Abstract

*The Woman and The Hero* is a study regarding women’s representation in superhero movies with a male main character. It is a qualitative study of two movies: *Iron Man 3* and *Thor: Dark World*. These movies were chosen because they both came out during 2013, had male leading roles and were blockbuster hits. The main theories used in this study are film theory and gender theory. Among others, Judith Butler's theories about gender are represented in this study as well as Laura Mulvey’s *The Male Gaze*. The methods in this study are film analysis, analysis of the dialog and the informal Bechdel test, which is a test that can help determine gender equality in cultural texts such as movies, books, plays and even comic books.

The analysis of the movies led to the conclusion that even though some women in these films were smart and could think for themselves, the men always were the ones who actually did something and took action. If it was because the women wouldn’t, couldn’t or simply because the men wouldn’t let them is hard to say but the men in these movies are pure examples of the society’s idea of the ideal man. If these movies present the social reality that we live in there is some work to be done to reach gender equality between the sexes.