



Definition Of Beauty

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I still remember how often I will hear the term ‘beauty’ or ‘beautiful’ as a child. The term would be used to describe everything from a person to an object or even an experience. If someone asked me to define beauty in my childhood, I might have struggled to define it but I would still have known it has a positive meaning and I know it when it see it somewhere. As I have grown and as my knowledge has increased, I am now better able to explain what beauty is.

One way to explain beauty is something that positively appeals to one or more of our five senses. I would, especially, like to use my personal experiences in the gym to use this example. Sometime ago, I was not satisfied with my physique but I did believe it was possible to make it more beautiful through exercise. Thus, I joined gym and after three years of hard work, my physique improved. Now as I would look at my physique in the mirror. It would positively appeal to my sense of vision. It other words, it would appear beautiful to my eyes. Similarly, as I would touch my bicep to check for muscle and fat, I would feel good at loss of fat and improved muscle definition. One can say my new physique didn’t only look beautiful but also felt beautiful.

Beauty could also be defined as a benchmark for attractiveness. This benchmark may be personal in nature or it may have been created by a popular culture. When we see classical actresses like Marilyn Monroe, we think they were beautiful. This is because her body shape was close to an ideal hourglass figure. Similarly, when we think of ideal men heights in my country, the desired height of most men is close to 6 feet. Thus, any guy who is around 6 feet may be considered beautiful because his height is close to the height benchmark for men in my culture.



Beauty could also be defined as something that stands apart from the rest. One could say cars from Mercedes and BMW have attractive looks. But if they are parked next to a Ferrari or Lamborghini, a BMW or Mercedes may appear as average. In this case, the viewer's definition of a beautiful car may be a Ferrari and Lamborghini because Ferrari and Lamborghinis stand apart from others. They have unique looks and it is not every day one spots a Ferrari or a Lamborghini on the road. Similarly, Mercedes and BMW may be considered more beautiful in an emerging country like India than in the U.S. because it is not as common for Indians to spot a Mercedes on the road as it may be for an American to spot a Mercedes on the road.

Beauty may also be understood as the act of improving. There is a reason cosmetic products are often called beauty products and why beauty is a multi-billion dollar business (Newman, 2010). The general idea is that a beauty product helps a person improve his/her looks and appeal. The importance of beauty continues to grow in modern times as demonstrated by the fact that even a significant proportion of men also use grooming products in the hope such products may enhance their beauty appeal. Mintel, a market research company, estimates 63 percent of guys between the age of 25 and 34 use a moisturizer (Hrabi, 2014).

Beauty can also be defined as desirable. I have heard some of my female friends saying actress Angelina Jolie has beauty lips and face shape. In other words, they say Angelina Jolie has lips and face shape that are desired by many women. This definition of beauty makes sense because we normally use the word 'beauty' for things we won't mind having ourselves. When I used to think athletes have beautiful bodies, I also desired to have bodies like them, hence, my motivation to join gym and work hard to lose fat as well as build muscles.



Beauty is not only used to describe features or characteristics that can be directly observed but also those that are not immediately apparent. In other words, beauty may be used to habits or personality traits that are not visible. For example, I may say Pope Francis has a beautiful character. Pope Francis character is not immediately clear to someone who may not know who Pope Francis is. But those who have been following his rule, may get an idea of his personality over time. If they agree with what Pope Francis preaches or how he lives, they may claim Pope Francis has a beautiful character.

Beauty is also sometimes used to define extraordinary thing. One of the sports I love and play is soccer and I often hear the term beauty when describing special players like Messi and Ronaldo or special plays during a match such as long-distance goal. In this case, the use of the term reminds the audience they have just seen something which doesn't come often and which is in its own league. After all, goals happen in almost every soccer match but long-distance beautiful goals happen only once in a while.

It is clear beauty is a word with a great number of uses in the English language. Depending upon the context, beauty may mean something that appeals to one or more of our five senses, it may refer to a certain benchmark, it may define something that stands out, it may refer to something desirable, and similarly it may also be used to describe things that are not immediately apparent but can be observed or known over time.