

## **A Comparison Between Disney Earlier and Recent Princess of The Third Generation of Disney Animated Films as Seen in Rapunzel in *Tangled* and Moana in *Moana***

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study compares the girl power characteristics such as bravery, independence, and intelligence in identifying Rapunzel as the earlier princess character and Moana as the recent princess character of the third generation of Disney Princesses in the two Disney Princess Animated Films titled *Tangled* and *Moana*. As a result of this study, I found that in terms of bravery, Moana as the recent princess, is more daring to make decisions and take risks when compared to Rapunzel as the earlier princess of the third generation. In terms of independence, it can also be seen that Rapunzel still seems to rely more on other people to help her find a way and protect herself, in contrast to Moana, who can find the destination by herself and work together with other people and make them become her partners. In terms of intelligence, both Rapunzel and Moana are good at managing their daily activities, but in terms of solving problems, Rapunzel still uses the power of magical stuff, unlike Moana, who uses all her mind and strength to solve the problems she faces.

**Keywords:** girl power, bravery, independence, intelligence, characteristics

### **INTRODUCTION**

Animation can be defined as a method of photographing successive drawings, models, or even puppets, to create an illusion of movement in a sequence (Pilling, p.1). There is discussion whether an animation is considered a genre or a technique, and according to [filmsite.org](http://filmsite.org), the animation is not a strictly defined genre category but rather a film technique, although they often contain genre-like elements. One of the most popular animations is Disney Princess Animated Films, which Disney Studio owns. Disney Princess Animated Films have become the most popular animated films and are liked by people of all ages. Disney Studio always creates a new princess character from time to time, and Disney Studio also does not stop developing their princesses. The most changes in Disney princess's characteristics are most noticeable in the third generation.

At the beginning of the third generation, the princess character still wears a fancy dress, stays at home, does house chores, never goes outside, depends on someone to achieve their dream, and depends on magic power to solve their problem. Things like this still happen in Rapunzel in *Tangled* as the earlier princess.

It is different from Moana as the recent princess of the third generation. Moana is not just staying at home and doing house chores, she can help people who need her help, and she will be a chief of the island after her father. Moana does not depend too much on someone, but she can make them work together to achieve her goal as a partner. Besides, Moana relies more on her intelligence and physical strength to solve problems.

In order to analyze the comparison between Rapunzel and Moana's characteristics, I will use the theory of Girl power in third-wave feminism. The phrase "Girl Power" is a term of empowerment, expressing a cultural phenomenon of the mid-late 1990s to the early 2000s, and is also linked to third-wave feminism. The term was made famous by the Spice Girls in the mid to late 1990s. On the other hand, Girl Power represents a "new girl": assertive, dynamic, and unbound from the constraints of passive femininity (M. Gonick, 2006). Girls can make their own decisions, speak their minds, raise their voices, and be aggressive while engaging in the production of normative femininity (Hains, 2005). Taft (in Harris, 2004: 74) states that this discourse of Girl Power emphasizes girls as potentially powerful people and encourages them to try new things and believe in themselves. The characteristics of girl power that I will use are braver, independence, and intelligence.

The first characteristic of girl power is bravery. Brave women are the women who bravely speak up their minds, and they will never let someone else make them get down and become afraid to reach their goals. Bettis and Addams (2005) said that "women within girl power are daring athletes, not silly beauty queens. They are also independent, fearless, and self-determined" (p.103). A brave woman is not easy to be defined by what people say. People make mistakes and say hurtful things at times, but a mentally strong woman can overcome by ignoring those comments. Although it is so difficult, she will make it possible. A brave woman never lets herself feel defined by others, so she must learn not to be phased by the negativity that other people might bring into her life.

The second characteristic of girl power is independence. Independent means she does not let culture define her. Just because she is a woman does not mean she is inferior to a man (Johnson, 2013). Women should not rely on men or other people to achieve their goals. According to Innes (2004), women are taught to expect men to save them. It is still ubiquitous in many countries; the West and Asia have never been free from things like this. Women's representation in popular culture facilitates stereotypes of women thinking simply, emotionally, and domestically (Maity 2014).

The third characteristic of girl power is smartness. Innes (2004) said that "today, tough women have changed from original Angels and other similar figures and might depend equally on brains and brawn." (pp. 14-15). Every woman has intelligence and skills and women can also be a leader, and women can be a director in the company or even be a president that men usually hold. Women have good communication skills, and also, when they are in obstacles, they can be more assertive and more intelligent than they usually do, so it shows that women's intelligence is equal to men.

## **RAPUNZEL AND MOANA'S BRAVERY**

The first characteristic that I will compare is Rapunzel and Moana's bravery. Bravery is one of the characteristics of girl power. Brave women are the women who bravely speak up their minds, and they will never let someone else make them get down and become afraid to reach their goals. Rapunzel and Moana have different bravery in deciding to get out of their comfort zone and how they dared to take the risk.

The first bravery of Rapunzel and Moana is how they decide to get out of their comfort zone. In *Tangled*, it is seen that Rapunzel, the earlier princess of the third generation, still does not have strong self-determination, and it causes Rapunzel does not dare to get out of her comfort zone, which is the Tower where she lives. Rapunzel's lack of self-determination also causes Rapunzel to become impressionable and believe that everything others say is true without determining whether it is right or wrong. Rapunzel thought Mother Gothel would let her go outside to see the lanterns after she grew up and turned eighteen.

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It implies that Rapunzel chose to be quiet and wait until the situation became better and more conducive so that Rapunzel could leave her comfort zone and achieve her dream.

Moreover, I also found that Rapunzel also has fears with the outside world since she easily believes everything others say and does not hold on to her stance. I say this because I found that Rapunzel was afraid of what Mother Gothel says about creepy creatures and horrible people; Rapunzel is afraid of not facing them. When the first time Rapunzel sees Flynn, a kind-hearted thief who accidentally entered the Tower, she is afraid of Flynn and makes sure that he is not a monster. After making some deals with Flynn, Rapunzel finally decide to go outside, and, in this part, Rapunzel's bravery begins to develop.

It is different from Rapunzel, who still looks passive and just waiting for good things to happen, so she dares to leave her comfort zone, Moana as the recent princess of the third generation of Disney Princess looks to have extreme bravery to decide to get out of her comfort zone and achieve her dreams. In Moana, it can be seen that since she was a child, Moana also had a desire to be able to explore the sea. Little Moana felt that the ocean was indeed calling her. It can be seen that as the recent princess of the third generation, Moana has no qualms about getting out of her comfort zone. Moana has already found her identity and calling in life to save her island from the darkness and return the identity of people in Montonui who used to be voyagers. Moana's dream is no longer to find happiness for herself like Rapunzel did in Tangled but for safe many people so that Moana is willing to make decisions that are dangerous for her even though at the end of the film, Moana can return home safely. Moana realizes that if she continues to stay in her comfort zone and does not try to get out, she will not be able to achieve her vision, and this is what makes Moana bolder to step out of her comfort zone even though doing so is actually against her parents' will. As the recent princess of the third generation, Moana no longer needs much encouragement from others to get out of her comfort zone. That bravery is already within Moana, so she no longer needs to be convinced that others dare make decisions to get out of her comfort zone. In Moana, it is seen that Gramma Tala, Moana's grandmother, is the only one who always supports Moana in pursuing her dream. Here, the role of Gramma Tala is not to make Moana, who was initially afraid to do something and then turn into a brave man, but she gives input to Moana so that she can better follow her inner voice. It was also because Moana already had the courage, so there was no need to be much encouragement.

The second bravery of Rapunzel and Moana is how they dare to take a risk. After Rapunzel goes outside, she finds that the outside world is not as horrible as Mother Gothel says, and Rapunzel finally dares to take the risk of sacrificing herself and her dreams to save other people. It can be seen that in the middle of the film, Rapunzel, who has found her identity begins to have strong self-determination until she can fight with the will of Mother Gothel, but even so, Rapunzel still has to face a choice that requires her to take risks in order to save others. Mother Gothel stabs Flynn and Rapunzel, then promises to live with Mother Gothel if she lets Rapunzel heal Flynn's wound. From the example, it can be seen that since Rapunzel went out of her comfort zone, Rapunzel now found her true identity, that she is a lost princess, but even so, she cannot just escape from her problems and still has to fight again with Mother Gothel so that she can indeed be free. That, of course, makes Rapunzel have to take risks by sacrificing her dreams and happiness. Although in the end, Rapunzel can heal Flynn and return to her real parents and live with her loved ones, the attitude of Rapunzel, who dares to give up her dream in order to save the lives of others, makes Rapunzel look already daring to take risks.

Moana's second bravery to take a risk is also seen when Moana dares to take risks against something that stands in her way. Moana as the recent princess of the third generation of Disney Princess, shows that as a princess, she dares to take risks as a form of responsibility for the choices she makes. It is evident from the example where Moana faces Kakamora, a group of coconut pirate monsters who want to steal Te Fiti's

heart from Moana. Kakamora can make people afraid to face them and choose to run alone if they are unsure they can fight Kakamora. Nevertheless, Moana instead chose to fight Kakamora instead of trying to run away and escape so she could protect the heart of Te Fiti from Kakamora. In the end, Moana can seize the heart of Te Fiti stolen by Kakamora. Moana and Maui were able to save themselves from Kakamora. It can be seen that Moana is never afraid of anything she faces. Moana's bravery to take this risk makes Moana able to see opportunities when she deals with problems. I could see that Moana is not a typical princess who immediately feels afraid when facing danger in front of her eyes. If Moana chooses to give up, she will not achieve her goal. After I compared the two princess characters, Rapunzel and Moana, from two different films, I found that the princess characters of the third generation are developed from a princess who does not have intense bravery and strong self-determination to get out of their comfort zone to be a princess who believes with her decision and dared to take a risk. It is seen in recent princesses different from the earlier princess of the third generation.

### **RAPUNZEL AND MOANA'S INDEPENDENCE**

The second characteristic of girl power that I will use to compare is Rapunzel and Moana's independence. Independence is about how someone lives their life without depending too much on others. The difference of independence that I will explain is how they find the way to go to their destination and how much they depend on someone to protect them.

The first independent of Rapunzel and Moana is how they find the way to go to their destination. However, after watching these two films, I found that both Moana and Rapunzel are given direction by someone. It happens not because they are not independent but it is because Rapunzel and Moana are going to go to a place they have never seen before so they need someone to tell them where they should go, but what makes it different is that Rapunzel seems to be depended too much on someone to guide her way to her destination than Moana. Rapunzel still needs someone to guide her all the way because she cannot find the way by herself. It appears that Flynn also serves as a guide to show the route to the kingdom and where the lanterns float up. Without Flynn's help, Rapunzel cannot go to the kingdom and see the lantern, something she always dreamed of. Rapunzel might get lost, and it is difficult for Rapunzel to find her way because Rapunzel has never gotten out of home in her entire life.

The recent princess of the third generation of Disney princess, Moana shows that she is not entirely dependent on others to find her destination. Like Rapunzel, here at the beginning, Moana also has doubts and confusion because she has never sailed before. It all happens because her father always forbade Moana to sail, but even so, Moana still believed in herself. Her Grandma, Tala, only gives Moana instructions, not fully guiding her to Maui's island as Rapunzel and Flynn did in Tangled. However, I also find that Moana can still achieve her goals even with or without Gramma Tala in her side. Moana's independence to find her destination is increasingly evident when Moana finally decides to go alone to where she is going. Moana uses all her abilities for her to be able to sail and also find a way. Moana does not ask anyone expert in sailing or even her father to accompany her sail the sea and find Maui, whereas Moana has never sailed far away before. Moana does not care about everything that happens with her; she still chooses to achieve her goal. As a recent princess character of Disney, princess Moana has shown that a princess can also be independent.

The second difference of independence in Rapunzel and Moana is how much they need someone to protect them. Since Rapunzel has never gone outside for her entire life, Rapunzel is afraid of the outside world and needs someone to protect her. There is an example when Rapunzel is frightened to hear something behind the bushes, which is just a rabbit. Another example of Rapunzel is when she goes to the pub named Snuggly Duckling, she is afraid of the ruffians there. Her fear results from her mistaken belief

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that the world out there is dangerous and that she is weak. Her mother tells her that the outside world is filled with dangerous creatures who will harm her, and she will not survive because she is too fragile and small like a flower. However, Rapunzel's fear does not last long. When she is in an emergency, Rapunzel can finally fight with her fear and save others so that she cannot continue to depend on others to protect herself but also help them. It can be seen from the example when Rapunzel tries to help Flynn, whom the ruffians attack, it implies that Rapunzel can now be firm in expressing her desire to fight the ruffians to release Flynn. Flynn can go with Rapunzel to see the lanterns. Rapunzel does not stand by or try to escape alone when she is in danger, and she no longer fully needs anyone else, who is Flynn, to protect her. Rapunzel begins to realize that the outside world is not as bad as Mother Gothel says so that she can fight with her fear and save someone else from harm because she can now help herself so she can help others. I also find that Rapunzel's independence here seems to be still developing from what she was initially utterly dependent on someone, now able to help others.

When Rapunzel seems to depend on Flynn, Moana can work with Maui and become their partner instead of entirely depending on them. While riding a boat with Maui, it is seen that Moana is not as dependent on Maui as Rapunzel did when she went with Flynn. When she rides a boat with Maui, Moana sometimes needs Maui's help to help her sail the boat. Moana's ability to work together is also seen when she can encourage others. It can be seen in the example when Moana trip to Te Fiti Island. Maui is also pessimistic and unsure he can arrive and restore the heart of Te Fiti that he once stole. Moana then convinced Maui. Moana as the recent princess of the third generation Disney princess, is no longer a graceful princess, too passive, and obeys all the words of others so that she does not have a stand, and in the end, it affects their independence. Bravery and independence are different but influence each other. Someone who has the bravery will be more confident to do something without constantly depending on others.

## **RAPUNZEL AND MOANA'S INTELLIGENCE**

An intelligent woman is a woman who can use her brain and brawn (Inness, 2004). Women also have good communication skills. When they face obstacles, they can be more assertive and intelligent than they usually are, showing that women's intelligence is equal to men. Both Moana and Rapunzel are intelligent in terms of smartness, but their intelligence is different. The first intelligence that I will explain here is about Rapunzel and Moana's ability and talent, and the second is about how Rapunzel and Moana solve their problem.

Rapunzel and Moana's first intelligence is how they manage their daily activities. Rapunzel is intelligent because she can do many house chores quickly. Working fast is a typical sign of intelligence. In addition, Rapunzel's work is also excellent and neat without leaving a corner that is still scattered. Working fast makes Rapunzel able to manage her daily activities. Not only that, Rapunzel is also talented. She can paint beautiful pictures on the wall, and she can sew, even tiny dresses for Pascal, a chameleon that become Rapunzel's best friend. Rapunzel never met anyone other than Mother Gothel until she turned eighteen. Rapunzel only learns about the outside world from the books she read and the stories she heard from Mother Gothel without seeing everything for real. Here it can be ascertained that Rapunzel never goes to school or has a private teacher who taught Rapunzel how to paint and sew. Even so, Rapunzel has excellent painting and sewing skills that others do not necessarily have. Although not explained in the film, but here can be seen from the results of Rapunzel's work that she has intelligence above average.

Like Rapunzel, Moana also has the intelligence to manage her daily activities but what makes it different is that Moana, the recent princess of the third generation, can do something bigger than Rapunzel as the

earlier princess. Moana can do men's jobs like repair the roof. Moana also can help people who need her help. It is evident when a villager asks Moana about the coconuts that turn black. Moana advises them to plant trees in a more fertile place and feels helped by Moana's advice. Although Moana only gives them a short answer, it implies that even though Moana lives in the village and never reads books and goes to school, it does not mean that this condition makes Moana stupid. Moana often learns about the things people around her do that Moana can help her people solve their problems. Another example of Moana's intelligence is that Moana can be a leader although she is a woman. Despite Moana being a daughter of a tribe chief and will be chief after her father, Moana does have intelligence that enables her to become a leader. Things like this did not happen in Rapunzel as the earlier princess. In fact, in terms of leadership, it is often men who are considered to have the ability to be leaders. Patriarchal culture is still embedded in society, and it can be seen that in an institution and organization, it is always the people who are used as leaders. Through Moana, Disney also proved that a woman could also be a leader.

The second intelligence of Rapunzel and Moana is how they solve their problem. Rapunzel seems to still rely on the magic power to help her solve her problem. In *Tangled*, it can be seen there are some examples when Rapunzel uses magical power that comes from her magical golden hair that always shines when she sings a song. She uses it to find how she and Flynn get trapped in the ditch and heal Flynn's wound. Rapunzel also does not have much experience to solve her problems because Rapunzel lives with Mother Gothel, who uses Rapunzel's power and makes Rapunzel use her magic power more often than her mind. Rapunzel still needs much help from other people to understand the outside world and how to solve problems, so that Rapunzel has not been able to use all her intelligence and powers to solve problems.

In contrast, Moana uses her mind and strength to solve her problem instead of magic power. In the recent Disney princess series, Disney no longer adds magical powers to their princess characters but equips them to rely on their intelligence and powers to solve the problem. It can be seen in the example when Moana helps Maui get his magical hook from Tamatoa, a crab monster. At first, Maui told Moana about his strategy to distract Tamatoa, a crab monster, and make him talk about himself so that Maui could steal the hook secretly from Tamatoa. Unfortunately, Maui's plan does not go as he expected. Maui failed to trick Tamatoa, so Tamatoa caught them and put them in a cage. However, Moana got a brilliant idea when she found green algae there. Moana then uses a shell and green algae to imitate Te Fiti's heart so she can distract Tamatoa and make Maui's hook from him. Moana's idea finally works. They can get Maui's hook and survive from Tamatoa. Moana shows that women are intelligent, and sometimes women can be more innovative than men. Women have good communication skills, and also, when they are in obstacles, they can be more assertive and more intelligent than they usually do, so it shows that women's intelligence is equal to men.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, after comparing the two princess characters, Rapunzel and Moana, from two Disney Princess Animated Films titled *Tangled* and *Moana*, there are differences in girl power characteristics between Rapunzel and the earlier princess, the recent princess of the third generation of Disney Princess. It appears that Disney Studio will continue to create the new princess characters, and Disney Studio will develop their new princess characters with bravery, independence, and intelligence so the Disney princess characters will no longer be depicted as a passive princess and waiting for someone and depend on magic power to solve her problem. They can be a brave princess who will not let the situation define her and not depend too much on someone to help her, and she will use her intelligence to solve the problem she faces.

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