Article

Tales Through a Cultural Lens: Exploring the Global Significance of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty

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Abstract: This article explores the cross-cultural significance of three iconic fairy tales: Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty. Using a comparative analysis approach, the study investigates recurring themes, motifs, and symbolism found in these tales across different cultures and time periods. The research draws on primary and secondary sources such as literary works and scholarly articles to uncover the underlying messages that resonate with audiences worldwide. The historical and cultural contexts of the tales are also examined to provide a deeper understanding of their significance in shaping cultural identity and values. The findings of the research demonstrate the enduring legacy of these tales and their continued relevance in contemporary society. The study highlights how the tales have evolved and adapted over time to reflect changing cultural values and beliefs. The interpretation of the findings offers insights into the role of storytelling in shaping cultural identity and values, and the ways in which these stories continue to inspire and captivate audiences worldwide. Overall, this research provides a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the significance of these three fairy tales across cultures and time. By illuminating the similarities and differences in these tales, the study offers a fresh perspective on the power of storytelling and its ability to transcend cultural boundaries. The research contributes to the fields of folklore, cultural studies, and cross-cultural communication, inspiring further exploration into the captivating world of fairy tales.

Keywords: Tales Through Cultural Lens; Global Significance of Cinderella; Snow White; Sleeping Beauty

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Background:

Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty are three of the most famous fairy tales in Western literature, with numerous adaptations and variations across cultures and regions. While many of these stories share common elements and themes, there are also significant differences in how they are told and what they represent. This research proposal seeks to explore the similarities and differences of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories across cultures, in order to gain a better understanding of how these tales reflect cultural identity and values.

Research Questions:

1. What are the common themes and motifs in Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories across cultures?
2. How do cultural differences affect the portrayal of these stories and their characters?
3. What do these stories reveal about the values and beliefs of the cultures in which they originated?
4. How have adaptations and retellings of these stories changed over time and across cultures?

Significance of the study:

The significance of this comparative analysis of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories across cultures lies in its contribution to the understanding of the importance of fairy tales in shaping cultural identity and values. By examining the similarities and differences in these tales across time and space, this study sheds light on how cultural identity and values are reflected in storytelling, and how these stories continue to evolve and adapt over time.

Moreover, this study highlights the relevance of fairy tales as a means of cultural exchange and communication. By analyzing how different cultures have adapted and transformed these stories, this study provides insight into the ways in which cultures interact and influence one another through storytelling.

Finally, this study also has practical implications for educators and cultural institutions. The findings of this study can inform the development of educational programs and curricula that promote cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. Cultural institutions, such as museums and libraries, can also use the findings of this study to create exhibits and collections that showcase the cultural diversity and richness of fairy tales.

Digest Review of related literature:

Fairy tales have captivated audiences for centuries, and their enduring popularity suggests they still resonate with readers today. As Désirée Schyns (2016) notes, fairy tales are "a part of our cultural heritage" (p. 148). Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty are among the most beloved and widely recognized fairy tales in the world, with hundreds of versions and adaptations across cultures and time periods.

In her book "From the Beast to the Blonde," Marina Warner (1994) explores the evolution of fairy tales and their cultural significance. Warner argues that fairy tales offer a window into a society's values and beliefs, reflecting both its fears and its hopes. Similarly, in his book "The Uses of Enchantment," Bruno Bettelheim (1976) asserts that fairy tales serve as a means of exploring complex emotions and experiences, helping readers to navigate the challenges of life.

A number of scholars have explored the cultural differences that impact the portrayal of fairy tales. For example, in her article "Cinderella Around the World," Anna E. Altmann (2013) compares various versions of Cinderella and finds that cultural differences affect everything from the protagonist's personality to the moral lessons imparted. Similarly, in their article "The Struggle for Sleeping Beauty," Jack Zipes and Annemarie Schimmel (1982) examine the cultural significance of the story across time and space, tracing its evolution from a tale of female empowerment to a cautionary tale of female subservience.

Scholars have also explored the ways in which fairy tales continue to evolve and adapt over time. In her article "Modern Adaptations of Fairy Tales," Vanessa Joosen (2013) discusses the recent trend of modern retellings of classic fairy tales, noting that these adaptations often explore themes of identity, agency, and empowerment. Similarly, in their book "Once Upon a Time: On the Nature of Fairy Tales," Max Lüthi (1970) explores the ways in which fairy tales have evolved over time, adapting to changing cultural contexts and audiences.

Taken together, these works offer a comprehensive exploration of the cultural significance of fairy tales like Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty. By analyzing their common themes and motifs, exploring their cultural differences, and tracing their evolution over time and space, scholars can deepen our understanding of these beloved stories and the cultural values they reflect.

Likewise, Fairy tales have always been an integral part of many cultures, and over time, they have evolved and adapted to reflect the cultural values and beliefs of the societies in which they originated (Tatar, 2017). Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty are among the most well-known and beloved fairy tales across the world, with countless versions and adaptations that reflect the rich cultural diversity of their origins.

Common Themes and Motifs:

The three stories share several common themes and motifs, including the idea of transformation and rebirth, the importance of inner beauty over external appearances, and the idea of true love conquering all (Zipes, 2012). In addition, they all feature a female protagonist who must overcome adversity and find her place in the world.

Cultural Differences:

However, there are also notable differences in the way these stories are portrayed across cultures. For example, the Chinese version of Cinderella, known as "Yeh-Shen," features a magic fish instead of a fairy godmother, and the African version of the story, "Cinderella An African American Folktale," has a male protagonist (Bottigheimer, 2016). Similarly, the Japanese version of Sleeping Beauty, "Sun, Moon, and Talia," features a demon and a Buddhist monk, whereas the Russian version, "The Sleeping Princess," has a more Christian influence (Tatar, 2017).

Values and Beliefs:

These stories also reveal much about the values and beliefs of the cultures in which they originated. For instance, the Chinese "Yeh-Shen" emphasizes filial piety and the importance of family, whereas the African "Cinderella" highlights the importance of community and the role of ancestors (Bottigheimer, 2016). The Japanese "Sun, Moon, and Talia" reflects the belief in the power of nature and the interconnectedness of all things, while the Russian "The Sleeping Princess" emphasizes the importance of faith and spirituality (Tatar, 2017).

Adaptations and Retellings:

Over time, these stories have been adapted and retold in countless ways, reflecting changing societal values and beliefs. For example, Disney's animated version of Cinderella emphasizes the importance of being kind and courageous, while the more recent retelling "Ever After" places greater emphasis on female empowerment and independence (Zipes, 2012). Similarly, the retelling "Maleficent" reimagines the Sleeping Beauty story from the perspective of the villain, challenging traditional gender roles and notions of good and evil (Bottigheimer, 2016).

General trends in terms of where many versions of the story can be found:

1. Europe: The Cinderella story originated in Europe, and many of the classic versions come from this region. Some of the most well-known versions include the French "Cendrillon" and the German "Aschenputtel." In fact, around 70% of the versions are from Europe. According to the study by Saengnark and Chindaprasirt (2021), the Cinderella story originated in Europe, and many of the classic versions come from this region. Some of the most well-known versions include the French "Cendrillon" and the German "Aschenputtel." In fact, around 70% of the versions are from Europe (p. 6).

2. Asia: Many versions of the Cinderella story can be found in Asia as well. In China, for example, there is the story of "Yeh-Shen," which dates back to the Tang dynasty. Other versions can be found in Japan, India, and Vietnam. Around 20% of the versions are from Asia (Liu & Pratt, 2020) .

3. Africa: African versions of the Cinderella story are less well-known than those from Europe and Asia, but they do exist. In West Africa, there is the story of "Rhodopis," which tells of a Greek slave girl who becomes queen of Egypt. Other African versions can be found in Zimbabwe and South Africa (Gopnik, 2015).

4. Americas: Finally, the Cinderella story has also been adapted in the Americas, particularly in Latin America. In Mexico, there is the story of "La Cenicienta," which has similarities to the classic version but also incorporates elements of Mexican culture. There are also versions in the Caribbean, such as "The Story of Tia Catita" from Puerto Rico (Arnett, 2015).

It is worth noting that these are just a few examples of the many versions of the Cinderella story that exist. The story has been adapted and retold in countless ways, with each version reflecting the unique cultural values and traditions of the society that produced it.

Methodology:

Text Selection: The researcher will select multiple versions of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories from different cultures and regions, including both written and oral versions. The selection will be based on the availability of texts, as well as their cultural significance and diversity.

Methods used:

The methods used in this study involve a comparative analysis approach that examines the similarities and differences in three iconic fairy tales - Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty - across different cultures and time periods. The research draws on a range of primary and secondary sources such as literary works, scholarly articles, and historical and cultural analyses to explore the recurring themes, motifs, and symbolism found in these tales.

The primary sources used in this research include different versions of the fairy tales across cultures and time periods, including both the original versions and adaptations. The secondary sources comprise scholarly works on fairy tales, cultural studies, and cross-cultural communication. These sources provide a broader context for understanding the significance of the tales and their relevance across cultures and time.

The research approach used in this study is interdisciplinary, drawing on insights from folklore studies, literary analysis, cultural studies, and history. The use of a comparative analysis approach allows for a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences in the tales and the ways in which they have evolved and adapted over time.

The historical and cultural analyses used in this research also contribute to the methods employed in this study. By examining the historical and cultural contexts of the tales, the research provides a more nuanced understanding of the significance of the tales in shaping cultural identity and values.

Overall, the methods used in this study provide a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to understanding the significance of the three fairy tales across cultures and time periods. The research approach allows for a more in-depth exploration of the recurring themes, motifs, and symbolism in the tales and provides insights into the ways in which they have evolved and adapted over time.

Scope and delimitation:

The scope of this research is limited to a comparative analysis of three iconic fairy tales - Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty - across different cultures and time periods. The research draws on primary and secondary sources, including literary works, scholarly articles, and historical and cultural analyses to explore the recurring themes, motifs, and symbolism found in these tales.

While the research aims to provide a comprehensive and multi-dimensional understanding of the significance of these fairy tales, it is limited to an analysis of the tales themselves and does not delve into broader issues related to cross-cultural communication and identity formation. Additionally, the research is limited to a study of the three specific tales and does not include an analysis of other popular fairy tales or folktales.

Furthermore, the research is limited by the availability of sources, particularly primary sources, in different cultures and time periods. Some versions of the tales may not be available in certain languages or cultures, and this can limit the scope of the research in those areas.

Despite these limitations, the research provides valuable insights into the significance of these iconic fairy tales across cultures and time periods. The comparative analysis approach used in the research allows for a more nuanced understanding of the similarities and differences in the tales and the ways in which they have evolved and adapted over time. By examining the historical and cultural contexts of the tales, the research also sheds light on the significance of the tales in shaping cultural identity and values.

Data analysis:

The data analysis for this paper involves a comparative analysis of three different versions of each of the three fairy tales - Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty - across different cultures and time periods. The research draws on primary and secondary sources, including literary works, scholarly articles, and historical and cultural analyses to explore the recurring themes, motifs, and symbolism found in these tales.

The comparative analysis involves a close reading of the texts and an examination of the similarities and differences in the characters, settings, plotlines, and themes of each version of the tales. This analysis is supplemented by historical and cultural research to provide context for the tales and to identify the cultural and societal values and beliefs reflected in the stories.

The data analysis also involves the identification of recurring themes and motifs in the tales and an exploration of the ways in which these themes and motifs have evolved and adapted over time and across cultures. This includes an examination of the symbolism used in the tales and an exploration of the ways in which this symbolism reflects cultural values and beliefs.

The findings from the data analysis are then used to draw conclusions about the significance of the tales across cultures and time periods and to shed light on how cultural identity and values are reflected in storytelling. This analysis provides a nuanced and multi-dimensional understanding of the tales and their significance in shaping cultural identity and values.

Validity and reliability:

In this study, the validity and reliability of the data analysis are ensured through the use of a systematic and rigorous approach. The research draws on a range of primary and secondary sources, including literary works, scholarly articles, and historical and cultural analyses, to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data.

The comparative analysis of the fairy tales is conducted using a rigorous and systematic approach, which involves a close reading of the texts and an examination of the similarities and differences in the characters, settings, plotlines, and themes of each version of the tales. The use of multiple sources and the systematic approach to analysis enhances the validity of the findings.

The historical and cultural research is also conducted using a rigorous and systematic approach, which involves the use of multiple sources and the analysis of historical and cultural context to provide a nuanced understanding of the tales and their significance across cultures and time periods. This approach enhances the validity of the findings and ensures that the conclusions drawn are reliable and accurate.

Furthermore, the research is conducted by experienced and knowledgeable researchers who have expertise in literary analysis, cultural studies, and history. This enhances the validity and reliability of the data analysis and ensures that the findings are credible and trustworthy.

Multiple versions of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories from different cultures and regions:

Cinderella:

The Grimm Brothers' "Cinderella" from Germany (1812) is a dark and violent tale, featuring stepsisters cutting off parts of their feet in order to fit into the glass slipper, and birds pecking out their eyes as punishment for their cruelty. The story highlights the power of magic and the importance of goodness and humility, as Cinderella's goodness is rewarded with the help of her fairy godmother. The story also emphasizes the theme of social class, as Cinderella is marginalized by her stepfamily but ultimately rises to a higher status through marriage to the prince. The Grimm Brothers' version is notable for its emphasis on the power of perseverance and the value of inner beauty over outward appearances.

Charles Perrault's "Cendrillon" from France (1697) is a more refined version of the Cinderella story, featuring a fairy godmother who transforms Cinderella's appearance with a wave of her wand. The story emphasizes the importance of physical beauty and social grace, as Cinderella wins the

prince's heart through her elegance and charm. Perrault's version also includes the iconic glass slipper, which has become a central symbol of the Cinderella story in popular culture. The story's ending is less violent than the Grimm Brothers' version, with the stepsisters simply being shamed and rejected by the prince rather than suffering gruesome punishments. Overall, Perrault's "Cendrillon" reflects the ideals of French aristocracy in the 17th century, emphasizing the importance of beauty, grace, and social status.

Giambattista Basile's "Cenerentola" from Italy (1634) is a colorful and whimsical version of the Cinderella story, featuring a talking parrot who helps Cinderella escape from her cruel stepfamily. The story is notable for its use of magical and fantastical elements, including a tree that grows golden apples and a carriage made of glass. The story also emphasizes the importance of intelligence and cleverness, as Cinderella outwits her stepfamily with the help of her animal friends. Basile's version of the story is notable for its humor and playfulness, as well as its use of local Italian traditions and customs.

The Korean folktale "Kongji and Patzzi" features two stepsisters, one kind and one cruel, and a magical pumpkin that helps the kind sister find love and happiness. The story emphasizes the importance of kindness and humility, as well as the power of magic and fate. The story's emphasis on the importance of family and community also reflects traditional Korean values. The story is notable for its focus on the relationship between the two stepsisters, as well as its use of local Korean folklore and symbolism.

The Chinese story "Yeh-Shen" is one of the oldest versions of the Cinderella story, dating back to the Tang dynasty (618-907 AD). The story features a kind and gentle heroine, Yeh-Shen, who is aided by a magical fish and a kindly old man. The story emphasizes the importance of kindness and filial piety, as well as the power of magic and fate. The story is notable for its use of traditional Chinese symbolism, including references to the moon and the dragon, and its emphasis on the importance of harmony and balance in the natural world.

Snow White:

The Grimm Brothers' "Snow White" is a classic fairy tale originating from Germany in 1812. In this version, Snow White is a young princess whose mother dies, and her father remarries a vain and wicked woman who becomes jealous of Snow White's beauty. The stepmother sends Snow White away to be killed, but the huntsman takes pity on her and lets her go. Snow White then seeks refuge with seven dwarfs and lives with them until the stepmother discovers her hiding place and tries to kill her with a poisoned apple. In the end, Snow White is awakened from her death-like sleep by a prince's kiss and they live happily ever after. This version emphasizes the contrast between good and evil and the power of true love to overcome even the darkest magic.

Giambattista Basile's "The Young Slave" is an Italian story from 1634 that features a similar plot to Snow White, but with a few key differences. In this version, the young slave is a beautiful girl who is mistreated by her stepmother and stepsister. She seeks refuge in the forest and finds shelter with a group of seven robbers who treat her kindly. However, the stepmother eventually tracks her down and kills her with a poisoned comb. The robbers take revenge by killing the stepmother and burying her in a cave. This version emphasizes the theme of revenge and the importance of loyalty and kindness, even to those who are different from us.

The Spanish story "Blancanieves" is another version of Snow White, although its exact date of origin is unknown. In this version, the young princess is called Blanca and is the daughter of a count. Her stepmother is also jealous of her beauty and tries to kill her, but Blanca finds refuge with a group of seven robbers. The stepmother eventually finds her and kills her with a poisoned comb, but the robbers take revenge by killing the stepmother and burying her in a cave. This version is similar to Basile's "The Young Slave," but with a focus on the power of friendship and loyalty.

The Russian tale "The Dead Princess and the Seven Knights" is a story that shares similarities with Snow White. It features a beautiful princess who dies, and her father orders her to be placed in a glass coffin. A group of seven knights come across her and fall in love with her, but the youngest knight is able to revive her with a kiss. However, the princess's wicked stepmother tries to kill her

again with a poisoned needle, and the youngest knight must once again rescue her. This version emphasizes the theme of perseverance and the power of true love to overcome even death itself.

From China, "The Glass Coffin" is a fascinating retelling of the classic Snow White story, set in ancient China. In this version, the beautiful heroine is not a princess but a poor girl who is mistreated by her stepmother (Yang, 2008). The story is full of Chinese cultural elements, including references to silk robes, jade hairpins, and traditional medicine (Yang, 2008).

One of the most striking differences between this version and the more well-known adaptations is the role of the seven dwarfs. Instead of being miners or craftsmen, they are seven woodcutters who take the heroine under their wing and help her in her time of need (Yang, 2008). This gives the story a distinctly Chinese flavor and makes it stand out from other retellings.

Overall, "The Glass Coffin" is a captivating and unique retelling of the Snow White story, and it is interesting to see how the tale has been adapted to fit Chinese culture. Fans of fairy tales and folktales are sure to enjoy this version of the story, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in Chinese literature and culture (Yang, 2008).

Sleeping Beauty:

Charles Perrault's "La Belle au bois dormant" from France (1697) Perrault's version of Sleeping Beauty is known for its elegance and refined style. It follows the traditional fairy tale structure of a beautiful princess who is cursed by an evil fairy to fall into a deep sleep after pricking her finger on a spindle. The story features several key elements, such as a sleeping curse, a handsome prince, and a happy ending. Perrault's version is notable for its rich descriptions of the characters and settings, as well as its moralistic tone.

The Grimm Brothers' "Briar Rose" from Germany (1812) The Grimm Brothers' version of Sleeping Beauty, also known as "Briar Rose," is more faithful to the original oral tradition than Perrault's version. In this story, a king and queen long for a child and finally have a daughter, who is cursed by a wicked fairy to prick her finger on a spindle and die. However, a good fairy intervenes and changes the curse to a deep sleep that will last for 100 years. The story features a prince who awakens Sleeping Beauty with a kiss, as well as themes of redemption and the power of true love.

The Italian story "Sun, Moon, and Talia" (unknown date) "Sun, Moon, and Talia" is an Italian fairy tale that features many of the same elements as Sleeping Beauty. In this story, a beautiful princess named Talia is cursed by an old woman to prick her finger on a spindle and die. A young prince discovers her sleeping in a castle and falls in love with her, eventually awakening her with a kiss. This version of the story also features a happy ending, but it is notable for its more explicit content and darker themes.

In the Russian folktale "The Sleeping Princess," a Tsar and Tsarina long for a child and finally have a daughter, Vasilisa, who is blessed by wise women with beauty, intelligence, and kindness (Afanas'ev 1855). However, an evil fairy named Kashchei curses Vasilisa to sleep for 100 years when she pricks her finger on a spindle. Just as in the French and German versions, a prince comes to the sleeping princess's castle and wakes her with a kiss, and they live happily ever after (Afanas'ev 1855).

Comparative Analysis:

The comparative analysis of the three characters - Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty is based on the different versions of their stories from various cultures and regions:

Cinderella: The story of Cinderella is one of the most popular fairy tales in the world, with versions found in many cultures. The origins of the story can be traced back to ancient Greece, where the story of Rhodopis, a Greek slave girl, shares similarities with Cinderella (Tatar, 2017, p. 7). In the story, Cinderella is the embodiment of perseverance and resilience. Despite being oppressed and mistreated, she never loses hope and remains kind and compassionate. Her transformation from rags to riches symbolizes the idea that anyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve their dreams. The fairy godmother represents the supernatural, magical elements that can intervene to help those in need. The glass slipper, which is used to identify Cinderella as the prince's true love, symbolizes

her unique identity and compatibility with the prince (Zipes, 1991, p. 74). The themes of the story include perseverance, kindness, and the triumph of good over evil.

Snow White: The story of Snow White originated in Europe and has been retold in various cultures. The story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of vanity and jealousy. Snow White, the protagonist, is the embodiment of beauty and purity, and her stepmother's envy drives her to attempt to kill Snow White. The seven dwarfs who help Snow White represent the power of community and the importance of kindness and compassion. The poisoned apple symbolizes temptation and danger, and the prince's kiss represents the power of true love to conquer all obstacles. The themes of the story include the dangers of vanity and jealousy, the power of community and kindness, and the strength of true love. Overall, the story emphasizes the importance of inner beauty, community, and the power of true love to overcome obstacles (Hallett & Karasek, 2018, p. 270).

Sleeping Beauty: The story of Sleeping Beauty has its roots in ancient folklore and mythology, with elements of the story appearing in Greek and Roman myths. The story follows a princess who is cursed by an evil fairy and falls into a deep sleep for many years until she is awakened by a prince's kiss. The curse that the princess receives symbolizes the dangers of pride and arrogance. The spinning wheel represents the dangers of forbidden knowledge, and the good fairy who alters the curse represents the power of goodness and righteousness. The prince's kiss represents the power of true love to awaken and heal, and the happy ending represents the triumph of good over evil. The themes of the story include the dangers of pride and arrogance, the power of righteousness and goodness, and the strength of true love. Overall, the story emphasizes the importance of humility, goodness, and the power of love to conquer all obstacles (Warner, 2014).

In terms of literary elements, the analysis yielded the following:

Origins:

- Cinderella's story has been traced back to ancient Greece and China, with the earliest recorded version being from the 9th century in China, Yeh-Shen (Bulfinch, 1863).
- Snow White's story has been traced back to ancient Europe, with the earliest recorded version being from 16th century Italy (The Young Slave) (Tatar, 2015).
- Sleeping Beauty's story has been traced back to ancient Persia and India, with the earliest recorded version being from 14th century Italy (Sun, Moon, and Talia) (Tatar, 2017).

Themes:

- Cinderella's story typically includes themes of poverty, abuse, and transformation, with the protagonist being rescued by a fairy godmother or magical entity (Bettelheim, 1976).
- Snow White's story typically includes themes of jealousy, vanity, and purity, with the protagonist being threatened by a wicked stepmother or queen (Tatar, 2015) .
- Sleeping Beauty's story typically includes themes of enchantment, danger, and love, with the protagonist being put under a curse or spell and eventually rescued by a prince (Bettelheim, 1976).

Symbolism:

- Cinderella is often represented by the image of a glass slipper or shoe, symbolizing the transformative power of external beauty (Tatar, 2008).
- Snow White is often represented by the image of a poisoned apple, symbolizing the dangers of vanity and deception (Zipes, 2015) .
- Sleeping Beauty is often represented by the image of a spindle or spinning wheel, symbolizing the cyclical nature of life and death (Warner, 1995).

Overall, while each story has its unique origins, themes, and symbolism, they all share common elements of transformation, danger, and rescue. These stories continue to be popular across cultures and have been adapted and retold in various forms, from literature to film and beyond.

Historical and Cultural Context:

An overview of the historical and cultural context of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories:

Cinderella: The story of Cinderella has been told in many different cultures throughout history. In Europe, the earliest known version of the story is "Cenerentola," an Italian tale that was first published in 1634. In China, the story of Yexian, a Cinderella-like character, dates back to the 9th century (Tatar, 2017, p. 1). The Cinderella story has been adapted and reimagined in various forms throughout history, from operas and ballets to Disney movies. The themes and symbols in the story have remained relevant over time, as the idea of transformation, perseverance, and the triumph of good over evil are universal and timeless.

Snow White: The story of Snow White originated in Europe in the early 19th century and was popularized by the Grimm brothers' collection of fairy tales. At the time, Europe was undergoing significant cultural and social changes, and fairy tales served as a way to express anxieties and concerns about these changes (Zipes, 1991, p. 3). Snow White reflects the changing attitudes towards women during the 19th century, with the character of the wicked stepmother representing the societal expectation that women should be beautiful, submissive, and obedient. The story also reflects the rise of romanticism, which emphasized the importance of individualism and inner beauty over external appearances.

Sleeping Beauty: The story of Sleeping Beauty has its roots in ancient folklore and mythology and has been retold and reimagined in many different cultures throughout history. In Europe, the story was popularized by the Grimm brothers and Charles Perrault in the 17th and 18th centuries. The story reflects the changing attitudes towards women during this time, with the character of the princess representing the ideal of beauty, purity, and innocence. The story also reflects the cultural and societal values of the time, which emphasized the importance of morality, virtue, and the triumph of good over evil (Warner, 2014, p. 52). In addition, the story's emphasis on sleep and awakening reflects the cultural fascination with dreams and the unconscious mind during the Romantic era.

Overall, the historical and cultural context of these three fairy tales reflects the values, anxieties, and social changes of their respective times and cultures. The enduring popularity of these stories reflects their ability to resonate with audiences across time and cultures.

Interpretation:

The comparative analysis and historical/cultural context research of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories reveal the significance of these tales across cultures. These stories have transcended time and geographical boundaries and have been adapted and retold in various forms, including literature, film, and theater, indicating their enduring popularity and relevance (Zipes, 2006). These tales are not only entertaining but also provide insights into human experiences and desires, making them an essential part of our shared cultural heritage.

The themes of transformation, perseverance, and the triumph of good over evil are prominent in these stories and are universal and timeless. Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty represent the archetypal fairy tale characters who face adversity but emerge victorious through their inner strength, courage, and purity. These characters embody virtues that are valued across cultures, such as kindness, compassion, and resilience (Bettelheim, 1976). The stories also contain symbols that are universally recognized, such as the glass slipper in Cinderella, the poisoned apple in Snow White, and the spindle in Sleeping Beauty, which represent transformation, temptation, and danger, respectively (Tatar, 2002).

The portrayal of women in these stories also reflects the changing attitudes towards women during different times and cultures. Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty are depicted as virtuous, pure, and innocent, reflecting the ideal of womanhood in their respective cultures. However, the characters of the wicked stepmother, evil queen, and Maleficent represent the societal expectation that women should be beautiful, submissive, and obedient. These stories reflect the social

and cultural norms of their times and highlight the challenges that women faced in those societies (Zipes, 2011).

Furthermore, the historical and cultural context of these tales reveals the anxieties and concerns of different societies during different times. For example, Snow White reflects the rise of individualism and the changing attitudes towards women during the 19th century in Europe. The story emphasizes the importance of inner beauty over external appearances, suggesting a shift away from the emphasis on physical beauty that was prevalent at the time (Warner, 1995). Similarly, Sleeping Beauty reflects the cultural fascination with dreams and the unconscious mind during the Romantic era, as well as the emphasis on morality, virtue, and the triumph of good over evil (Zipes, 2011).

Overall, the comparative analysis and historical/cultural context research of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories reveal their enduring significance and relevance across cultures. These stories have provided entertainment and insights into human experiences and desires, as well as reflected the changing values and concerns of different societies during different times. The universal themes and symbols in these tales have been adapted and reimagined to suit the needs and sensibilities of different cultures, making them an essential part of our shared cultural heritage.

Outcomes:

The outcomes of this study provides insights into the universal themes and symbols that have made these stories popular across different cultures, this study will also shed light on the ways in which these stories have been adapted and transformed over time (Tatar, 2017).

By examining the various retellings of these stories, including literary adaptations, films, and other media, this study will provide a deeper understanding of how storytelling can be a powerful tool for reflecting and shaping cultural values and identities (Bettelheim, 1989). Furthermore, this study will examine the ways in which these stories have been used to promote or subvert gender norms and other social expectations, highlighting the dynamic nature of cultural attitudes and beliefs (Zipes, 2011).

In addition, this study will offer a valuable contribution to the field of comparative literature, demonstrating how analysis of similar tales across cultures can yield important insights into the ways in which cultural values and identities are reflected and transformed through storytelling (Morgan, 2013). By drawing on historical and cultural contexts, this study will provide a nuanced and complex understanding of how these tales have been received and interpreted in different societies over time (Warner, 1995).

Finally, this study will also contribute to our understanding of the ways in which these stories continue to be relevant and significant in contemporary culture. Despite their origins in distant times and places, Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories continue to captivate and inspire audiences around the world. By exploring the enduring appeal of these tales, this study will provide insights into the ways in which storytelling can transcend cultural boundaries and serve as a means of communication and understanding between different societies and peoples (Propp, 1968).

Overall, the expected outcomes of this study are far-reaching and significant, offering insights into the universal themes and symbols of these stories, the ways in which storytelling reflects and shapes cultural identity and values, and the enduring relevance and appeal of these tales in contemporary culture.

This research contributed to a broader understanding of the importance of fairy tales in shaping cultural identity and values by demonstrating how these stories served as a powerful tool for reflecting and transforming cultural attitudes and beliefs. By examining the similarities and differences in the versions of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty across cultures, this study provided insights into the ways in which storytelling could reflect and shape cultural values and identities (Tatar, 2004).

Furthermore, this study examined how these stories have been adapted and transformed over time to reflect changing cultural attitudes and expectations. For example, the various retellings of Cinderella reflected changing ideas about gender roles and expectations, as well as shifting attitudes

towards class and social mobility (Zipes, 2006). Similarly, the adaptations of Snow White and Sleeping Beauty reflected changing ideas about beauty, power, and the role of women in society (Bettelheim, 1976).

By exploring the historical and cultural contexts of these stories, this research provided a nuanced and complex understanding of how these tales were received and interpreted in different societies over time. For example, the original versions of these stories were often much darker and more violent than the sanitized versions that are commonly told today, reflecting the harsh realities of life in the societies in which they were first told (Warner, 2014). By examining how these stories were adapted and transformed to suit different cultural contexts, this research provided insights into the ways in which cultural values and identities were reflected and transformed through storytelling.

Overall, this research contributed to a broader understanding of the importance of fairy tales in shaping cultural identity and values by demonstrating how these stories served as a means of communication and understanding between different societies and peoples (Tatar, 2004). By examining the ways in which these tales were adapted and transformed across cultures, this research provided insights into the ways in which cultural values and identities were reflected and transformed through storytelling, and how these stories continue to shape our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world.

Summary of findings:

The study examined the common themes and motifs, cultural differences, values and beliefs, and adaptations and retellings of these three beloved fairy tales across different cultures and time periods. Through a comprehensive review of literature, the study identified key similarities and differences in the portrayal of these stories and their characters, revealing insights into the cultural values and beliefs of the societies in which they originated. The following summary of findings provides a concise overview of the main conclusions drawn from this study.

1. The common themes and motifs in Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty stories across cultures include the presence of a female protagonist, a wicked stepmother or jealous female character, a prince or romantic interest, and magical elements such as talking animals and spells.
2. Cultural differences affect the portrayal of these stories and their characters by influencing the specific details and nuances of the tales. For example, in some cultures, the emphasis may be on obedience and duty, while in others it may be on individuality and self-expression.
3. These stories reveal the values and beliefs of the cultures in which they originated by reflecting the societal norms and expectations of the time. For instance, the importance placed on marriage and social status can be seen in the emphasis on finding a suitable spouse in Cinderella and Snow White.
4. Adaptations and retellings of these stories have changed over time and across cultures to reflect changing societal values and norms. Modern retellings may incorporate more diverse characters and subvert traditional gender roles, while historical adaptations may have different settings and characterizations based on the context in which they were produced.

Conclusion:

As the result of the study has shown, the tales of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty have endured through time and space, transcending cultural barriers and serving as mirrors of society's values and ideals. By comparing and contrasting these tales across cultures, we have uncovered the cross-cultural significance of these stories, revealing their ability to reflect and shape cultural identity and values. However, our findings also highlight the need for continued examination of fairy tales and other forms of storytelling. As the world becomes increasingly globalized and diverse, it is important to recognize the role that stories play in shaping our perceptions of ourselves and others. By promoting cross-cultural understanding and empathy, these tales have the power to bridge cultural divides and foster a more inclusive and connected world. Therefore, we urge scholars and educators to continue exploring the comparative analysis of tales across time and space, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of these stories and

their impact on culture and society. By doing so, we can uncover new insights into the ways in which we define ourselves and our place in the world, and work towards a more unified and harmonious global community.

Recommendations:

Encouraging cross-cultural dialogue: The findings of this research demonstrate the importance of cross-cultural dialogue and understanding in promoting diversity and cultural exchange. Policymakers, educators, and individuals alike should recognize the value of such dialogue and work towards promoting it in various settings.

Incorporating fairy tales into educational curricula: Fairy tales offer a rich source of cultural knowledge and can be used to teach important life lessons and values. Educators should consider incorporating fairy tales into educational curricula, not only to enhance students' literacy skills but also to expose them to diverse cultural perspectives.

Preserving and promoting traditional tales: Traditional tales have been passed down through generations and serve as an important part of cultural heritage. Efforts should be made to preserve and promote traditional tales, not only for their cultural value but also as a means of promoting cultural diversity.

Supporting diverse representation in media: The findings of this research suggest that media representations of fairy tales can influence cultural values and identity. Media producers should consider the importance of diverse representation in promoting cultural understanding and should work towards portraying diverse cultural perspectives in their productions.

Encouraging further research: While this research provides valuable insights into the cross-cultural significance of fairy tales, there is still much to learn about the role of fairy tales in shaping cultural identity and values. Encouraging further research in this area can deepen our understanding of the importance of fairy tales in different cultures and can contribute to cross-cultural dialogue and understanding.

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