

Research Paper Review (500 words): 25% weighting.

This paper reviews the article, "Sixty years of Gender Representation in children's books: Conditions associated with overrepresentation of male versus female protagonists." by Casey et al (2021). Casey et al.'s study examines children's literature between the years 1960 and 2020 online. Children's literature has a critical role in acquiring and developing social attitudes. Their study shows early information on the overrepresentation of male protagonists in children's literature is evident in the beginning of their time period, with children's literature heavily featuring male protagonists, however their study shows that the male to female ratio of central protagonists has improved over time in children's literature published between 1960 and 2020 (Casey et al.,2021). This research finds clear similarities with other papers written on the topic of Gender representation in children's literature (Grauerholz & Pescosolido 1989, Singh 1998, Zanzabro 2017). The advantage of Casey et al.'s study is the comparison of female and male protagonists, gender of the author, fiction versus non fiction, target audience's age and human versus non-human protagonists.

Casey et al.'s study reveals that gender representation in children's literature is a complex interaction of factors, which makes this an important study. The authors did a statistical analysis of the frequency of male vs female protagonists in 3280 novels published between 1960 and 2020 for audiences aged 0 to 16. Casey et al. found the ratio of female/male authors improved over time. The number of fiction books increased compared to non-fiction books. The number of books aimed at older children to junior children didn't differ, and neither did the number of books with humans set against non-human protagonists (Casey et al.,2021). The books authored by male writers consisted of moderately more non-human characters than books authored by female writers. In addition, there were extra non-human characters in fiction and books aimed at younger children.

In conclusion,Casey et al.'s study highlights the problem of gender representation is still an issue. Casey at al's study was informative and provided a piece of reliable, credible information sourced from trusted peer reviewed sources. Suggestions for future research ideas could include how to eliminate bias in publication and raise a free biased generation in the future by showing the importance of gender parity and sensitivity in literature work. The study should discuss the collaboration among the writer's gender and additional significant variables. The findings could aid in guiding efforts towards more equitable gender representation in children's literature, which could impact not only children's development but societal attitudes too.

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(Grauerholz & Pescosolido 1989, Singh 1998, Zanzabro 2017). Future research could also elaborate on this work by looking at the reading rates of specific books and books featuring non-binary protagonists.

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Reference

Casey, K., Novick, K., and Lourenco, S.F., 2021. Sixty years of gender representation in children's books: Conditions associated with overrepresentation of male versus female protagonists. PloS one, 16(12), p.e0260566.

Singh, M. (1998) Gender issues in children's literature. Available at: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED424591.pdf> [Accessed: 25th May 2022].