

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel *Circe* through semiotic means, there are a few important points within the novel in which they reflect the way Circe lives in a patriarchal society which bounds her to a lot of rules and restrictions. Through the 26 signs found within the novel, Circe is seen through a lot of point of views; as a daughter, as a nymph, as a female, and as a person, these roles become important because the roles come with certain rules and constraints. Even though the main focus of this analysis is mostly Circe, there are also some discourse about sons and male privileges.

Circe is a representation of females in modern life despite her Ancient Greek background period. This novel reflects how females are expected to live and behave in a sexist hierarchy. The important points within the novel is directly related to females living in a patriarchal society, and as Circe is seen as a representation, it is possible to compare the two societies despite the different backgrounds in time.

In this novel, some stereotypes towards females are seen, such as: being seen as weak, having to be pretty at all cost, having to be submissive to their father or husband, etc. Some of the examples of the stereotypes in this novel can be seen in page 49-50 in which everyone is doubtful towards Circe's power and they try to convince themselves with all sort of reasons to justify the fact that Circe cannot be that powerful despite what she is done, another example can be seen in page 12 in which Circe's sisters imply that it is better for Circe not to talk at all just so she could hide her voice that is said to be less than pleasing.

Nymphs are considered to be in the very bottom of the chain in this society. Not only gods and Titans, even mortals see nymphs as nothing but prey despite their divinity blood. In this case, nymphs can be seen as equivalent to females in today's society. Often time, females are considered to be prey and become victims of male's greed in more than one way. Females are often underestimated, undervalued, and discredited. Even though it has been a long way since Ancient Greek, females nowadays are still pressured by society with stereotypes and unreasonable sexist double standards.

Circe sheds light on how society expects females to behave and how females are treated. Despite the different time, females still face a lot of the same problems as Circe. A lot of females still have problems with the freedom of speech, their thoughts and opinions are usually unheard no matter what the situation is. Much like Circe, females nowadays are still not expected to be competent to say the least. Females are expected to be weak and, when they are powerful, they are feared and painted as villains. They are also only expected to bow down to male figures in basically any kind of situations. Females are still only seen as ‘servants’. Females face a lot of assumptions from society and are bound by a lot of rules that are only products of social constructions.

Circe displays power in its rawest form. She is strong not only because of her sorcery but because she demands her voice to be heard, she stands up for herself, and she does things for the sake of her life. Circe has gone through a lot, remembering she has lived for at least ten thousand years. She used to be walked over, living under her father’s feet as if she does not worth anything. Circe is strong because she shows that it is most important to know your worth, improve yourself, and not let others dictate how you should live your life. Circe is strong because she defies all the rules that bound her for no reason and decides she will look out for herself.

This research is expected to be useful for those who are interested in learning about patriarchal society, representations, and getting a deeper understanding about the novel *Circe*. This study can also enrich references for those who are looking to analyze literary works through Roland Barthes’s Myth theory.