

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed Snow White 1 and Snow White 2 using a feminist approach, specifically Naila Kabeer's theory of Women's Empowerment. The study aimed to compare the narrative structures of both films by applying Tzvetan Todorov's narrative model and to examine the representation of women's empowerment through Kabeer's concepts of resources, agency, and achievement.

The findings based on Todorov's narrative analysis indicated that both Snow White 1 and Snow White 2 followed the same five narrative stages: equilibrium, disruption, recognition, attempt to repair, and new equilibrium. However, the two stories differed significantly in the way these stages were developed. In Snow White 1, the story maintains a classic narrative pattern that emphasizes "Snow White" as a passive character. The plot then focuses more solely on the Queen personal conflict with "Snow White" physical beauty and "Snow White" dependence on other characters to resolve the main conflict. The restoration of equilibrium is achieved through the help of the Prince, making "Snow White" a passive character in the narrative. In contrast, Snow White 2 reimagines the narrative by positioning "Snow White" as the central character driving the conflict resolution. The disturbance is not limited to the Queen personal conflict over "Snow White" beauty, but extends to the social injustices of her subjects within the kingdom. Throughout the narrative, "Snow White" actively recognizes the problem, makes independent decisions, and leads the process of restoring justice. This results in a new balance

in Snow White 2, achieved through “Snow White” own leadership and actions, rather than through external rescue.

The findings also revealed a significant change in the representation of women's empowerment between the two versions. Based on Naila Kabeer's framework, Snow White 1 exhibits limited resources, agency, and achievement. Although “Snow White” possesses royal status as a princess, this status does not serve as an effective social resource, empowering her to make choices, as she remains under the Queen control. Her agency is also limited, as most important decisions are made by external figures, namely the dwarves, the Huntsman, and the Prince. As a result, the story final outcome relies heavily on the assistance of these characters rather than “Snow White” own choices and actions. Therefore, the representation of female empowerment in Snow White 1 remains relatively weak.

In contrast, Snow White 2 demonstrates a stronger representation of female empowerment. This is evident in “Snow White” royal status, which serves as an effective social resource for her to make decisions, understand the state of her kingdom, and gain recognition from others. “Snow White” also demonstrates greater independence by making her own decisions, confronting injustice, and leading the effort to reclaim her kingdom. These resources and independence ultimately lead “Snow White” to meaningful accomplishments in the story, as “Snow White” successfully restores justice and assumes her position as Queen through her own efforts and desires, rather than through external rescue. This development reflects Kabeer's (1999) concept that empowerment is achieved through the interaction of resources, agency, and achievement.

The conclusion obtained in this study is that Snow White 2 presents a more empowered representation of women than Snow White 1. Although both stories are based on the same storyline, the Snow White 2 reintroduces “Snow White” as an independent leader who is able to make her own decisions, influence social change in the story, and determine the final outcome of the story. Through the combination of Todorov's narrative model and Kabeer's theory of women's empowerment, this study shows that there are agents of women's empowerment and reflects current thinking about the position of women and gender equality.