

FEMALE PROTAGONISTS IN TWO CLASSIC FAIRY TALES



Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Master of Arts Degree in English
at Srinakharinwirot University

August 2011

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This study was to analyze the female roles of female protagonists in two classic fairy tales, *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* written by Walt's Disney.

Moreover, the similarities and the differences between these two classic fairy tales were also compared. The concept of a good girl was applied to analyze the female roles in this study.

The result showed that both stories emphasized the concept of "a good girl" in the old days. *Cinderella* and *Snow White*, the female protagonists in *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, were both presented as good girls who were obedient, passive, beautiful and responsible for domestic work. The two fairy tales also showed that a good girl would be finally rewarded with wealth and happy marriage. However, the four characteristics of a good seemed to put in a submissive role. They depended on men and needed assistance from them, In addition, women in the old days had no right to do or think on their own, so what they could do was to follow men's commands.

ตัวละครเอกหญิงในเทพนิยายอมตะ



บทคัดย่อ
ของ
สุทธิรัตน์ รมรัตน์

เสนอต่อบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ เพื่อเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษา

ตามหลักสูตรปริญญาศิลปศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาอังกฤษ

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งานวิจัยชิ้นนี้มีจุดประสงค์ที่จะศึกษาวิเคราะห์บทบาทของตัวละครเอกหญิง ชินเดอเรลลา และ สโนไวท์ ในเทพนิยายอมตะ ซึ่งเขียนในรูปแบบของหนังสือโดย วอลต์ ดิสนีย์ นอกจากนี้ผู้วิจัยได้เปรียบเทียบความเหมือนและความแตกต่างของบทบาทของตัวละครเอกหญิงทั้งสองเรื่อง โดยนำแนวคิดของ “หญิงสาวที่ดี” ของสังคมตะวันตกในอดีตมาวิเคราะห์บทบาทของตัวละครเอกหญิงทั้งสองเรื่อง

ผลการวิจัยพบว่า ตัวละครเอกหญิงทั้งสองเรื่องมีลักษณะของ “หญิงสาวที่ดี” ในอดีต ที่สังคมตะวันตกในอดีตคาดหวังให้ผู้หญิงเป็น นิยายอมตะทั้งสองเรื่องแสดงให้เห็นว่า ชินเดอเรลลาและสโนไวท์มีลักษณะที่เหมือนกัน คือ เชื้อฟิ่ง อ่อนน้อม สวย และอยู่กับบ้านทำงานบ้าน นิยายอมตะทั้งสองเรื่องยังชี้ให้เห็นอีกด้วยว่า “หญิงสาวที่ดี” จะได้รับความสุขสมหวัง ร่ำรวยเงินทอง และมีชีวิตสมรสที่มีความสุขเป็นรางวัลตอบแทน ซึ่งลักษณะทั้งสองอย่างนี้ของ “เด็กดี” ทำให้ผู้หญิงในอดีตมีบทบาทเป็นรองและยอมให้ผู้ชายเป็นผู้นำ ในขณะที่ผู้หญิงเป็นฝ่ายคล้อยตามและคอยรับความช่วยเหลือจากผู้ชาย ไม่มีสิทธิที่จะคิดหรือทำอะไรตามความต้องการของตนเอง และทำตามคำสั่งของผู้ชายเท่านั้น

The Mater's Project Advisor, Chair of the Master of Arts Degree in English, and Oral Defense Committee have approved this Master's Project Female Protagonists in Two Classic Fairy Tales by "Suttirut Romruen" as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in English of Srinakharinwirot University.

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August....., 2011

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Background

There are several definitions of fairy tales. Stories full of magic are called fairy tales (Lurie 125). According to *The World's Best Fairy Tales*, stories in fairy tales take place in a strange world, and something wonderful can happen. People in fairy stories can be transformed into anything which cannot happen in the real world. For example, people are changed into animals or objects and then returned to humans again. In the world of fairy tales, good people will be rewarded. In contrast, bad people will be punished at the end.

In addition, according to the *Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*, a fairy tale is a part of a folk tale. It is an oral story whose origin is not known. Heroes and heroines always face up to the fortunes and misfortunes that they experience in several circumstances. More or less supernatural sort is a part of these events. Finally, a hero and a heroine live happily ever after (324-325). For instance, *Cinderella* in Walt Disney's version, Cinderella strives to finish her tasks which are ordered by her stepmother and stepsisters. Because Cinderella's aim is to marry a charming prince, she wishes to go to a party at the

palace in order to dance with him.

The characteristics of most fairy tales follow the same pattern. According to *Literature for Children: A Short Introduction*, the setting, “once upon a time in a kingdom far, far away land” is a common beginning in fairy tales. The setting of fairy tales define the time and place where animals and trees can talk or personification is used (Russell 158). The plot presents the fortunes and misfortunes of protagonists who experience some adventures, and finally live happily ever after (Russell 159). The plot of a fairy tale illustrates the relationship between a person and a person, or a person and a personified animal such as Little Red Riding Hood and a ferocious wolf in *Little Red Riding Hood*, a princess and a frog prince in *The Frog Prince*, and so on. For the theme, it is about the main characters’ struggle to achieve their goal such as marriage, discovery, adventure, victory and justice (Russell 159-161).

Fairy tales can be a good tool to teach children. Because fairy tales accommodate pleasurable purposes and cultural purposes, morality and values can be taught. According to Lam-Ka Yee, in “Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales,” even though these fairy tales are written long time ago, parents can teach their children virtue and vice because most fairy tales consist of morals, social belief. Similarly, Erin Michelle Christians mentions that fairy tales are necessary for children because parents can teach morals from fairy tales (Christians 5). Therefore, children will learn about morals when they read or listen to fairy tales, and they will

behave in the right ways. Because some problems also occur in the real world, fairy tales can show problems both directly and indirectly and parents can point them out and teach their children. The problems presented in fairy tales are about education, family, abandonment and so on. Generally, what children read are mostly classic fairy tales; therefore, classic fairy tales become popular and valuable sources for young children.

Classic fairy tales refer to the stories that remain alive and have endured from generation to generation. Classic fairy tales are written for both children and adults (Lurie 126). Something magical can happen in classic fairy tales, and classic fairy tales are finally drawn to a happy ending. There are many classic fairy tales in Western countries which are well-known among young children and adults such as *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and so on.

Classic fairy tales are useful for children. They are used as a powerful tool to remind listeners and readers to be aware of the real world because classic fairy tales impart the message about education, history, social problem, that children need to know. Raya A. Jones mentions that classic fairy tales manifest cultural importance (qtd. in Christians 3). In addition, Wolfgang Mieder states that it is clear that social problems have been shown in classic fairy tales from the past to the present (Mieder 91). Then, cultural values and social problems can

be taught through classic fairy tales. As a result, the issues are often presented through classic fairy tales,

the classical fairy tales make it appear that we are part of a universal community with shared values and norms and that we all are striving for the same happiness. (Zipes 5)

Therefore, classic fairy tales become popular and are widely read because classic fairy tales reflect everyday life in the society. That is why young children need classic fairy tales as a tool to learn to become a good citizen.

They were many studies on classic fairy tales. For example, Kay Stone, in “Things Walt Disney Never Told Us,” studies popular collections of classic fairy tales. Her aim is to find out what children gain after reading fairy tales. Another example is Jack Zipes, in “The Splendor of the Arabian Nights,” who analyzes culture in classic fairy tales. He mentions that there are many versions of *The Arabian Night* such as the English version and German version. Different versions present different cultural and social norms. Besides, Jane Elizabeth Kelly, in “Critical Multicultural Analysis of Reconstructed Folk Tales: Rumpelstiltskin is My Name, Power is My Game,” focuses on the power relationship and main characters presented in fairy tales. In this study, Kelly explores how an adjustment of the story links to the power relationship of the characters.

However, there have been an argument among scholars about female roles in classic fairy tales in the old days. Andrea Dworkin claims that our cultural values and understanding of gender roles are modeled by classic fairy tales, which present women as beautiful and passive females while presenting men as active and brave males (qtd. in Haase 3). Similarly, according to *The Allgemeines Landrecht*, female protagonists are depicted as procreators in classic fairy tales. The husband then is the head of the family, and the wife is subject to his power (qtd. in Munder 8). Susan Brownmiller also asserts that classic fairy tales train women to be weak victims (309-310). These scholars think that classic fairy tales present women as inferior in a patriarchal Western society in the old days. Therefore, the scholars disagree with the idea of using classic fairy tales to teach children about female roles and reject the feminine roles in classic stories.

As mentioned above, female protagonists in classic fairy tales are problematic. Therefore, the researcher wants to analyze female roles in classic fairy tales in depth in order to find out how female protagonists are presented through classic fairy tales in the old days. In addition, the researcher wants to substantiate whether classic fairy tales in the old days present women as inferior role. In doing so, the researcher proposes to study the female roles in two classic fairy tales, applying “the concept of a good girl” as a theoretical framework. The two

classic fairy tales include *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which are written by Walt Disney. These two classic fairy tales are chosen because they are popular and are frequently read among young children and adults.

Purposes of the Study

1. To analyze the presentation of female protagonists in two classic fairy tales.
2. To study the similarities and the differences of the presentation of female protagonists in two classic fairy tale.

Significance of the Study

The findings from this study are beneficial to readers and other researchers in four aspects.

1. It helps readers better understand the female roles presented in Walt Disney's classic fairy tales.
2. It helps readers better understand the concept of a good girl presented in Walt Disney's classic fairy tales.

3. It helps readers understand the expectations on women presented in the classic fairy tales.
4. It can be a guideline for further studies on female roles in other classic fairy tales.

Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the presentation of the two female protagonists in two classical fairy tales. They are Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which are retold by Walt Disney in written form.

Definition of Terms

1. **A Fairy Tale** is a story told by words, and no one knows who is the story teller. It is a traditional story written for children. It is a story that is full of heroes, fairies, magic and enchantment.

2. **A good girl** refers to the girl who follows the expectation of the society in the old days. The characteristics of a good girl are being obedient, being passive, being beautiful, and doing domestic work. This theoretical framework is based on Lam Ka Yee.

- 2.1 Obedience is the first merit of a good girl. A good girl should do what she is supposed to do, depending on her parents or her husband.

2.2 Passivity is the most important characteristic of a good girl. A good girl has to accept situations, or things that parents or husbands do without attempting to fight against them. It is very essential for women to be passive and modest.

2.3 Beauty is appearance of a good girl. It is believed that beauty is very important for women because it will attract men at the first sight. A good girl always concerns about her parts of body such as, nose, eyes, hair and so on, since beauty is valuable for women.

2.4 Domesticity is duties of a good girl. A society expects a good girl to do house work, and she has to take care of her husband and her children.

Procedures of the Study

The procedures of this study consisted of:

1. Review of the Related Literature

1.1 Studied *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which were written by Walt Disney

1.2 Studied the concept of a good girl

1.3 Explored related studies on fairy tales

2. Analysis of the texts

The researcher used “The Concept of a Good Girl” as a theoretical framework to analyze the data of the study. In this study, the researcher also used content analysis to analyze the two classic fairy tales, focusing on the four merits of each female protagonist’s characteristics in each story. The researcher would seek for obedience, passivity, beauty, and domesticity of each female protagonist in the stories in order to obtain the findings.

3. Report of Findings

The researcher reported characteristics of each female protagonist in each story. Then, the researcher described the findings of the study after studying the similarities and the differences of the characteristics of female protagonists in these two classic fairy tales.

4. Conclusion and Suggestion for Further Studies

The conclusion of the findings was discussed, and the suggestions were presented for further studies.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

The goal of this study is to explore the presentation of female protagonists in two classic fairy tales. The two classic fairy tales are *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which are written by Walt Disney. The researcher applies “the concept of a good girl” as a theoretical framework to analyze the presentation of the two female protagonists. This chapter consists of an explanation of “the concept of a good girl” and related studies on fairy tales.

2.1 The Concept of a Good Girl

Many theorists discuss a concept of a good girl in the old days. According to Lam Ka Yee’s “Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales,” the common feminine traits were illustrated as a good girl in the old Western classic fairy tales. In the old days, a good girl referred to the girl who follows the expectation of the society. The typical characteristics of a good girl were being obedient, passive, beautiful, and doing domestic work

The first merit of a good girl was obedience. In the old days, it was said that obedience is the ideal characteristic of women in Western culture. As Frances B. Cogan pointed out, in the patriarchal society, truly feminine women had certain natural characteristic as obedience (1). In this society, a father or a husband was the family head whom women had to obey and follow. Because of this value, women were inferior to men, and they depended on male members in their families. For example, a daughter obeyed her father, and a wife obeyed her husband. Women had to follow their parents or their husbands' commands without an argument.

When the head of the family (a father or husband) made a decision on anything, other members in the family were given a chance to express their idea. However, finally they all agreed with the head of the family. (Li 360)

In addition, Katie Curtin asserted that at first a woman lived under her father's control, and then she belonged to her husband after marriage. Finally, she was under the control of her son's power after her husband died (10). According to *Godey's Lady's Book*, "To suffer and to be silent under suffering seemed to be a typical command she had to obey" (110). A Good girl, who always listened to her parents, was supposed to do as her parents told and then would finally be rewarded. On the other hand, a disobedient girl was punished when she did not listen to her parents' commands (Yee 11).

The second merit of a good girl was passivity. In the past, since the society focused on sex that men were more powerful than women, women depended on men. According to *Image of Women in Literature*, a mother and wife represented a woman who was always passive, and the woman who submitted to her husband or father was ideal (11). Passivity was a natural characteristic of daughters and wives (Rosaldo 12). Women were like children because they could not do what they wanted. They had to submit to their husbands. According to *The Young Lady's Book*, western women in the old days had no rights, and their lives belonged to their husband or father; therefore, they had to stay home and lived under men's control (qtd. in Welter 159). A good girl, who was passive and patient, would be rescued. Consequently, women were expected to be passive, since their positions were to encourage, comfort, nurse and obey their husbands (Rosaldo 7). Barbara Welter in "The Cult of True Womanhood," affirmed that passivity was the most feminine merit that men expected women to have (158). According to *The Young Lady's book*, it was believed that women should be passive (qtd. in Welter 159).

Beauty was the third merit of a good girl. According to Lam Ka Yee's "Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales," since a marriage was the goal of women, it was believed that beauty was important for women because beautiful women would attract men at the first sight

(28). That was why females with ordinary outlook would do everything to change their appearance or even body shape in order to attract males (Yee 14). It was beneficial for women if they were beautiful because their beauty could make them succeed in marriage life (Yee 13). Beauty helped women in many ways; for instance, because of beauty, a woman could marry a rich man or a handsome guy. In "Gender and Sexuality," Naomi Wolf states:

A society taught women to focus on beauty because their beauty attracted men. Women had to use their beauty in order to help them look perfect and more attractive to men. While women wanted to be beautiful, men wanted to possess women who embodied beauty. (qtd. in Macionis 357)

According to Susan Sontag's in "Beauty," beauty was beneficial for women because it was believed that beauty was valuable for women. Men always paid attention to beautiful women. This value made women focus on beauty such as, nose, eyes, hair and so on. Then, women were always concerned with their beauty. However, Sontag does not agree with this value. She argues that because women are judged from their beauty, they will focus only on beauty instead of ability (136). In the old days, the society expected women to look good and behave nicely; therefore, women who were beautiful could reach their goal such as a happy marriage and wealth. Beautiful women did not have to do anything in order to be chosen, they would be chosen because of their beauty (Bettelheim 236).

Domesticity was the fourth merit of a good girl. Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo stated that domestic activity was a woman's responsibilities that concerned child care and the house (24). In the past, it was said that women were expected to do all housework because men believed that women had to do this kind of work. For instance, women had to stay home and did all housework. They took care of their husbands and children and waited for the time when their husband would come back home (Rosaldo 3). Barbara Welter in "The Cult of True Womanhood," mentioned that cooking, sewing, washing, cleaning house, and taking care of children were the duties for housewives so that it was no doubt that a woman's good place was the home which needed to be well taken care of. Therefore, it was necessary for a good girl to make home the happiest place in order to make her husband and children come back home instead of elsewhere (163). This hierarchical position suggested a difference of gender roles which male or female belonged to (Yee 17). While men were responsible for public sphere, women lived in the domestic or private sector. Bruno Bettelheim asserted that taking care of the household was the task of a woman to prepare herself before a marriage (254). According to Madonna Kolberschlag, a social stratification was divided separately between the world of work and the world of home:

Men who would busy themselves in the work of the world, would be *autonomous*. Women who would anchor and “manage” the home, would be *supportive* and *dependent*. Their engagement with the world vicarious. (79)

It was believed that women should prepare themselves in domestic work such as cooking, sewing, taking care of their husbands and children, and so on. Then, a happy marriage would come to the women who were perfect and good at domesticity.

To sum up, there were four main qualities of a good girl. As discussed above the characteristics of a good girl were being obedient, passive, beautiful and responsible for domestic work. These characteristics were expected of women in the scope of the old days.

2.2 Related Research on Fairy Tales

This part discussed related studies on fairy tales, and it was divided into six parts. First, there were studies on moral and cultural values. In the article, “Children’s Fairy Tales: Introduction to the Meaning and Function of the Fairy Tale to Children,” an anonymous scholar discussed that popular fairy tales reflected moral values in society and culture. In Grimm’s fairy tales, the messages in *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Snow White*, taught children not to talk or trust strangers. Besides, the messages in fairy tales taught children that no matter what horrible

situations happened, they could succeed if they continued to do good things.

Second, there was an analysis of fairy tales, focusing on social problems. In the article, "WIU Professor Tackles Issues With Fairy Tales," Lori Baker-Sperry asserted that children were able to learn cultural values through fairy tales. However, she said that fairy tales could lead children to the wrong way because messages in fairy tales mostly emphasized the importance of women's bodies and women's attractiveness. This meant that virtue and vileness could be classified from appearance of women which was misleading for young children. Then, the feminine beauty could lead children into social problems such as the association between beauty and goodness or beauty and economic privilege. Therefore, Lori Baker-Sperry mentioned that while children were reading or viewing fairy tales, parents should be with them in order to teach their children what was real and what was just in fairy tales.

Third, there was the study on a fairy tale, focusing on psychological development. Bruno Bettelheim, in "The Struggle for Meaning," analyzed how popular fairy tales affected children. Bettelheim asserted that fairy tales were very fruitful for children. In terms of child's psychological development, Bettelheim mentioned that it was suitable to teach children by using fairy tales because messages in fairy tales such as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Cinderella*, were presented unadulterated violence and sexual aspects which enabled children to grow up stronger. Children then could find a solution to their own specific

problem that may occur in the real world.

Fourth, there were some studies on fairy tales, studying on the presentation of characters. Robinson, Tom et al., in “The portrayal of older characters in Disney animated films,” analyzed gender, race, appearance, and roles of older characters, focusing on the personality and physical characteristics of older characters in Disney animation. The result of the study showed that the number of the portrayal of older characters were increasing in Disney animated films per decade. Most of the older characters were human while the others were nonhuman. In terms of gender and race of older characters, the result showed that the majority of older characters were male. In examining their personalities and physical characteristics, the result illustrated that there were two common traits and physical characteristics, including “friendly” and “angry/grumpy/stern”. The finding on the physical characteristics revealed that most of the portrayal of older characters was attractive and the following was their wrinkled face. The final result showed that most of older characters expressed positive rather than negative manners. Furthermore, male older characters had more positive manners than those female in Disney animated films.

Moreover, Jane Elizabeth Kelly, in “Critical Multicultural Analysis of Reconstructed Folk Tales: Rumpelstiltskin is My Name, Power is My Game,” explored the change of the power relationship of characters in *Rumpelstiltskin* reconstructed version by Grimms. This study

focused on the power relationship and main characters presented in fairy tales. Critical Multicultural analysis was applied in order to analyze how an adjustment of the story linked to the power relationship of the characters. The findings revealed that *Rumpelstiltskin* reconstructed version by Grimms, obviously expressed theme and the power relationship.

Besides, there was a study on images of women in fairy tales. In the article "Body Image and Sexuality in Disney Princesses," Heidi Herberich discussed the variation of body image of princesses in Disney's version. Herberich asserted that childlikeness and innocence was prominent image of the princesses. Finally, the fashion towards thinness and the fashion towards sexiness became the major ones.

In this part, studies on female roles in fairy tales were discussed. In "The Resistance to Chinese Social Expectations of the Main Female Characters in Animated Films: Mulan and Mulan II," Saengdao Thinhanwong studied how Mulan resisted the Chinese social expectation. Thinhanwong mentioned that domesticity, femininity and passivity were expected of Chinese women which were presented through Mulan and Mulan II. However, Mulan, the femaleprotagonist in these films, was independent and she rejected these social expectations.

Finally, there was a study on Thai tales, studying female roles and female status. Janthawong, Nittaya, in “Roles and Status of Thai Women in The South: The Study from Thai Tales,” analyzed the roles and status of Thai women in the South from ten Thai tales such as Phra Roth Me Ree (พระรถเมรี), Nang U-Tai (นางอุทัย), Phla Boo Tong (ปลาบู่ทอง), Su Wan Na Hong (สุวรรณหงส์), and so on. The result showed that for the social status, women are divided into two aspects in terms of social status. There were women in a high-class society and women in a common-class society. For the family status, a woman is classified as a wife, a mother, a daughter, a daughter-in-law, a husband’s mother, and a grandmother. These Thai tales illustrated that domesticity and morality were the roles of Thai women in the South.

From the above related research works, it can be concluded that there are many previous studies on fairy tales in many aspects. Even though there are some studies on fairy tales, in terms of female roles, the researcher have not found studies on female roles in of classic fairy tales. Since there have been arguments among scholars about female roles in classic fairy tales in the old days, it is necessary to better understand female roles in classic stories. In addition, the researcher wants to substantiate whether most of classic fairy tales in the old days present women as inferior. Therefore, this study aims at analyzing the female roles, focusing on the classic fairy tales in the old days in which those characteristics are

obviously seen. The two classical fairy tales are *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* which are written by Walt Disney in a the written form.



CHAPTER 3

THE ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENTATION OF FEMALE PROTAGONIST

IN CINDERELLA

In this chapter, the concept of a good girl is applied to analyze the presentation of the female protagonist in the classic fairy tale specifically *Cinderella* which is written by Walt Disney.

The Presentation of Cinderella in *Cinderella*

Cinderella is one of classic fairy tales that clearly displays the concept of a good girl in the old days. The viewpoint about the expectation of Western society is depicted many times through *Cinderella*. Cinderella, a female protagonist in the story, reflects characteristics of a good girl which based on the society's expectation.

Cinderella emphasizes that a good girl should possess a characteristic of obedience. According to the story, Cinderella is obedient to her father, stepmother, and a fairy godmother. Cinderella obeys her father. It is believed that women should follow their parents or their husbands' command without an argument.

When the head of the family (a father or husband) makes a decision on anything, other members in the family are given a chance to express their idea. However, finally they all agree with the head of the family. (Li 360)

According to Lam Ka Yee's "Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales," a mother and wife in fairy tales and folktales represent a woman who is always passive, and the woman who submits to her husband or father is the ideal (11). In *Cinderella*, Cinderella accepts her father's decision when he remarries and brings his new wife and two stepsisters to live together. Even though Cinderella is ordered to work hard or treated badly, she never complains or requests for some rest. On the other hand, she accepts and works voluntarily.

Later, Cinderella obeys her stepmother. The value of being obedient is presented again when all pretty girls are invited to the ball. The King invites all pretty girls to dance with his son at the palace. Of course, Cinderella also wants to join the party, but her stepmother does not want her to go to the ball. The stepmother laughs at Cinderella. Cinderella's stepmother says "Well, I see no reason why you can't go," "if you get all your work done and if you can find something suitable to wear" (172). Her stepmother gives her a long list of chores to be sure that Cinderella cannot go to the ball. Cinderella obeys her stepmother's order and does all assigned housework. This shows that Cinderella is obedient because she listens to the stepmother and stepsisters and does everything she is commanded. Cinderella never

complains about the hard jobs she has to do. On the other hand, Cinderella tolerates the afflictions. Heidi Herberich states that in Disney's *Cinderella*, Cinderella always obeys her stepmother and never fights for her right (1). A good girl, who always listens to her parents, is supposed to do as her parents told, and then will finally be rewarded (Yee 11). The story also shows that because of obedience, Cinderella is rewarded with the supernatural power. A fairy godmother comes to help her. Finally, Cinderella is able to go to the ball.

Cinderella is also obedient to a fairy godmother. According to *Godey's Lady's Book*, "To suffer and to be silent under suffering seems to be a typical command she has to obey" (110). In *Cinderella*, this value can be seen when a godmother makes a deal with Cinderella. The fairy godmother says; "But you must understand, my dear" "on the stroke of twelve, the spell will be broken. And everything will be as it was before" (177). Cinderella obeys the fairy godmother that she follows the fairy godmother's suggestion. We can see that at the last stroke of the castle clock of the midnight, Cinderella hurries to return home because she remembers what the fairy godmother said. Cinderella believes that doing as the fairy godmother's command is good for her, and she will finally be rewarded.

In other versions of *Cinderella*, being obedient is also emphasized for a good girl. For example, in the Grimm's version, Cinderella's mother says; "Dear child, be good and pious, and then the good God will always protect you, and I will look down on you from heaven and be

near you” (121). In the version of Perrault, the good fairy says; “promise to be a good girl, and I will arrange for you to go to the ball” (69). Therefore, this story shows that a good girl who is always obedient should be rewarded.

In term of passivity, Cinderella is also a passive woman. Cinderella is silent under suffering. She only waits for assistance from her kind animal friends, a nice fairy godmother and a handsome prince. According to Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo, passivity is a natural characteristic of daughters and wives (12). In *Cinderella*, Cinderella does nothing for herself. At the beginning of the story, the story teller mentions that the stepmother forces Cinderella to become a servant. Cinderella is treated no better than a humble servant. Cinderella wears a miserable tattered robe and sleep in dusty corner of the attic. It shows that Cinderella never makes a request or does anything to improve her situation. She cannot help herself. The story depicts that Cinderella is so passive that she can be hurt by anyone around her.

Another example of passivity is displayed when Cinderella finishes her housework, and she has an opportunity to attend the ball. However, Cinderella has no beautiful dress to wear because the stepsisters destroy her dress which is made by her animal friends. Cinderella does nothing to help herself, but she go to her small room and cries. Suddenly, an old woman appears behind her. She is the fairy godmother and helps Cinderella. The fairy godmother uses

her magic for a beautiful dress and horse carriage. Therefore, Cinderella can go to the ball.

This story presents that Cinderella does nothing for herself, but she always waits for the support from other people.

The issue about the passivity is revealed again and again in the story. This time the passivity of Cinderella is shown when Cinderella is locked inside the room. In *Cinderella*, Cinderella is locked inside the room because the stepmother wants her not to see the Chamberlain. This situation shows that Cinderella is passive because she does nothing in order to escape from the room. Again her animal friends help her. The story emphasizes that when the problems occur, Cinderella cannot help herself but always waits for someone to help her.

Cinderella obviously depicts the importance of passivity. A good girl, who is passive and patient, will be rescued. Consequently, women are expected to be passive, since their positions are to encourage, comfort, look after their husbands and listen to their husbands (Rosaldo 7). In *Cinderella*, after Cinderella leaves the ball, she only waits patiently while the prince keeps seeking for her actively. Marcia Lieberman also asserts that Cinderella plays as passive role in her story. After leaving the party, the only thing that Cinderella can do is to wait for the charming prince (191). Similarly, Kay Stone asserts that Cinderella is a passive girl who only waits for the prince to save her after she leaves the ball (44). This story not only presents

the society's expectation in the old days that a good girl should be passive but also depicts the activeness of men. Men are doers while women are followers.

Moreover, the act of dreaming and wishing for something shows the passive act of females (Yee 8). Cinderella has a dream, and she wishes her dream of happiness will come true. According to the story, after the fairy godmother turns Cinderella's torn dress into a beautiful blue gown, Cinderella exclaims "Why, it's like a dream... a wonderful dream comes true!" (177). Cinderella's dream is something about a true love. It is clear that Cinderella's dream presents her passivity because she does nothing in order to reach her dream of happiness but what she can do is to wait for someone to rescue her.

Cinderella also promotes the importance of beauty. Because women need to depend on men, the only way to succeed in life is marriage. Marriage is the goal of women. Therefore, beauty plays an important role; beautiful women can attract men and end up with the happy marriage and wealth. According to Lam Ka Yee's "Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales," since marriage is women's goal, it is believed that beauty is important for them because beautiful women will attract men at the first sight (28). Beauty helps women in many ways; for instance, because of beauty, a woman can marry a rich or a handsome man. In "Gender and Sexuality," Naomi Wolf states:

A society teaches women to focus on beauty because their beauty attracts men. Women have to use their beauty in order to help them look perfect and more attractive to men. While women want to be beautiful, men want to possess women who embody beauty. (qtd. in Macionis 357)

Cinderella emphasizes the importance of beauty. The issue about beauty is presented in *Cinderella* when the king talks with the Chamberlain. The king tells the Chamberlain that he just wants his son to marry a beautiful young girl. This sentence reflects the fact that the king does not care about a woman's ability but he only wants a woman who is beautiful to be a bride of his son.

The importance of beauty is shown again when all girls in the kingdom are invited to the ball. The two stepsisters want to be more beautiful than other women in order to be chosen. They spend time on dress, making themselves look beautiful. Similarly, Cinderella wants a beautiful dress because she wants her beauty to impress the prince. The story illustrates that the two stepsisters and also Cinderella pay attentions to their beauty because they believe that because of beauty, the prince will marry one of them.

Nevertheless, there are some critics who do not agree with the beauty value in the old days. According to Susan Sontag's in "Beauty," beauty is beneficial for women because it was believed that the beauty is valuable for women. Men always pay attention to beautiful women.

This value makes women care more about her appearance. However, Sontag does not agree with this value. She argues that because women are judged from their beauty, they will focus only on beauty instead of ability (136).

Moreover, in *Cinderella*, beauty becomes the conflict. Because marriage is the goal, women always pay attention to their beauty, and they are jealous of others when others are prettier. Hence, beauty leads women to a bad relationship (Pakdee 26).

In *Cinderella*, the two stepsisters envy Cinderella's beauty and Cinderella's goodness. The two stepsisters always harm Cinderella by words, and they ironically speak to Cinderella. All beautiful girls are invited to the ball because the king wants to find a beautiful girl for his son, and Cinderella asks her stepmother if she can go with them. Then, the stepmother and the stepsisters mock and laugh because they think it is funny that a servant like Cinderella wants to go to the ball. It shows that all of them hate Cinderella because Cinderella is kind and prettier. Cinderella's beauty makes the stepfamily detest her. Therefore, a bad relationship occurs because women only pay attention to beauty, and they are jealous of each other.

Cinderella also emphasizes domesticity. In order to be successful in marriage life, except their beauty, women are expected to be good at domestic work. Barbara Welter in "The Cult of True Womanhood," mentions that in the past, cooking, sewing, washing, cleaning the house and taking care of children are the duties for housewives so that it is no doubt that a

woman's good place is the home which needs to be well taken care of. Therefore, it is necessary for a good girl to make home the happiest place in order to make her husband and children come back home instead of elsewhere (163). It is believed that women should prepare themselves for domestic work. Then, a happy marriage will come to the women who are perfect and good at domesticity.

In *Cinderella*, at the beginning of the story, the story-teller writes; "Day in and day out, Cinderella did all the household chores, from feeding the chickens to polishing the chandeliers" (170). This presents that Cinderella represents how female is associated with domesticity. Cinderella is ordered to serve them at home. She is always in the kitchen and irons her stepsisters' dresses.

Other versions also present the same thing comparing to *Cinderella* by Walt Dsiney. *Cinderella* in Grimms' version, Cinderella is like a servant. As the story teller says; "she had to do hard work from morning till night, get up before daybreak, carry water, light fires, cook and wash" (121). We can see that a good girl like Cinderella is good at domesticity. While Cinderella does domestic work in the house, bad girls like her stepsisters do nothing. Therefore, the story promotes that a good girl should possess domesticity.

To sum up, *Cinderella* emphasizes a concept of a good girl. According to this story, a good girl should possess the four main characteristics of a good girl; being obedient, being passive, being beautiful and responsible for domestic work. All of these characteristics are based on the society's expectation in the old days, and Cinderella is a representative of a good girl. She is an obedient girl who always listens to her parents, and she is controlled by her parents' commands. Cinderella is also passive. She never fights for her own right; she accepts her fate. She has no power to make any decision because a good girl is expected to be silent. Cinderella is passive; and waits for help from other people. We can see that beauty also plays an important role in *Cinderella*. Cinderella is chosen by the prince because she is the most beautiful woman at the ball. In addition, Cinderella herself is also good at domestic chores. The story presents that a good girl like Cinderella is rewarded with wealth and a happy marriage in the end. In addition, it can be assumed that Cinderella will be under her husband's control after marriage.

CHAPTER 4

THE ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENTATION OF FEMALE PROTAGONIST

IN *SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS*

Like Cinderella, Snow White who is the female protagonist in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, also emphasizes the concept of a good girl in the old days. Snow White presents a sense of inferiority of women in the old days. Overall, when we look closely, a concept of a good girl can be seen many times through the story.

In terms of obedience, Snow White reflects the status of women in her family and a society. Snow White cannot make decision about anything, except agreeing with her father and her step-mother. As Frances B. Cogan points out, in a patriarchal society, truly feminine women in the old days have certain natural characteristic as obedience (1). In this society, a father or a husband is the family head whom women have to obey and follow. Because of this value, women are inferior to men, and they depend on male members in their families. In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, as the story teller says “Snow White was an obedient girl and hard-working girl” (22). First, she obeys her father. She always listens to her father even if her father takes his new wife to their castle, and she accepts her father’s decision.

Another example of obedience is that after Snow White's father dies, her life belongs to her stepmother. The stepmother becomes the one who is the most powerful in the castle, and she always commands Snow White to do what she wants. Like *Cinderella*, she obeys the stepmother and does whatever her stepmother wants without a question on those commands. The story is shown that a good girl in the past should hold to the value of obedience.

The issue about passivity is revealed many times in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Like Cinderella, Snow White is a passive girl. She never helps herself from bad situations that happen to her. She only waits for kind support from her lovely animals, nice seven dwarfs and the charming prince. According to *The Young Lady's Book*, women in the old days have no rights, and their lives belong to their husband or father; therefore, they have to stay home and live under men's control (qtd. in Welter159). In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, Snow White's father remarries. After Snow White's father dies, her stepmother becomes the head of the family. She controls and treats Snow White like a servant. However, Snow White accepts her fate and lives under her stepmother's commands, and she never fights back. In fact, Snow White should do something in order to keep her position because she is a princess, but she remains silent.

The importance of passivity is presented in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. It is believed that a good girl, who is passive and patient, will be rescued (Rosaldo 7). In *Snow*

White and the Seven Dwarfs, after a huntsman lets Snow White free in a deep forest, she has no idea where to go, and she cries. Then, Snow White asks for help from animals in the forest to take her to some safe place. With the help of her animal friends, Snow White finds a small cottage where she can stay. The story presents that Snow White is passive because she cannot do anything by herself. Instead of finding a way back home, she asks for help from the animals.

We can see the passivity of Snow White when she is poisoned and lies in a dead-like sleep. The story suggests that Snow White again cannot help herself from a bad situation. She needs assistance from others, but no one can help her this time, except the prince. It's time for a charming prince to rescue her by his tender kiss. Snow White then immediately wakes up by a kiss of the prince. Like Cinderella, Snow White has to wait for the prince to save her. Snow White cannot do anything except waiting patiently for the prince to find and save her (Lieberman 191-192). The story emphasizes that women should be passive.

Furthermore, Snow White's dream also reveals her passive act. At the beginning of the story, the words like "wishing," "hoping," and "dreaming," appear several times when Snow White sings a song. The writer says "She dreamed that someday a prince would take her away" (22). It shows that as an adolescent girl, Snow White dreams of a true love and longs for a happy marriage to a handsome prince (Yee 7). The story reflects that Snow White is a

passive girl who always dreams of a true love and wishes that the prince will save her. What she can do is only dream of happiness, but she does nothing in order to solve problems. She dreams and waits for someone to rescue her.

The dream of Snow White has been shown many times. After the stepmother finds out that Snow White is still alive, and living at the dwarfs' cottage, she transforms into an old woman and gives Snow White a poison apple. Then, the stepmother says "One bite and your dream will come true" (34). Snow White immediately bits the poisoned apple and falls to the floor, as still as death. The story suggests that Snow White is a passive girl because she believes that because of one bite, her dream will come true. Snow white wishes that her true love will come true, and the charming prince will take her to his castle. That are all because she is passive and she always waits for the prince.

Beauty is also plays an important role in the old days. Lam Ka Yee's "Feminine Roles in Fairy Tales and Folktales," writes that marriage is the goal of women, it is believed that beauty is important for women because beautiful women will attract men at the first sight (28). In the past, since women are subordinate and inferior to men in any social position, the only way to elevate their status is to marry handsome and rich men. Marriage becomes the goal of women. Therefore, women always feel concerned about their beauty, instead of abilities,

because beauty is a good tool to attract men and be successful in marriage life. Therefore, beauty plays an important role for women.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs depicts the importance of beauty. It is believed that women in the past should possess beauty. The author says “Once upon a time, there lived a lovely princess named Snow White. Her lips were red as roses and her hair was the deepest ebony” (22). This story illustrates that Snow White who is a female protagonist, possesses perfect appearance which will benefit her in many situations. Snow White is survived because of her beauty. According to the story, the stepmother orders her huntsman to take Snow White into the forest and kill her. However, because Snow White is so pretty and nice, the huntsman pities her and lets her go. The huntsman says “Run away, hide in the woods, anywhere. Never come back...” (25). The story presents that beauty is necessary for women in the old days.

In addition, because of Snow White's beauty, she is welcomed by the seven dwarfs. In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, when the seven dwarfs discover that someone enters their cottage without their permission, they get angry. However, when they find out that it is Snow White who is very pretty, they welcome her. One of the seven dwarfs says that “Snow White is beautiful, just like an angel” (30). This story shows that beauty is beneficial for Snow White and saves her life.

Moreover, this story also emphasizes the power of beauty. In the old days, the society expects women to look good and behave nicely; therefore, women who are beautiful can reach their goal such as have a happy marriage and wealth. Beautiful women do not have to do anything in order to be chosen, they will be chosen because of their beauty (Bettelheim236). In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, beauty and appearance of Snow White attract the prince at the first time he meets her. The first time the prince sees Snow White and listens to her singing, he is enchanted by her voice and her beauty” (22). That is the prince immediately falls in love with Snow White when he is attracted by Snow White' beauty and sweet voices. The story shows that Snow White's beauty can attract the prince and make the price falls in love with her. Finally, the prince marries her.

However, beauty can cause conflict to women. Because the society expects women to be beautiful, therefore; they only pay attention to their beauty. Then, they are jealous of other women who are prettier than them, and their relationship are bad.

The example of bad relationship is clearly shown in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. For example, the story teller mentions about the stepmother “She was jealous of Snow White's beauty and treated her like a servant” (22). It shows that Snow White's stepmother, who only pays attention to her beauty, is jealous of Snow White because Snow White is prettier, and younger. Therefore, she always bullies Snow White and treats her badly.

In addition, after the stepmother knows that Snow White is now prettier than she is, she tells her royal huntsman to take Snow White deep into a forest and kill her, (24). The story presents that because of beauty, the stepmother wants to get rid of Snow White in order to be the most beautiful woman. The story illustrates that because women pay attention to their beauty, and they are jealous of each other, and then their relationship is bad.

However, there are some critics who do not agree with this value. For example, Sontag argues that because women are judged from their beauty, they will focus only on beauty instead of ability (136). It is believed that beauty is a tool to attract men. Women do not want to have education or work outside because they think that it is only beauty that can make them succeed. Later, women have no job and need to depend on men. Therefore, women are inferior to men.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs emphasizes also the expectation of a society about domesticity. Because the view that women in the old days should stay home is underlined, domestic activities are very important for women. Michelle Zimbalist Rosaldo states that domestic activity is a woman's responsibility that concerns child care and the house (24). In the past, it is said that women are expected to do all housework because men believe that women have to do this kind of work. Women have to stay home and do all housework. They take care of their husbands and children and wait for the time when their husbands come back

home (Rosaldo 3). According to Barbara Welter in "The Cult of True Womanhood," mentions that it is necessary for good girls to make home the happiest place in order to make their husbands and children come back home instead of elsewhere (163). This hierarchical position suggests a difference of gender roles which male or female belongs to (Yee 17).

The above idea is also shown in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, when Snow White gets in the seven dwarfs' cottage, she notices that the house is dirty. Therefore, Snow White has an idea that she will surprise the house-owners. Then, Snow White and her animal friends clean the house. They scrub, sweep, wash, and cook all day long. The story presents that even if Snow White is a princess, she is very good at domestic work.

The view that women should possess domestic activities is presented again in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, a perfect beauty and appearance of Snow White attract the prince. While men are responsible for public sphere, women live in domestic or private sector. According to the story, Snow White offers the seven dwarfs to take care of their house work and cook for them if they give her a permission to stay with them. The seven dwarfs accept Snow White's offers. The seven dwarfs think that it is good for them to have Snow White, who is good at domesticity, clean the house and cook for them. The story reflects the truth that the society expects women to stay home in order to take

care of domestic work while men who long for adventures have to work outside.

It can be concluded that, Like *Cinderella*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* also emphasized the concept of a good girl in the old days. Snow White is presented as a good girl who is obedient, passive, beautiful, and responsible for domestic work, conforming to on the expectation of the society in the old days. Through the story, Snow White is obedient: she always listens to her father. After her father dies, she always obeys her stepmother and does everything which the stepmother orders her to do. Then, because Snow White is obedient, she is passive. Snow White is always oppressed by her stepmother, but she is silent under the suffering. She accepts her fortunes and lives patiently without attempting to fight against her stepmother. Snow White does nothing for herself; she waits for help from a charming prince. Besides, since marriage is the goal of women, beauty plays an important role in this story expected by the society. Snow White is a very beautiful girl with sweet voice that attracts birds, animals, and the prince. Besides, because of beauty, she can survive from bad circumstances. Finally, beauty makes her dream come true, that is she has a happy marriage life. In addition, Snow White is also responsible for domestic activities based on the society's expectation. She has to do domestic chores and take care of her father and later for the stepfamily. In the story, Snow White is good at domesticity. She can clean the house, do the dishes, wash clothes, and cook even if she is a princess. Like *Cinderella*, this story illustrates that a good girl is finally

rewarded. However, the readers can assume that Snow White will be subordinate to her husband after marriage. Her life after marriage is under her husband's control ever after.



CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Conclusion

After analyzing the presentation of two female protagonists, Cinderella in *Cinderella* and Snow White in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the result shows that these two stories emphasize the concept of a good girl. These two stories present that both Cinderella and Snow White follow the concept of a good girl. Both of them play a passive role in their society that they need to depend on men and always wait for assistance from them or fairy godmothers. It is clearly that the society expects a good girl to be obedient, passive, beautiful and responsible for domestic work. Being a good girl, she will be rewarded with wealth and happy marriage.

In terms of obedience, these two stories present that Cinderella and Snow White are obedient girls. They obey their fathers and accept their fathers' decisions without words. Later on, they continue to obey their step families after the death of their fathers. The fairy godmothers are the ones whom both Cinderella and Snow White always obey and do as they suggest. In addition, we can assume that Cinderella and Snow White finally have to obey their husbands because they are always obedient to their parents.

Cinderella and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* emphasize the importance of passivity. Cinderella and Snow White are passive. They never try to help themselves. Everyone can hurt them, and they never fight back. They only wait for support from other people such as the charming princes and god-mothers. Moreover, they always dream of the charming princes and true love, and wait for the princes to come and help them. However, with kind assistance and care from supporters, Cinderella and Snow White are saved

These two stories also emphasize the importance of beauty. A marriage is the goal of women in the past. Then, it is believed that beauty is very important for women because beautiful women will attract men at the first sight. That is why females can do everything in order to be beautiful. It is beneficial for women if they are beautiful because their beauty can make them succeed in marriage life. Therefore, beauty plays an important role. According to these two stories, Cinderella and Snow White always pay attention to their beauty and appearance. As we can see that because of their beauty and perfect appearance, handsome princes fall in love with them at the first time they see each other. It is their beauty that attracts the princes.

In addition, the conflict of these two stories is caused by the beauty of Cinderella and Snow White. These two stories show that even if Cinderella and Snow White are very kind to their stepmothers and stepsisters, they are treated badly because they are beautiful. This

reflects that because women always focus on their beauty, women in these two stories are jealous of women who are prettier. Then they have a bad relationship and they are bad situations. For example, the stepmothers try to kill Cinderella and Snow White because Cinderella and Snow White are prettier, and the stepmothers are jealous.

Finally, these two stories show that a good girl should be good at domestic work. These two stories present that Cinderella and Snow White have to do domestic work because they need to take care of their fathers and later their husbands. These two stories present that Cinderella and Snow White have to know very well how to cook, how to make house clean, how to sew and so on.

It can be concluded that these two stories *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, emphasize the concept of a good girl in the old days. Women are expected to be obedient, passive, beautiful and responsible for domestic chores. Lastly, because of following the concept of a good girl, women are rewarded with a happy marriage.

The results of this study are also similar to some previous studies. For example, in “*Things Walt Disney Never Told Us*,” Stone studies the role of female protagonists in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Another one is a study on Thai tale. In “Roles and Status of Thai Women in The South: The Study from Thai Tales,” Janthawong, analyzed the roles and

status of Thai women in the South from ten Thai tales such as Phra Roth Me Ree (พระรถเมรี), Narnng U-Tai (นางอุทัย), Phla Boo Tong (ปลาบู่ทอง), Su Wan Na. Hong (สุวรรณหงส์), and so on.

The findings from these two studies are similar to the researcher's findings. That is, all these fairy tales emphasize the concept of a good girl; the female protagonists who follow the concept of a good girl will be rewarded.

However, there is a study from Asian fairy tales that present different role of female protagonist. In "*The Resistance to Chinese Social Expectations of the Main Character in Animated Films: Mulan and Mulan II*", Saengdao Thinhanwong found that Mulan, the female protagonist, acts against the Chinese social expectations on Chinese women. Therefore, this study from Thinhanwong is not similar to the researcher's findings.

Discussion

From this study, it is clear that *Cinderella* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* emphasize the concept of a good girl in the old days. These two stories show that women in the past should possess the characteristics of obedience, passivity, beauty and domesticity. Then, they will be rewarded with happy marriage. As we can see that most of the time women in the old days conformed to the concept of a good girl. Women in the past did not

study or work outside. They were trained to do housework and stayed only in the house.

Women have to listen to the commands of the families' head and did as they are ordered.

They were dependent on men and needed the assistance from them. However, women nowadays are different. Their status is much better. They have chances to study, so they can work. They do not have to depend on men for financial support because they can earn money by themselves. We can see that women of today can work like men. This reflects the fact that women of today are different from the past because they can do hard jobs and stand by themselves. Moreover, we can see that there are more and more women who are single because they do not need the assistance from men.

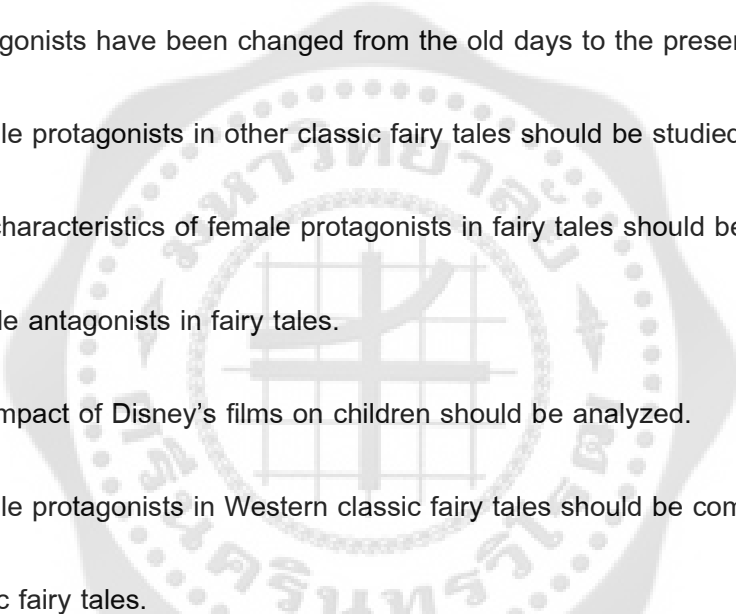
However, there are still some gender problems. As Saengdao Thinhawong writes, even if women of today have more right, they are still regarded as weaker while men are regarded as stronger (59). For example, some people believe that some jobs are more suitable for men than women such as taxi drivers and doctors.

From the study, the researcher learns that the belief about the concept of a good girl have been changed from the old days to the present days. In the old days, women were expected to follow the concept of a good girl. In the past, women had to conform to the characteristics of obedience, passivity, beauty and domesticity. They had to obey and accept the head of their families' commands and did as they are ordered. They had to do domestic

chores, stay in the house, and look after their husbands and their children. Since women were judged from their beauty, not their ability, they believed that beauty was very important for them. Beauty became a tool to attract men. Then, they focused only on beauty, not study. Finally, women who possessed a feminine role would be rewarded with wealth and happy marriage. At present, women are stronger and smarter. However, beauty value still plays significant roles. Women who are beautiful tend to have more opportunities to reach their goal. However, beauty cannot make women succeed in reaching the top if they do not have great ability. It means that being a beautiful women is not enough for them. Education and ability are very important for women because they are much more knowledgeable. Then, beauty is additional opportunity for women nowadays. In term of obedience and passivity, some women are still obedient and passive to their parents. The society still expects women to obey their parents and take care of their parents. It is clear that the belief about a concept of a good girl still exists in the present society.

Suggestions for Further Studies

The following topics should be further studied:

1. The presentation of female protagonists in modern fairy tales and classic fairy tales should be compared to trace whether the characteristics and values of female protagonists have been changed from the old days to the present days.
 2. Female protagonists in other classic fairy tales should be studied.
 3. The characteristics of female protagonists in fairy tales should be compared to female antagonists in fairy tales.
 4. The impact of Disney's films on children should be analyzed.
 5. Female protagonists in Western classic fairy tales should be compared to Asian classic fairy tales.
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