GENDER IN GRAPHIC NOVELS

A Graphic Narrative is a book made up of comic content. Although the word 'novel' would normally refers to long fictional works, the term Graphic Novel is usually applied in various forms including fiction, non fiction and anthologized works. At the same time Graphic Novels offers an intricately layered narrative language which includes the verbal, visual and the way this presentational mode interact on a page. These Graphic Narratives are of several types which includes; Biographic Graphic Novel, Horror Graphic Novel, Mystery Graphic Novel, etc.

Gender is an identity constructed by a culture and it can limit the freedom of both men and women. And in the 20th century many Graphic Novels have been written from a new perspective placing them in more powerful roles than they have been traditionally portrayed. One genre that has been extensively explored by Graphic Novel creators is the retelling of the Ramayana and Mahabharata Epics. So my proposed aim in this project is to find out how the characters in the followings works are powerful in their deeds. With a special focus on Karl by Amruta Patil, Sita : The Daughter of the Earth by Saraswati Nagpal, Manikandan,This is Suki by Manjula Padmanabhan and Sita's Ramayana by Samhita Arni and Moyna Chitrakar.

Gender Studies is a field of interdisciplinary study devoted to gender identity and gendered representation as central categories of analysis. With reference to Judith Butler's Gender Trouble and Simon de Beauvoir's Sexual Politics one can find the gender identity of these female characters in the graphic narratives.

Everyone has a coming of age story. We have all been in the cusp of adulthood struggling to find our identity, balancing the societal pressure to conform and fit in with the mainstream with the innate desire to rebel and standout. One place where diverse coming of age stories are thriving, though is graphic novels. I hope this work may provide one with a vivid and intimate look into the day to day life of these people doing their best to survive. My hope, though is that more inclusion of female characters will create characters that are on the same footing with males ,thus contributing to a more thoughtful reading and approaches these texts from any gendered perspective. If people started looking at these characters eventually more works will emerge. By doing so we can learn how the roles of women are changing and how we can continue to propel female roles forward.

Works Cited

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