

Abstract – English

The thesis analyzed female characters in contemporary fantasy while aiming to determine if there were any significant changes occurring, which would cause the female characters to be perceived as ‘original’ or ‘revolutionary’. The first chapter focused on the definition of terms, deciding to consider contemporary high fantasy as literature written after 1945 of the “genre of imaginative fiction involving magic” set into a fictional world that has its own system of laws and rules by which it abides. It also outlined ideas of a number of critics on the subject of female roles and stereotypes in literature and agreed that while female characters are continuously evolving they are still largely stereotypical.

In reference to this information, the second chapter analyzed concrete characters in chosen texts (The Lord of the Rings from J. R. R. Tolkien, A Wizard of Earthsea and The Tombs of Atuan by Ursula LeGuin, and A Game of Thrones by George Martin) to see the extent by which they are subjected to stereotypes. The results showed that female characters are greatly stereotypical; however, they are more likely to become more complex and dynamic in the more modern texts. The Questionnaire in the third chapter showed that readers are prone to notice these qualities and that they perceive them as original, though they are uncertain if they overpower the gender stereotypes.

In the conclusion it was decided that it was not possible to completely prove if female characters in contemporary fantasy have become revolutionary, but there are strong indications which suggest that this is true. However, this claim is only true for the more modern texts, as there was a rapid development of the genre from the post-World War II era until the present.