



Beauty of Zombies and the Field of Plastic Surgeries

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Abstract

The opposing concepts of health and illness are driving the medico-social research community and also affecting the image people construct of themselves and others since ages. The binary of beauty and monstrosity also runs parallel to the former pair. The advances and virulence of cosmetic surgeries globally have created new normative standards to be achieved. Zombie bodies are depicted as cinematic metaphors of illness and monstrosity and as pawns working under the authoritative gaze of the medico-political section that has the advantage of information-power-knowledge. In this paper, these defunct bodies have been differently repositioned here and will be seen as consenting human subjects with a desire to achieve a bodily ideal which has been made realistic by medico-surgical advances and their politico-social redefinition. The narrative tragedy lies in their failure to achieve the desired result post-surgery and their physical-material reconstruction as 'incomplete' versions of their previous selves. This idea of medical science promising more than what it can deliver has been argued in the present paper, alongside Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD). The paper discusses the equivalence of this virulently popular desire for surgical modification to the cinematic process of zombification. The zombification process which from its supernatural origin turned to medically-aided transformation has been studied here. This extended correlation has been read as one of the many types of viral behavioural traits prevalent in society. The idea for the present paper came from a personal interpretation of the South Korean web series Kingdom (2019) released on Netflix in two seasons.

Keywords: Viral Behaviour, Zombie, Cosmetic Surgery, Normativity, Monstrous Body.