

Gender Revolution in The Princess and the Frog : Prince Charming? No, Thank You!

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Abstract

This article aims to investigate the process of deconstruction and reconstruction of gender roles in the Disney animated film *The Princess and the Frog* (2009). The evolution of the main female figure in parallel with the resizing of the main male character is set out through a comparative analysis with 'classic Disney' films (see Pallant 2010) revolving around two common narrative elements: the search for true love and the happy ending. Based on these selection criteria, the Disney films *Snow White* (1937), *Cinderella* (1950), *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) and *The Little Mermaid* (1989) were compared to *The Princess and the Frog*. Seeking to draw up the evolution of female characters and gender-specific contents over time, the paper intends to offer a comparative analysis on the role that Nature plays in Disney's representation of gender in connection to the social and domestic dimensions. The second part of the article intends to explore the cooperation of verbal and nonverbal resources employed for representing gender and social roles in *The Princess and the Frog*. A multimodal approach was adopted to discuss in detail to what extent Disney animation has reshaped stories and characters to keep up with a new awareness of gender roles.