WHAT GENDER CHARACTERISTICS, NORMS, AND ROLES MAY BE REPRESENTED IN THE THREE POPULAR YOUNG ADULT NOVEL BOOK SERIES HARRY POTTER, TWILIGHT, AND HUNGER GAMES?

Abstract
This dissertation research project explores the areas of gender characteristics, norms, and roles as may be interpreted by young people through the reading of the three popular young adult book series Harry Potter, Twilight, and Hunger Games. Louise Rosenblatt states that readers of text interact with meaning at either a conscious or subconscious level. With this in mind, knowing that young people are bombarded by gender characterizing information, my research strongly supports the need for students to be taught how to be aware and think and read critically concerning gender messages in literature so that he or she may determine to participate, support, reject, or accept the gender roles, characteristics, or norms being presented to him or her with intent.

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“As the popularity of fiction aimed at young adults, such as the Twilight, Harry Potter and Hunger Games series, continues to grow, it is important for readers and parents to note the ethical subtexts of the books. Similarly, the proliferation of sick or disabled characters on such television shows as “Glee,” “Friday Night Lights” and “Breaking Bad” doesn’t always equate to positive portrayals of those characters.” “‘Teen sick-lit,’ which mostly arose in the ‘80s’, stands in contrast to the progressive young adult literature of the 70s, which often dealt with issues of racism, homophobia and other injustices,” Elman said. “This analysis of the Twilight series focuses on the role of empathy as a communicative, cross-cultural tool by which the author transmits a message that features human commitment as the key to happiness. The study undertaken here on the role of empathy in the Twilight series attempts to contextualize this book phenomenon within the recent work of two specialists in the area of emotions in literature: Susanne Keen and Patrick Hogan and is also inspired by the underlying current of Martha Nussbaum’s work on the human ability to identify with others by means of empathy or compassion which is fomented through reading of fiction. Meyer has “tapped into the moment” in terms of what 21st century adolescents and young adults want to read about. popular series like Harry Potter could have a significant impact on the kinds of masculinity and femininity that the child readers have to choose from in constructing, their own identities, hence my interest in revealing just what options are offered by, the representations of various characters in the books. Harry Potter series of children's books (hereafter HP). This is part of a larger study, which also included three of the Chronicles of Narnia books by C.S. Lewis, as well as, other uses of the characters' body parts (Hunt 2011). My aim here is to show how, in the way these body parts are represented in the prosodic patterns and syntactic structures employed. The experiential value of a word has to do with the version of the world that it. Young adult fiction was developed to soften the transition between children's novels and adult literature.[6]. In the 1980s, young adult literature began pushing the envelope in terms of the subject matter that was considered appropriate for their audience: Books dealing with topics such as rape, suicide, parental death, and murder which had previously been deemed taboo, saw significant critical and commercial success.[16] A flip-side of this trend was a strong revived interest in the romance. The first novel in J.K. Rowling's seven-book Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, was published in 1997.