Documentary: Mickey Mouse Monopoly

Jesus Jr Ancheta

SOC 600

Clayton Cobb

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Mickey Mouse Monopoly is a short documentary that discusses how global society is being influenced by huge media corporation specifically by Disney World company. One of the discussions was concentrated on how innocent child being exposed on fantasies world and how it greatly affects their self development. In addition, race and gender issues were exponentially highlighted in this documentary by mentioning some Disney movies as examples.

Conflict perspective was predominantly used by most of the speakers in this documentary to evaluate Disney corporation. Disney corporation was introduced in the film as a multi-million conglomerate owning companies globally like TV and radio networks, film companies, publishing companies, internet sites, sport teams, theaters, theme parks, and the list go on. Speakers believed that because of this possession of companies, they hold a great power to influence and control society in terms of cultures globally. For example, the TV and radio programs they broadcast in their own networks were easily controlled by them in terms of what they want people can able to access or view. Another example given in the documentary showing their power and control over the society is when writers, publishers or film producers would like to use images of any Disney characters or any Disney-related materials would need permission and rigid checking from Disney corporation as to where and how they will use these Disney-related materials in their works. In other words, Disney corporation have an enormous power to monopolize the way society develop because of its resources.

On the other hand, children who were fan of Disney movies developed their self-concept by imitating Disney characters they watched. Such self development speakers on this documentary considered to be dangerous because some of the Disney movies have themes that were not appropriate for young audiences. For example, the main female character, Jasmine, in Aladdin have a scene where she became seductive in order to get what she wants. In Pocahontas, it has a theme of colonialism and war on native people. These kind of information coming from Disney movies and consumed by children is not ideal for their age. This will have a negative impact on their self development as there is a tendency that they will grow up replicating these ideas imparted by the films they watched. On one side, Disney movies also over emphasizes the positive aspect of a certain character like gorgeous physical appearance but they forget to really define what is the use of this physical attribute. Oftentimes, Disney characters who are beautiful or handsome are always the center of attraction and powerful. As a result, children will just pick up the message that they will gain extra power for being beautiful which can probably lead to bullying to other children thinking that they have this extra power. In general, some Disney movies doesn’t promote good self-development concepts on children because some of themes were not appropriate for them.

Racism and gender inequality issues on Disney movies were highly scrutinized also by most of the speakers in this documentary. As these two issues were creatively embedded in any Disney movies wherein normal individual cannot able to identify it unless they will apply enough amount of critical thinking. The most obvious example given by one of the speakers to demonstrate that racism really exists in Disney movies was Tarzan. The speaker questioned why they don’t see black or African characters in this movie while it is believed that settings of the movie was in a jungle in Africa. Other speakers also pointed out racial discrimination on Disney movies can be seen with the main characters wherein the protagonist is always a white individual while the antagonist is the lower class individual or individual with colors. Gender inequality is one of the subject in question also in Disney movies. They usually portrayed feminism in old fashion way where they cannot defend themselves and there always a male character to rescue them. They also identified women in Disney movies that sometimes use their beauty and bodies to seduce male characters in order to get what they want. This definition of feminism in Disney world is outdated as argued by the speakers and should be changed with the current status of women wherein they have equal power as men in the society today.