

THE PORTRAYAL OF GENDER STEREOTYPES SEEN IN CHARACTER GRIMM'S *MOTHER HULDA* AND *SNOW WHITE*

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Abstract

In this research, the researchers discuss short stories by Grimm's Brother, entitled *Mother Hulda* and *Snow White*. It is aimed to identify gender stereotypes seen in character Grimm's *Mother Hulda* and *Snow White*. This research focuses on the whole of the story and characters. The data obtained through some dialogue, narrations, and events in the short stories which are correlated with gender stereotypes issue. A Gender studies is used to identify the problem. Gender studies are constructed statement to mean that being female and being a woman are two different things. West and Zimmerman stated gender is something natural having to do with our sex, is really out come of socially organized activities. Based on the research, there are some gender stereotypes that can be found in all characters inside the story. It is shown that the male has bigger role or dominant side in fairy tale. In the story, a male is characterized as strong, always right, beauty lover, and ideal hero. In other hand, female in the story characterized as feminine, passive, distracted, and should take men's advice on all subjects.

Key words: Gender Stereotypes, Grimm's *Mother Hulda* and *Snow White*.

INTRODUCTION

Gender is the biological division of sex into male and female (Kardiansyah, 2017), but it involves the division and social valuation of masculinity what society deems appropriate behaviour for a "man" and femininity what society deems appropriate behaviour for a "woman". And in the other words, according to (Chavez, 2000) gender is a concept that humans create socially, through their interactions with one another and their environments, it relies heavily upon biological differences between males and females. Because humans create the concept of gender socially, actually gender is referred to as a social construction (I. Sinaga, 2017). The social construction of gender is demonstrated by the fact that individuals, groups (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021), (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020), (Karal et al., 2017), (Sari & Putri, 2019), (Pustika, 2021), and societies ascribe particular traits, status (Fitri et al., 2020), or values to individuals purely because of their sex, yet these ascriptions differ across societies and cultures, and over time within the same society.

This paper is examining some of the messages portrayed to children through the fairy tales inside the stories (MULIYAH et al., 2021). Especially about gender inside the characters

that portrayed in the short stories (Kardiansyah, n.d.), (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), (Amelia, 2021), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). Gender stereotypes are very influential in the fairy tales stories. They affect conceptualizations of Maleness and femaleness are not biological given, but rather the result of a long historical process. In each historic epoch maleness and femaleness are differently defined, the definition depending on the principal mode of production in those epochs. It means that as female or male grow; commonly they learn how to behave from those around them.

In this socialization process, female and male are introduced to certain roles that are typically to their biological sex. Maleness and femaleness are referring to the society concept of how men and women are expected to act and how they should behave in the society of the places. And the way females and males behave has different roles as a gender women and men and establish social categories for gender. These categories represent what people think, and even when beliefs vary from reality, the beliefs can be very powerful forces in judgments of self and others. Therefore, the history (Lennon, 2008), structure (Kuswoyo, 2016), (Rido et al., 2017), and function of stereotypes are important topics in understanding the impact of gender on people who are usually in stereotyped way especially in the fairy tales stories especially about male and female inside the stories.

The cultural norms represented in fairy tales play a large part in the socialization processes of the child who reads them. Contained within these cultural norms are the shared beliefs about gender roles held by the child's society it is why the researchers uses sociological approach to reveal the gender role inside the stories. Sociology is a science which is study about the interpretive understanding of social action to arrive at a casual explanation of its course and effects. Sociology commonly discuss about formulate type concepts and generalized uniformities of the processes in the places.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender Studies

To be able to write an essay or to understand more about gender, one has to be able to make a difference between the two terms sex and gender. Sex refers to the biological features and characteristics which define men and women, while gender refers to what society considers masculine or feminine (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), for instance roles,

behaviour (Kuswanto et al., 2020), activities (Zenissa et al., 2020), (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), (Sari, n.d.), (Ayu, 2019), (Apriyanti & Ayu, 2020) and attributes. The notion of sex does not vary much between different parts of the world while the notion of gender may vary a lot. For instance knitting and taking care of children may be seen as something belonging to the feminine gender in one culture but not at all that gender specific in another. All the same, men have male genitals, deeper voices and are often more muscular than women because of the biological differences between the gender.

Gender Streotypes

A gender stereotype consists of beliefs about the psychological traits and characteristics of, as well as the activities appropriate to, men or women (Sucipto & Bandung, 2016). Gender roles are defined by behaviors, but gender stereotypes are beliefs (Mandasari, 2016), (Mulyah & Aminatun, 2020), (Mandasari, n.d.), (Berlinda, 2015) and attitudes (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021), (R. R. F. Sinaga & Pustika, 2021), (Puspaningtyas & Ulfa, 2021) about masculinity and femininity. The concepts of gender role and gender stereotype tend to be related. When people associate a pattern of behavior with either women or men, they may overlook individual variations and exceptions and come to believe that the behavior is inevitably associated with one gender but not the other. Therefore, gender roles furnish the material for gender stereotypes. Gender stereotypes are very influential they affect conceptualizations of women and men and establish social categories for gender. These categories represent what people think, and even when beliefs vary from reality, the beliefs can be very powerful forces in judgments of self and others, as the headline story for this chapter showed. Therefore, the history, structure, and function of stereotypes are important topics in understanding the impact of gender on people's lives.

Concept of Fairy Tale

Since this research is mostly about fairy tale which contains the traditional gender role, it is important to give further understanding about it deeper. (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Lennon, 2008) Literary genre that is a tale or legend originating and traditional among a people or folk, especially forming part of the oral tradition of the common people. Any belief or story passed on traditionally, especially one considered to be false or based on superstition. Myths, tall tales, legends, fables, and fairy tales are all folk tales. In common fairy tale is a tale about elves, dragons, hobgoblins, sprites, and other fantastic magical

beings set vaguely in the distant past (“once upon a time”). Fairy tales include shape-shifting spirits with mischievous temperaments, superhuman knowledge, and far reaching power to interfere with the normal affairs of humanity. Other conventions include magic, charms, disguises, talking animals, and a hero or heroine who overcomes obstacles to “live happily ever after.”

METHOD

Here the researchers uses library research and descriptive qualitative research. Both methods are used by the researchers to find out the data and information from some books that closely related to the analysis. Library research is the method of making this paper by collecting, reading, and analyzing the data that relates to the research. Library research is the study which uses the library data or literature data which commonly found in library. Meanwhile, qualitative descriptive research is the method to solve the problem or phenomena that exists in the research. Qualitative descriptive studies have as their goal a comprehensive summary of events in the everyday terms of those events. And makes this paper by collect and analyze the data. By this data, the researchers has data sources that are fairy story entitled Mother Hulda and Snow White which is collected in novel entitled *Children's and Household Tales* by Brother Grimm. This data source is the main information which is used by the researchers to analyze the reaserch. The data is taken from data source to be analyzed. Meanwhile, data would be used by the researchers are narrations and dialogues that portrait the gender role seen in both Brother Grimm’s short story entitled Mother Hulda and Snow White.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Elements of Fairy Tale in Grimm’s Mother Hulda

Magical Meadow

Mother Hulda is opened with a story of young Cinderella who live with an ugly-step sister and step-mother. She is becoming a servant to her step mother and sister. One day, Cinderella falls down the well into a strange underworld which is called as magical meadow. In this meadow, an ugly old woman live, named Mother Hulda as seen in the quotation as followed:

The girl went back to the well not knowing what to do, and at last in her distress she jumped into the water after the spindle...She remembered nothing more until she awoke and found herself in a beautiful meadow, full of sunshine, and with countless flowers blooming in every direction. (Grimm's 1812- page 112)

Fairy element has been felt since the beginning of the story of Mother Hulda. Here, after falling into a well because taking spinner. Cinderella woke up in a beautiful meadow miraculously. Here incidence of mysteries has made Cinderella goes into another dimension. The dimensions of the mother Hulda located. The events occurred beyond reason. For example, how can Cinderela is sinking in deep wells could be ended up in a beautiful meadow.

The readers are invited to use their imagination by Grimm brothers. Through description, readers who incidentally is the kids will go to a new world. A world where the residence of Mother Hulda. A fairy godmother who will give gifts to all the good that has been done. Mother Hulda resides somewhere above the earth, and the protagonists must go to her, paradoxically by diving into a spring. Grimm brothers awoken the readers desire to travel beyond oneself, to experience a different life for a time, even if only for the length of a story, is universal. Fairy tales favor imagination and fantasy over logic and reason. When the girl loses the spindle and is thus unable to go on working, she runs to her step-mother, but the woman gives her the cold shoulder and makes her fend for herself. By being forced to become independent the girl finds happiness in the end.

Male Gender Streotypes in Grimm's *Mother Hulda* and *Snow White*

Male characters are depicted in active roles of adventurers and leaders whereas female characters are portrayed in passive roles of companions and helpers. It seems that the only lead male character present in this fairy tale who is, at the same time always be a dominant side. many main male characters present in the story who plays the significant part and who is crucial for unfolding the story tha would discussed in followed subjects.

Dominant Side

In fairy tales which proved that male characters are portrayed in a positive and active way to a large extent As the powerfull side, men has bigger role in determining who will be

married next. While beauty is often rewarded, lack of beauty is punished. It is seen in the quotation as followed:

“Cock-a-doodle-doo! Your dirty daughter’s come back to you.” But, try what she would, she could not get the pitch off and it stuck to her as long as she lived. She would never get married because of it. (Grimm’s 1812 - Page 116)

Based on the story above, the reader would understand that actually being bad and lazy is not good for women future. It because that men will not choose them as ideal woman. They would not their own happy ending because those behaviour. By, this story the children get more understanding of how a normative feminine beauty ideal is maintained through cultural products such ways in which as fairy tales. beauty's significance in children’s fairy tales can gender, power, and provide insight into the dynamic relationship between culture, as well as the cultural and social significance of beauty to women’s lives.

Female Gender Streotypes in Grimm’s *Mother Hulda* and *Snow white*

Brother Grimm’s *The Household Stories* might be created almost hundred years ago but Stone argues that it is obvious that this text is a product of the time in which it was written because of the messages it sends to young female readers of fairy tales. The fairy tales present subtle stereotypes that send distinct messages about what women meant to society at the time in terms of their roles and the ideas about gendered.

Helpless Creature

“Once upon a time there was a widow who had two daughters; one of them was beautiful and industrious, the other ugly and lazy. The mother, however, loved the ugly and lazy one best, because she was her own daughter, and so the other, who was only her stepdaughter, was made to do all the work of the house, and was quite the Cinderella of the family.” (Grimm’s 1812 -Page 113)

Cinderella is represented as a poor, defenceless girl who is abused, humiliated, and finally forced to become a servant in her own house. She must obey her stepmothers and stepsisters commands and take care of the household, she is in charge of cleaning and keeping the household. It seems that a girl cannot merit a happy life or a happy ending without being a servant, captured or working very hard, she has to deserve it. In general,

based on the facts stated above, you have to experience something very bad to be rewarded, as in Cinderella's case, you have to suffer and be treated as a slave.

CONCLUSION

The researchers concludes that male character's gender streotypes is dominant side as reflected in Mother Hulda. Male has bigger role in determining who will be married next. Male character also described as strong, always right, beauty lover, and ideal hero in Snow White. The dwarfs serving as strong and always right characteristic in the story, is the protector and is the one who will be right in the end. This creates the idea that women do not know what they are talking about and are distracted and should take men's advice on all subjects. Male also decribed as beauty lover characters along the story of *Snow White*.

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