

THE ANALYSIS OF FEMALE HEROES  
IN MARIA V. SNYDER'S STUDY AND GLASS SERIES

CHUA YUIN WUA

A RESEARCH PAPER SUBMITTED IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF B.A. (HONS) IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND  
COMMUNICATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND LIBERAL ARTS  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT  
UCSI UNIVERSITY  
KUALA LUMPUR

AUGUST 2014

THE ANALYSIS OF FEMALE HEROES  
IN MARIA V. SNYDER'S STUDY AND GLASS SERIES

**ABSTRACT**

The differences between males and females have been examined in various studies and mediums. In the fantasy genre, heroes are usually males and females play a minor role in the story. The purpose of this research is to analyse how female heroes attempt to establish independence for themselves through their actions and how magic is a form of empowerment or detriment to them. Two novel series from author Maria V Snyder are analysed – the Study series and Glass series; focusing on the main female protagonists Yelena Zaltana and Opal Cowan. The analysis of the portrayal of female hero in this paper is based on Judith Butler's theory on gender performance. It is found that the female heroes constantly portrays masculine and feminine actions throughout their journey of becoming the hero, and not just choose one gender trait over the other. In terms of magic as empowerment, it is found that magic is both beneficial and destructive, and having magic can both help and put the heroes in troubled situations.

Keywords: gender, gender performance, female hero, masculine, feminine