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RESEARCH ARTICLE

CHILDREN'S DREAMS: READING BEYOND THE IDOLIZED DISNEY'S KING AND PRINCE.

Andra Fakhrian.

College of Languages, Department of English Literature, Sultan Agung Islamic University, Semarang, Indonesia.

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Abstract

Disney's *the Little Mermaid* (1989), and *the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005) exert a certain message in illustrating a gender role. The Prince Peter, and the King Triton become the center characters to be analyzed in this research. The essence of 'happily ever after' in both movie tends to direct children focused to the Disney's highlighted characters and portrayed as good as possible. The good characters as portrayed on the movie may lead them become children's idolized characters. Thus, the idolized characters are well significant to contribute to the successful of Disney's doctrine toward children by its message. Masculinity is a concern to this literary research. This literary research applies the gender roles approach, and use the descriptive qualitative research. Moreover, as a result, the influence of 'happily ever after' to the reflection of masculinity traits as portrayed by Prince Peter and King Triton may lead children to react the same as their idolized characters in the real world.

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Introduction:-

Beyond the once upon a time to happily ever after, Disney exerts a certain doctrine toward children's dreams. The King and the Prince become the center characters in this research. *The Little Mermaid* (1989), and *the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (2005) conduct a few scenes which may potentially embody children to imitate their idolized characters. Either Prince Peter, or King Triton presents a strong gender role, which is masculinity. Peter, the Prince in Disney's *the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* embraces a strength and great leadership in leading his alliances to battle to the Evil Queen. So do King Triton, a King in *The Little Mermaid* who images the physical strength, and wise in protecting, and taking care of the kingdom indicates what the man should be like. Thus, the both products of Walt Disney production act as a catalyst to the masculinity doctrine toward children. Children are as target of consumerism. Walt Disney Film as "media has a contribution to exaggerate the social culture into a popular" (Murwantono, 2012). Furthermore, the set of 'happily ever after' in frame of the King and the Princes derive the movie value about the masculinity traits. Hence, this literary research examines those influences toward children's dreams.

The Nature of happily ever after in Disney movie has a profound meaning about telling children explicitly through the movie values. Thus, as children mostly take either a good character, or a hero to be the idolized characters, children tend to react the same, and being obsessed to their idolized characters. Moreover, Disney sets the 'happily ever after' intends to derive the movie values which represent by the center character who well takes the children's attention in the very first place. One scholar believes that the set of a 'happily ever after' may help the movie to direct children to the movie values:

Corresponding Author:-Andra Fakhrian.

Address:-College of Languages, Department of English Literature, Sultan Agung Islamic University, Semarang, Indonesia.

When viewing Disney films, children observe some characters being rewarded for their actions while other characters are punished for theirs. If a character in a Disney film is rewarded for his or her behavior the child may choose to perform a similar behavior in order to also get rewards; however, if a character is punished for his or her behavior, the child may choose not to model that behavior (Hibbeler 24).

Moreover, the children's dreams to the rewarded characters may highly increase because of the use of 'happily ever after' by Disney. Though Disney tends to build a self-driven for children to achieve the Disney's movie messages through the portrayal of some heroes' scene.

This literary research exerts the qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative research studies behavior in natural settings or uses people's accounts as data; usually no manipulation of variables (Hancock, Ockleford, and Windridge 6). As follows, it points to the records which are mainly taken from the novel. Likewise, since the characters to be scrutinized dealing with children's dream, and Disney's happily ever after, It correspondingly takes secondary resources from film studies articles, thesis in order to provide a comprehensive understanding on the characters.

Disney's Message: the Reflection of Masculinity Traits in Prince Peter:-

Besides focusing on Princess Characters, Disney also well portrays the characters of Princes in a few movies. DuGAR says, the prominent theme in Disney movies is about gender roles (22). May also states that "Gender construction in Disney princess films remains important because of the messages it sends to children" (3). Thereof, in Disney's *the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Prince Peter seems able to lead the Narnia's army to fight against the Evil Queen. While Aslan is gone, Prince Peter bestows to be the leader and gives an order to combat all badness (00:31:38). Here, it clearly reflects that the roles of man as a leader, and protecting the citizen describe what man should be like. The gender role who represents by Prince Peter may potentially give children the information of the man's role as it is. Though, through the idolized character which usually becomes the center character in 'happily ever after', children tend to have a better memorial in recalling the play acts from their idolized character.

After watching, usually children tend to remember the movie scenes of their idolized characters and act them in the real world. "They are simply called fairy tales for the fact that they are something you can dream of and hope for" (Sawyer 2). Underlining the focus of masculinity, Peter also represents the nature of man's feeling. When Prince Edmund back to the family in Narnia after leaving the family for a long time period because of being influenced by the Witch Queen, Prince Peter remains calm and forgivable (00:53:36). These images that the man portrays by unemotional, and act wisely. Henceforth, children tend to understand the nature, or the roles of man directly which is given by movie.

Still, as portrayed that the Disney movies explicitly derive a gender role, which is masculinity, the captured scenes by children's idolized character may influence children to implicate the same in reality. One scholar certainly believes that the heroes' character in portraying their attitudes may lead boy, and men to a belief that the spotlight is ours for the taking (Leek, 2013). Thus, Peter conveys the image of hero as he defends his brother, Prince Edmund from the Witch Queen who tries to kill him (02:22:52). And so, while children witness the scene which conduct the essence of heroism, children tend to know the nature of man who gives protection, defend themselves and family later from villain. Hence, the movie doctrine leads children to absorb the view of lesson in the movie as reflected by the casts.

Disney's Message: the Image of Man in King Triton:-

As 'the happily ever after' always images the good characters, or heroes as good as possible. King Triton contributes a certain parts in Disney's *the Little Mermaid* until at the end of the movie about giving protection towards Ariel. Still, a research reveals the significant influences of media to persuade children:

Young people could be persuaded to think a certain way from the things they watch on the television. The representations of race and gender within the media affect the viewers whether through stereotypes or ideals to live up too. This is because the media is seen to play a significant role in offering a socializing influence on the attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of its audience (qtd. In Sawyer 5).

Thus, King Triton reflects the maternity and also his protection to Ariel from the Ursula, the Evil Queen, and the human (00:13:03). The roles of man in protecting woman reflects by the attitudes of King Triton. However, the behavior of King Triton also relies to a homely wisdom that children should know in family they need to take a look

for each other. The evident images the masculinity is about physical appearance of man. Hibbeler describes what it means to be a man that assumption of masculinity by pointing out to the male bodies (qtd. In Hibbeler 33). Moreover, on the movie, King Triton illustrates by a muscle man, having big biceps, abs, and strong (00:03:58).

Illustrating about man is not only from the attitude and the emotion. Children need to know about the physical appearance. It is significant to tell children that man is different to woman. Though, the body, and the strong of man also influence his role in performing himself. Thus, Disney intends to give a brief illustration of man as an education for teaching character of children based on their gender.

“Research has shown fairy tales may help to shape a child’s view of the world”. (Hecht 1). Hence, the movie has a potentially role to teach children through the movie values that are highly reflected. King Triton finally lets his high protection go and gives advice to Ariel because at the end of the story Ariel decides to live with human (01:17:39). This tells children to learn about compassion. Sometimes man tends to look straight, this movie inserts a value of compassion through male character as King Triton understands Ariel’s willingness to be a human. However, the essence of masculine does not only describe by a physic, but also a feeling and love. Those also represent masculinity in man which man may remain professional and intellectual to support other people’s decision as King Triton lets Ariel go.

Conclusion:-

The nature of ‘happily ever after’ directs children to the center of characters. Indirectly, children take those center characters as their idolized character because of the casts. Hence, Prince Peter and King Triton who are the main characters to be analyzed in this research in line with a gender role, which is masculinity. As a result, to obtain the movie lessons, Disney has highly successful efforts in deriving the messages through characters. Thus, children are indirectly being doctrine, and get some significant information from the movie. Furthermore, as stated on the analysis that children tend to react with the same as their idolized characters, the Disney’s happily ever after act as an example or a mirror to further implication in reality.

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