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Comm 450

First Draft

Racism and Stereotypes in Children’s Movies

For decades now, the film industry has been discreetly including racial stereotypes in some of the most popular film today. The industry cannot hide their beliefs and understandings of a creative norm as a lot of their films have hidden reasoning. It is important not to lead our youth on to think this action of racism is appropriate. They are pure and vulnerable and can only know what they are taught. The inclusion of these stereotypes in children’s movies is attempting to resume racism. In the attempt to justify their structural racism, the industries have included a viewing warning for all consumers to acknowledge before watching the films. The warning affirms that there is cultural depictions of the timeframes in which these movies were created. Movies and Disney films such as Lady and the Tramp, Mulan, and The Lion King have very thoughtful imagery and symbolic ways to display racial stereotypes.

Highly educated people all over the world have been questioning the reason and meaning behind the imagery and sounds in film. Offering both novel interpretations, because most of the movies are children’s books as well, and culturally relevant material because a stereotype, which is a form of racism, their research has allowed me to come to my own conclusions about movies that are specifically meant to entertain the youth. I believe publishers are intentionally including these discrete messages and understandings of social life to target the purity of the youth. The movies have been reproduced and still have these stereotypes. Why target innocent children? Is it because they have not yet fully developed mentally? I believe our youth will determine our future. Structuralizing racism within these children’s films to teach the youth these racial stereotypes is hindering a wholesome progression.

* Racism
* Structural Racism
* Color-blind Racism
* New racial regime
* Double consciousness

I think the development of these misleading films is not fair. We cannot allow our children to grow up blind and obedient to the world’s wrong doings going on around them. We have to raise our children to be better than we were at their age. (Include movies and themes)

Disney released Lady and The Tramp, a movie originally created in 1946. Over the few decades this movie has been recreated with some of the same racial social circumstances as before. In the original film, Don Halliday authored the images and persona of the Siamese cats. These two trouble makers had slanted eyes and broken English and were believed to represent … This “cultural depiction” is noticeably displayed to the youth. The cultural depiction are not being explained to kids as to why these characters look the way they look or talk the way they talk. As a kid you don’t really acknowledge let alone understand race unless you have been taught.

Color Blind Racism. The belief that one is living in a more equal and just world but show through their actions that they support the benefits of structural racism.

Structural racism. A foundation of ideologies that reinforce injustice and inequalities between racial groups.