

COLLOQUIUM BY KELLY DONOVAN

THE "FEMINIST DISNEY", POWER, AND GENDERED LANGUAGE USE: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF CROSS-GENDER INTERACTIONS IN STUDIO GHIBLI FILMS

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

The "Feminist Disney", Power, and Gendered Language Use: A Discourse Analysis of Cross-Gender Interactions in Studio Ghibli Films

Speaker: Kelly Donovan, M.A. in TESOL, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

* The event is also a faculty recruitment seminar for Language and Culture Center.

ABSTRACT:

Disney films have a huge international presence, but the Japanese animation studio, Studio Ghibli, and the director Hayao Miyazaki are growing in popularity in America. This presentation discusses the use of children's films in language learning with regard to gender. This research of Studio Ghibli films uses quantitative and qualitative measures to determine if the male and female lead characters' speech in cross-gendered interactions are gender equal. Along with word count and length of turn, the study includes the consideration of sociolinguistic findings about gendered language use. The results of these analyses revealed that the male characters spoke significantly more than females, but that their language use was not necessarily stereotypically masculine. Teachers who wish to use these films in the EFL classroom should consider making deliberate choices in lesson planning that could help to mitigate the effects of gendered language use on language learners and to hold critical discussions about identity development, language use, and the cultural expectations of the target language context.

BIO:

Kelly Donovan received her Master's of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages with a specialization in Language Program Administration from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California. A native of North Carolina, Kelly loves to travel and share the language and culture of her home with her students. She spent a year in Kinmen, Taiwan as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant and taught English in Rečane, Kosovo with the Peace Corps. An avid traveller and language learner, Kelly has travelled to 11 countries and is proficient in Spanish, Mandarin, Bosnian, and Albanian. Kelly first travelled to China in 2012 to study Mandarin through the US State Department's Critical Language Scholarship, studying at Beijing Language and Culture University. Her research interests include language and gender variation in films, language learner identity, and language learner "burnout", or demotivation.

This event is open to all. For any queries email yg73@duke.edu or call 3665 7149.

Hope to see you all.

Yijun