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The Walt Disney movies

Walt Disney is the most famous director in the world. Everyone knows him. His movies give us a lot of dreams and hopes. Therefore his movies are loved all over the world. However, most of the Disney classic movies, for instance, “Cinderella”, “Snow-White with the seven dwarfs”, and “the little mermaid” came from “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”, which are so violent and cruel. The original stories of the Disney classic movies are not for children at all. He changed the cruel stories into the fantastic lovely stories. (Arima, 2003) I had been interested in how he changed it. Therefore I researched about how he changed the cruel stories into the fantastic stories.

For my research, I read the books, looked at internet, and asked 20 IEP students several questions about Walt Disney. All of them know Walt Disney, and they know his movies very much. However, most of them did not know that his classic movies came from “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”. Also, they did not know the original stories. (Questionnaire) In recent years, the Disney classic movies have become the fairy tales, not “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”. The Disney’s stories are known better than the
original stories.

First of all, I will explain the original stories. I will begin with “Cinderella”. Cinderella was always dirty with dust and ashes; thus she was called Cinderella. Her mother and sisters were much more spiteful and violent in the original story. When the prince came to the Cinderella’s house to find Cinderella, her sisters cut off their toes by her mother’s order to fit the golden shoe. It is so cruel. Also, in the Cinderella’s wedding with the prince, the sisters were winkled their eyes out by the pigeons. As a punishment they became blind. (Ashliman, 2006) It is totally different from the Disney’s “Cinderella”. The original story has not dream, and hope. It is just cruel.
“Snow-White with the seven dwarfs” also came from “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”. Snow-White was so beautiful girl, and the king loved her very much as a woman, not as a daughter. She slept with the king every night. (Kiryuu, 1988) The queen envied her, and she decided to kill her. The queen ordered the huntsman to kill Snow-White, and bring her lungs and her liver back to her as a proof. However, the huntsman did not kill Snow-white. Instead of her, he killed boar, and brought its lungs and liver back to the queen. Then the queen ate it. (Ashliman, 2005) After she ran away, she lived with seven dwarfs. She kept clean their house, and in the night, she slept with dwarfs. (Kiryuu, 1988) The original story of “Snow-White with the seven dwarfs” has many cruel scenes and the erotic scenes.
The original stories of the Disney classic movies are so barbarous. Why Walt chose such cruel stories. Everybody used to know “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”. Therefore he chose such cruel stories. (Arima, 2003) If people know the story, they will be interested in that movie. This is the same strategy as “Harry Potter”, and “the Lord of the Rings”.

How he changed the stories. First, he cut the cruel scenes and the erotic scenes. Then he added the romance, and created the lovely characters. This is not only for the children but also for the parents who take their children to the movie theater. (Arima, 2003) His stories are no more violent and cruel. His stories filled with dreams, and hopes.

His stories have a lot of dreams, and hopes. On the other hand, it includes the American factors. All of his movies have a happy ending. (Arima, 2003) For instance, in the original story of “the little mermaid”, the mermaid could not marry with the prince in spite of a lot of sacrifice. (Kiryuu, 1999) However, in the Disney’s movie, the mermaid could marry with the prince happily. It is the expression of the American dream, the American utilitarianism. (Arima, 2003) His movies have dreams, hopes, and successes. Now, “Cinderella story” is a byword for the success story. The Disney’s motto is “keep dreaming, and dream comes true”. This is exactly the American
utilitarianism. (Arima, 2003) However, the American utilitarianism gives us a lot of dreams. Everyone wants to see the dream. That why the Disney movies are loved all over the world.

The American factors are included not only in the stories but also in the pictures. For instance, in the “Pinocchio”, Blue fairy does not look like the fairy. It looks like American beauty. (Arima, 2003) Also, in “Cinderella”, the witch looks like American elder lady. (Arima, 2003) the Disney movies include a lot of American factors; therefore, it became the American fairy tales.

He concerned with not only the stories but also the characters, the pictures, and the music. Especially, the music is essential for the Disney movies. He had much concern with the music. He made a lot of famous music, for example, “A whole new world”, “Beauty and the Beast”, “Under the sea” and so on. (Arima, 2003)

As a conclusion, he concerned with everything, and the lovely fantastic movies are made. Also, his movies have a lot of the American factors. He changed the cruel stories into the fantastic stories by the American way of thinking. Therefore the Disney movies are related to the American culture. Although his movies include a lot of American factors such as an American utilitarianism, it gives us a lot of dreams and hopes. I hope that the Disney movies keep giving us a lot of dreams and hopes.
Appendix

Questionnaire:

I asked 20 IEP students six questions about Walt Disney.

1. Do you know Walt Disney? 20/20 people said, “Yes.”

2. Do you know the Walt Disney’s movies, for instance, “Cinderella”, “little mermaid”, “snow white”? 20/20 people said, “Yes.”

3. Do you like it? 20/20 people said, “Yes.”

4. Did you watch Walt Disney’s movies when you were child? 16/20 people said, “Yes.”

5. Did you know that almost all Disney’s classic movies came from “the Grimm Brother’s fairy tales”? 19/20 people said, “No.”

6. Do you know the original stories? 19/20 people said, “No.”
Works Cited


