

“Let Me In”

Several times I watched a Korean reality show “Let Me In” in my TV cable, I felt like I was attending the show and my heart was melting to see how a person’s life can change through the beauty makeovers via plastic surgery. “Let Me In” is a TV program that gives free plastic surgery to patients/participants. There are thousands of applicants who are eager to be chosen as one of the patients to be operated. He/she will be selected by the doctors who will decide which applicant needs surgery. Despite making the patient reborn, this makeover program has raised controversies among viewers and audiences in the world, including Indonesian audiences who only watch the program through their TV cable.

The title of the program “Let Me In” has self explanation. First, it suggests that the applicants of the program want to be admitted to be ‘in’ the show. The applicants of “Let Me In” propose a request to enter the program. Therefore, when one of the applicants is chosen to be in, the surgeons will change the applicant’s appearance to be a more beautiful person. He/she will be reborn into a completely different person. This leads to the connotation of the second suggestion of the words “Let Me In”. The word ‘Me-In’ means a beauty in Korean language. So, the reborn person will be metamorphosed into a beauty. This is interesting, in my opinion, as the plastic surgery makes the chosen person a new individual both physically and psychologically. However, I see that there is a strong bond between his/her new appearance with his/her psychology.

In several shows of “Let Me In”, I learnt that before the surgery, life has been hard and harsh for the people who have deformities. In one episode a guy has never come out of his room because he feels that he is not worth living with his ugly body and face. Even, he does not want to talk to his parents because he seems to blame his parents for his ugliness. He is very unhealthy because he only stays, eats and sleeps without other activities inside his rooms. I remember a Latin phrase *‘mens sana in corpora sano’* which is usually translated as ‘a healthy mind in a healthy body’. This guy is for sure not healthy in his mind. Yet, his life starts sparkling when “Let Me In” changes his body and face. He gains his self confidence, and he builds a new relationship with his parents. From this example, I learn that “Let Me In” not only develops a person bodily but it also spiritually raises his courage to face the people who once he avoids. This is the turning point in which a human being is reborn through the bond of his body and soul. Besides, I believe that through the unity of body and soul, a person becomes a living man, whole and entire.

However, despite the success of the program “Let Me In”, some viewers think that this show has made young people have the obsession of beauty. Whether this is true or not I learn that some young girls in the world including Indonesian girls, have dreamt of going to Korea to have

plastic surgery. While in “Let Me In” the self-esteem of the deformed patient has been improved through the surgery, those girls have only one purpose: to be more stunning with their new looks, which is unnecessary. Even, they do not have physical defects. So, interestingly “Let Me In” has been criticized for the cause of the girls’ craze of beauty. Constantly the program is accused of having some hidden agendas such as promoting plastic surgery, bringing a person’s life to commodity, and increasing the rating of the TV cable. On the other hand, the controversy has made the program so popular that it is produced again and again.

Despite those controversies on “Let Me In”, in my opinion, the program has made a breakthrough, especially in rotating one’s miserable life into a joyful one. What else is more honorable than raising the dignity of a person? A patient who has been suffering because of his/her physical defects has been refined into a special, distinctive, and ‘living’ personage. Yes, he/she has a new living, different from their previous being. “Let Me In” has transformed not only the appearance of the people but also their confidence. Here, one’s good looking corresponds with one’s inner quality. The way of thinking, feeling, and behaving is positively actualized when beauty emerges. Therefore, I personally support the program to be continued so that more and more deformed and hopeless people will be able to go out of their shells and face the world without fear.

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