

SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR THESES OF MONTH

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Branch/ Area: : **Literature/ General Studies**

Sub Subject Heading: : **Fantasy Fiction**

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Title of the thesis : **"Fiesta Feminina":Blurring the Boundaries of
Gender in Select Feminist Fairy Tales**

(i) In Roman Script -

(ii) In roman Script -

Nomenclature of Degree: : **Ph.D.,**

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Name of Supervisor : **Dr.S.Kalamani**

Designation of Supervisor : **Professor**

**Centre/department/school in
which research was conducted** : **Department of English, School of Arts and Social
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University's Name & Address : **Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and
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Abstract within 300 words:

This thesis is an insight into the understanding of gender and genre of fairy tale scholarship and its reworking as feminist fairy tales. The thesis aims at understanding the similarities pointed out by the select feminist writers in addressing the feminist fairy tale genre and at the same time discerns how a comparative study of the feminist fairy tales of Angela Carter, Suniti Namjoshi, Emma Donoghue, Virginia Hamilton, Feminist Fairy Tale Collective and Jane Yolen who hail from different nations address the theme of the celebration of women in feminist fairy tales on the lines of gender and beyond gender to blur the boundaries of gender. It focuses on the intersection of feminism and the feminist reworkings as is seen in the works of the six contemporary women writers from different cultures across the globe. The subverted tales of these six writers is viewed through the lens of an understanding of the theoretical approaches to Women's Writing and gender studies. The study looks at women's tradition, women's cannon, women's literature, lineage, race, class and sexuality by throwing light on how men and women were seen as binaries due to gender polarization in a patriarchal social order.

This thesis brings together in a synoptic fashion, the feminist themes and urgencies that define the works of a few pioneering writers and activists who attempt to challenge injustice. They identify women's problems and attempt to suggest appropriate solutions. The subtleties of the politics of gender, sex and racial politics is obvious. Women's experiences of patriarchy and heterosexism are wrapped in these tales. Feminist Fairy tales consists of gender essentialism, discrimination and sexual violence. The revisionist texts recover the female tradition against societal construction of gender and challenge male generated myths about women and myths of the eternal feminine.

Major objectives :

- i)** To contextualise the inversion of gender and genre by reimagining and reassigning gender roles.
- ii)** To dismantle gendered norms through the interrogation of gender concepts and gender roles
- iii)** decolonisation of female sexuality to depose patriarchal dominance and enrich children's literature

- iv) To capsize traditional texts as expressions of how culture naturalises as normative certain hegemonic practices through powerful discourses in the inversions.
- v) To address the dynamics of power and gender to redefine the construct called 'woman'.

Hypothesis:

The study focuses on how the genre of Feminist Fairy Tale uses the template of gender as a prism of analysis to showcase the inversion of gender constructs by interrogating and subverting the socio-culturally gendered frameworks to blur the boundaries of gender

Methodology :

- The select works of the Feminist Fairy Tale genre are chosen for close analysis and close reading in the study
- Re-reading and textual analysis of the select texts through deconstruction of gender issues and comprehension of narratology in the light of feminist and gender theories
- The guidelines of the ninth edition *MLA Handbook* are followed

Findings:

- The thesis, antithesis and synthesis of feminist fairy tales celebrate female sexuality, female strength and female empowerment
- Feminist syndromes in dystopian literature and feminist dystopias critique gender as a clarion call towards re-envisioning the strength of all genders
- The select tales invert the hegemonic aesthetics of the fairy-tale make-believe world of feminist fantasy by challenging the vision of the masochism of male-controlled tyranny
- They enunciate the quintessential feminist enquiry about the sexist dynamics of the canonical tales

- They divulge the essentiality for scholars of fairy tale and feminist fairy tale scholarship to understand that gender is a choice and that life would be in jeopardy if one does not realise that all genders exist in an inclusive world where post genderism and technology have transported gendered identities to a genderless world

Examiners

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