

EVOLUTION OF THE PRESENTATION OF FEMININE CHARACTER IN THE MODERN VERSIONS OF FAIRY TALES

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Introduction

A fairy tale is a poetic creation that draws its inspiration from the collective memory. This design is adapted and updated according to the place, culture and time in which it is expressed. Although the story is primarily a form of entertainment it also has a psychological function. The female figures from fairy tales mainly expose this psychological process and leave us nostalgic memories. They express some archetypes and classical contents which fall within the feminine principle. However the most heard and entertained fairy tales are presently accessible in modern versions enveloped in films.

In this research paper the researcher tries to study the presentation of the concept of women in the modern versions of fairy tales. This can be viewed as a feminist or psychological study.

Methodology

The author intends to analyze the feminine character who is the main character of the fairy tales. We have

taken two versions of the fairy tales: the original and the modern version of them presented in films. Thus, the problem statement can be put as "Is there an evolution in the presentation of the feminine character in the modern versions of the fairy tales?" In order to unravel the question the author has selected three modern films based on the fairy tales: "A Cinderella story, Snow White and Huntsman" and intends to do a comparative analysis of them with their original versions. There the representation of the feminine character is minutely studied. It is important to mention that the author has referred the French versions of the fairy tales in order to get the original versions of them.

Discussion

In the field of literature especially among fairy tales, women have become idols. Even if the fairy tales brings out a soft image using women as princesses, storytellers do not hesitate to penalize the image of women to have a history that holds up. "Man" thus represents intelligence, perfection and goodness while the woman

personifies evil, negativity and danger. In fact, the male can dominate, rule, control, and maneuver the female. When we speak about the ancient times, the legacy of the woman must undergo long periods of suffering, resignation and ignorance, where the woman did not even have access to culture. The place of women in the society confines to a role of mother and wife thus, she becomes physically, financially and socially dependent. Specially, she is subjected to the destiny which she did not choose. The woman is not elevated to inherent dignity. It belongs to the father first, then the husband. If she dares to rebel, she is divorced, locked and banished from the society. This situation is clearly depicted by the storytellers by choosing a woman as the main character of their fairy tales. There are varieties of examples that are used to the negative portrayal of women. But, do the modern directors also exhibit an undesirable depiction of woman?

In the story of "Cinderella", written by Charles Perrault (1697), we can see that Cinderella is depicted as an emblem of innocence, submissiveness and servitude. She becomes, in a way, dehumanized by the step-mother and step-sisters and undergoes timidly and silently to this brutality. She is always supported by the supernatural powers. Apart from that she cannot stand alone. On the contrary, the film "A Cinderella story" by Mark Rosman brings out a woman who is apt for the current society. She does not have help from anyone but she herself tries her best to achieve her dreams. She is multitasking hard worker. At the end she proves that a woman can stand alone if she works

vehemently to succeed her personal and professional life.

The story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs straight out of a fairy tale there a young girl who longs for a better future, dreams of love and freedom. But before that dreams do come true, Snow White has to confront with many difficulties. Her step-mother being jealous forces her to leave her home. Thus, Snow White submits to his fate passively, despite their legitimate rights as a princess. Finding refuge with the dwarfs, she demonstrates her expertise in terms of holding a house. Briefly, it is the expected role of the wife of typical house. However, when we look at the new version of Snow White "Snow White and the Huntsman" movie directed by Rupert Sanders we can see that it brings us to a different perspective. In fact it changes the traditional way of representation of women. Of course, as the director also makes this film based on the tale, he has seen the main character in a separate mind. "Snow white" in the modern version is educated. It is governed by a specific know-how and do not hesitate to watch for his benevolence. Although it is attached by her childlike friend "William" is not depended on him. She did not expect to find a prince and restore his life but tries to escape her stepmother and launches battle against the armies of his stepmother malicious. At the end she becomes the princess defeating all events. Thus we can see that the woman is presented as more independent than her traditional gesture.

Conclusion

Having studied the modern versions of the fairy tales, we can see that there is a gradual change and evaluation on the presentation of the feminine character. Of course, abandoning the old ways of thinking the modern films on fairy tales develop a new social related progress. With the complexities in time, modern women whose demands are high have the ambitions to match the efforts which they obligate to achieve their dreams. It is evident that women are now masters of their lives. Freedom leads to self-responsibility and as a

consequence the conscience compels women to be always in action and to have a fighting spirit to claim the stay in the standard of the "ideal woman."

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