



## Portrayal of figure of a woman in chosen Walt Disney's animated films

Joanna Rabęda

(Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)

At the beginning of the development of cinema, women were often presented in a very passive way. This included, for instance, portraying females as damsels in distress and love interests for the male protagonists. Similar tendencies were also reflected in the earliest children's films, when the main role of a female character consisted of waiting for a hero to come to her rescue. In modern cinema, however, these inclinations seem to have changed. These premises led to an idea to conduct a research, in which the portrayal of women in the animations produced by the Walt Disney Studio is analysed. The central focus of the research were the characters who belong to the Disney Princess Franchise. By gathering the female protagonists, the franchise allows for the comparison of the portrayal of women by the company from 1937 to 2016.

More specifically, the aim of the presentation is to acquaint the listeners with the retrieved results and establish whether the way females are presented in Walt Disney's animated films has significantly changed over the last eighty years. The presentation consists of two parts. The first, theoretical part, is supposed to (a) introduce the feminist theories of literature and film relevant to this research and (b) familiarise the listeners with the history of the Walt Disney's Animation Studio and the Disney Princess Franchise. The second part will show the results of the cultural and linguistic analysis. Analysed were the transcripts retrieved from the thirteen movies produced by the Walt Disney Company. The research allowed to establish that there have been changes to the way the Walt Disney portrays the female characters, but some patterns, such as associating marriage with the ultimate happy ending, remained unchanged.