

## ABSTRACT OF DOCTORAL THESIS

Researcher: **Pham Hoang Mai**

Title: *The Art of Character Development in Walt Disney Animated Feature Films*

Major: **Theory, History and Critique of Film - Television**

Code: **9 21 02 31**

Instructor: **Assoc. Prof, Ph.D. Hoang Tran Doan and Assoc. Prof, Ph.D. Tran Duy Hinh**

Training institution: **Hanoi Academy of Theatre and Cinema**

### CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

#### **1/ Objective and Subject of the research**

The study *The Art of Character Development in Walt Disney Animated Feature Films* aims to understand, analyze, evaluate and systematize the art of character development in Disney animated feature films based on a series of main theories related to character development such as character theory, theory of film adaptation, narrative theory, acting theory, and cognitive theory.

The thesis exploits the elements that create attractiveness of characters development in Disney animated features: from film adaptation that is both relatively faithful to the original and impressive in transformations to linear dramatic narration with sine wave-driven conflicts, variety of points of view for rich characterization and easy identification of character, etc.. Through presented studies, the thesis draws advantages and disadvantages of character development in Disney animated feature film and explains the appeal of these characters to the global audience thanks to analyzing some of Disney famous animated feature films from the Golden Age to The Revival Era.

In addition, studies on the art of character development in Walt Disney animated feature films support comparative analysis and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of character development in Vietnamese animated films, as well as giving suggestions for Vietnamese animation to enhance audience

attractions.

## **2/ The research methods have been used are**

The study uses the system of following methods:

1. Interdisciplinary research method (theory of film history, film theory, literary theory, aesthetics, culturology, psychology...). By this method, the PhD student has an overview of the art of character development in Walt Disney animated feature films.

2. Methods of comparative research. From the archetypal literary characters in fairy tales, myths, etc., compared with the characters in the adapted script, the writer can evaluate and demonstrate the creativity in the art of developing Walt Disney animated film characters.

3. Specific research operations such as searching documents, reading, watching movies, analyzing, synthesizing, and generalizing the issues are use in the topic. The research is approached from the principles of Aesthetics, Motion Picture and Literature.

## **3/ Main results and conclusions**

The thesis has systematized a number of cinematic theoretical issues on character development in animated feature films, expressed by linear storytelling with numerous conflicts and dramas, relatively faithful film adaptation from the original myths, folklore stories or fairy tales with clear character functions, smoothly and flexible transformations, creating characters that leave a deep impression on the audience.

The thesis demonstrated a number of successful methods in character development in Walt Disney animated feature films, which were expressed in many aspects such as acting and character creation, characterization and appropriate character simulation, skillful use of music to create a subtle but profound connection between the emotions expressed by the characters and the emotions of the audience...

According to studies, the characters in Disney animated films convey clear and understandable messages to their audiences about good and evil, the importance of

love, family, and friendship, as well as aspirational aims and dreams. Furthermore, the thesis discussed the drawbacks of Disney's character development.

The thesis has analyzed advantages and disadvantages of Vietnamese cartoons through a number of typical films, and draws suggestions for Vietnamese animators to refer to, based on the results of research and analysis on the art of character development in Disney animated feature films.

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**Instructors**

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