

***MALE AND FEMALE REPRESENTATION
IN THE GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES: A CORPUS-DRIVEN APPROACH***

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to carry out a corpus-driven approach in discovering how male and female characters are represented in the collection of 62 tales by Grimm's brothers. This quantitative-qualitative study is conducted since children literature is known to bring an essential part to enrich children's knowledge and help them to identify their roles in the society. It serves as an important conveyor of world knowledge and microcosm of ideologies; including gender ideologies and scripts (Puurinen, 1998; Taylor, 2003). Specifically, this study analyzes two sets of nouns. The first is the nouns related to male and female belongings, and the second is the nouns that denote the occupational roles of the male and female characters. The male and female belongings are identified through listing the 30 most frequently used noun collocates of gender possessiveness of *his* and *her*. Meanwhile, the list of the occupational roles is obtained through scanning the concordances of gender specific pronouns *he* and *she*. Both results are gained through the help of computer-assisted software called *AntConc*. The result reveals that the male and female characters in the Grimm's Fairy Tales are indeed represented stereotypically. The male characters frequently display physical abilities through their activities and bravery. On the other hand, the female characters are often referred to family, beauty, and emotion. The occupations found for both sexes also show a gender gap between the male and female characters. The occupations that belong to the male characters significantly outnumber those for the females. This gender stereotypes identified in the tales could possibly inhibit children to develop their potential to the fullest because they are limited to these stereotypes. Thus, parents and educators hopefully could act more adequately when introducing these stories to their children.

Keywords: children literature, corpus, fairy tales, gender stereotypes