



EVOLVING NARRATIVES OF FEMININITY AND MOTHERHOOD: REWORKINGS OF THE (ANTI) HEROINE IN DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

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The adaptations of fairy tales into films have preoccupied many researchers and the heroines and anti-heroines of Disney productions have been subject to many speculations. Critics have observed the evolution of the "Disney women" from passive and obliging figures to icons of power and agency. This research paper argues that the recent Disney "princesses" as well as the "anti-heroines" display an intriguing duality which invests them with power as well as motherliness, nurturing as well as potential for violence. The paper suggests that this duality subverts the previous traditions upheld by Disney as well as by reputed tellers and collectors of fairy tales. Traditionally, heroines and anti-heroines such as witches, step mothers, etc., are perceived as polar-opposites in a system of binary cultural identification. This research finds that this evolving "new" heroine has affinities with the pre-patriarchal goddess figures that critics such as Adrienne Rich have explored.

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