

CHAPTER IV

Conclusion

Cinderella myth has quite significance impacts on one's way of thinking. The fairy-tale, which is considered as the most popular tale ever and has so many versions and is rewritten in many languages based on different background and cultural settings can effect children's mind about gender-roles. The myth has been known for almost a thousand years. From ancient China until Walt Disney's version, this story has become one of the finest fairy-tales ever. Many people believe that the myth is true.

Because of the myth too, the society assumes that women have to behave as Cinderella, otherwise they are considered as the bad girls. While on the other hand, women assume that a good husband should be a man with prince charming's character. A rich guy is not too difficult to find, but charming guy in the appearance and in the heart as well is almost as difficult as looking for a needle in the hay. Many people only think that the meaning of the words in Cinderella story is superficial. They underestimate the story for they do not realize that the story also uses symbolism that is found in poetry, novels, drama or plays. For instance, the fairy god-mother is a symbol of a supernatural power beyond human's thought.

There are three major aspects that influence the perception. They are: the wrong interpretation of symbols in the story, the society's perception about children literature, especially fairy-tales such as Cinderella, and the gender-roles

stereotypes that has existed for many centuries. All of the major aspects are connected to each other as vicious circle.

Many people think that Cinderella story is only for enchantment. That simple down to earth story is meant to teach some lessons about life to the children.

It is very difficult to change the society's perception about gender, since it had occurred for many years, and is still accepted by more than 50 percent of the people.

The gender perception is known all over the world and some how it causes people to distinguish between male and female. People would tend to think that women should depend on men. Although there are some who agree with feminism, since 1980's but somehow most people, especially the Eastern-minded people (Indonesian), still follow the old system.

As mentioned previously that people follow the religious teaching about gender-role. The society has made this perception stronger since parents form this perception to their children. This is still carried out.

BIBLIOGRAPHY