Structuralism approach, I found several conclusions as follows,

*Wonder* novel presents about stereotyping of physical appearance that happens to people who have a physical disability. It results social discrimination of the people with disability around society. August Pullman or Auggie as the main character in this novel who has physical disability tried to facing up the stereotype from society. Until he got a satisfactory result that makes him became a stronger and wonderful boy. He has broken people's stereotypes about physical appearance. He proves that everybody must get a happy life, no matter who they are and what they look like. That what we see is not necessarily the same as what we think. Physical appearance cannot determine someone's personality. So, if you meet people with abnormal physical conditions, do not rush to judge them based on

physical, you must be kind to everyone regardless of physical, social conditions, or race, and religion.

This novel is analyzed by using the concept of structure in Ferdinand de Saussure's structuralism. The structuralism approach which I use is centered on the concept of sign, which is signified and signifier. There are cause and effects behind the stereotype of physical appearance that I found from the novel by using this approach. Firstly, physical appearance is the first thing that created a stereotype toward people who has physical disability, it's all about appearance vs personality, good vs bad, superior vs inferior, kind vs rude, and ordinary vs extraordinary. The social structure of this novel is dominated by the people who have a normal physical. They usually put their impressions based on their appearance only and make any kind of stereotype, without any desire to get know more about people's personalities. On the other hand, people who get those stereotype is struggling to get a normal life like other people.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

After I analyze this novel, I would like to recommend you to read this *Wonder* novel. It might not entertain people as another novel could do, but it gives us real pictures of how social discrimination experienced by disabled children. There are some things that you will get from this novel. One of the important things that I get from this novel is being kind to everybody regardless physical conditions. Don't judge a book by its cover is one of the idioms that must be used in real life. As a social being, we must avoid judging people based on physical appearance, because we don't know about their life struggles and their personality.

Hopefully, this research can be useful for the readers, especially the students from the English Department who will analyze a topic related to this research. I hope that this research can be used as a reference for those who will discuss stereotype of physical appearance and social discrimination or those who will conduct research by using Ferdinand de' Saussure's structuralism as the approach.

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