

# The Sociology of Afrofuturism in the New Disney Princesses: From Pinocchio and Anastasia, to Tiana

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## Abstract

Afro-American Music, Dance, and culture, inspired entire movement Afrofuturism, afrofabulist Nyong, Tavio, Vincent Joslin, and John Szwed "Space is the place", support the ideas of Ytasha L. Womack, that can be found in the representation of blackness, as a new model of Princess and the Frog. Pinocchio, Anastasia and Tiana, were left out on the streets, but only one of the three becomes restaurant owner. Investigation on Gender dimension of comparison in between the Anastasia, and Pinocchio characters in cartoons, was conducted in group of BA students, of Sociology, at Faculty of Political Sciences, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, at Sociology of Gender I classes. The opinions about the issues of social inequalities, homelessness, and rising to the positive role model in Disney characters. Student showed high interest, and responded, and discussed, all of the offered questions. Interest in the analysis of cartoons, especially Disney characters, or post-feministic Disney masculinities (Michael Macaluso, 2018), and femininities, was higher than in the other themes. Focus on to the theme of the gender dimensions of Youth homelessness, influenced very wider aftermath discussion. What types of the femininities are globally celebrated inside the Disney. The opinions about the issues of social inequalities, homelessness, and rising to the positive role model in Disney characters.

**Keywords:** Afrofuturism, gastro food, dark princess, Tiana in Princess and the Frog, new blackness, jazz culture, gastronativism

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Gastronativism, represents "the ideological use of the food in politics, to advance the idea who belongs to the community" (Parasecoli, 2022:9), as it provides with the "rootedness, and comfort", "counteracts against widespread sense of the world as we know breaks down" (Parasecoli, 2022: 14). The sociology of Afrofuturism in the new Disney princesses, in analyses of the student opinion on the themes from homelessness, to getting back home, from Pinocchio and Anastasia, to Tiana, show great

differences, in the sense of belonging, and achievements. While as Pinocchio, and Anastasia, only come back home, after being left on the streets, as a royal youth femininity, and working class youth masculinity, Tiana as a black youth femininity becomes businesswomen, that owes her own restaurant, celebrating the main principle of gastronativism, in offering good creole dishes, in New Orleans, as her native town.

In the following empirical investigation there is

a comparison in between Anastasia, Pinocchio, and the Tiana (Princess and the Frog), inside the opinion of the students, that will be used to check the theoretical framework ideas. Disney new blackness presented in Tiana, in Princess and the Frog, unlike the Anastasia, and Pinocchio, who only came back home, after being left outside alone, on the street, builds her own restaurant, called Tiana's palace. There are several important themes, for the analysis from Music (Jazz, and Creole culture motifs), New Orleans as a touristic destination, and popular culture of the town, in Mardi Gras carnival celebrations around the town, with multiple colour costumes. American Mardi Gras started in 1699, when French explorers Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville and Sieur de Bienville landed near present-day Advanced Orleans, Louisiana. Inside the decades that taken after, Unused Orleans and other French settlements begun checking the event with street parties, hidden balls and excessive dinners. When the Spanish took control of Present day Orleans, be that because it may, they invalidated these unruly traditions, and the bans remained in drive until Louisiana ought to be a U.S. state in 1812. On Mardi Gras in 1827, a bunch of understudies wore colourful out and moved through the streets of Present day Orleans, imitating the party they'd observed though going by Paris. Ten a long time a while later, the essential recorded Present day Orleans Mardi Gras parade took put, a tradition that continues to this day. (Open at <https://www.history.com/topics/us-states/louisiana>, page gone by on 11.02.2024.). Tiana, and Naveen stayed on the streets, as homeless, during the Mardi Gras celebration, by the mistake. They later on tried to find help through the searching for Voodoo magicians, of both genders, that are blacks, too. Creole culture, and creolisation dominates in Food, and Music, of the New Orleans, USA, and it inscribes this culture inside the touristic representation of the city, in which the possibility of achieving the "dream come true", idea.I. Music in Princess and the Frog vs. Music in Anastasia, and Pinocchio Afrofuturism idea of dream coming true, in new Disney Heroin, Tiana, songs, in New Orleans, seen as Dream where Dreams come true, involving descriptions of city, on the water, lovely girls, and working men, music, listening, playing, paintbrush to use, fulfilling the dreams. (New Orleans Exhibition hall

(NOMA): accessible at: <https://labeledesplanade.com/blog/dreams-come-true-in-new-orleans/>, goneto 11.02.2024.). The difference in between the songs, is in the notion of the achievement, after being lost without everything, and coming of the age of dark princess Tiana, in not only coming back home, but becoming the Tiana's palace restaurant owner.

### Responses

The songs from the films about Anastasia and Pinocchio have some similarities, but also significant differences in content. Similarities: emotional performance, self actualisation team, an element that follows the journey of the main characters and how they face different challenges and obstacles. Differences: messages and lessons, musical styles, context and setting. Anastasia uses songs that are inspired by Russian culture and tradition, while Pinocchio uses songs that are more focused on childhood and imagination. Also, both songs are aimed at children and have different genres, rhythms and styles. In Pinocchio, the poems are directed towards children's world, while in Anastasia, the poems are more focused on more serious topics. The similarity between the songs from the movie Anastasia and Pinocchio is that they are both full of emotion and meaning. The most important theme in the film Anastasia is the question of identity and finding one's place in the world. The main character, Anastasia, faces the question of her own past and the truth about her identity. The film explores her inner struggle as she tries to discover her roots and face the challenges ahead. The most important theme in the movie "Pinocchio" is development and maturation. The film emphasises the importance of moral values, self-responsibility and making the right decisions. The most important theme in Pinocchio is growing up and taking responsibility. In the film, Pinocchio fights his desire to have fun and accepts his responsibility to be a good boy. Through Pinocchio's struggle, the film highlights the importance of growing up and taking responsibility. The main character, the wooden puppet Pinocchio, goes through a journey of discovery and learning how to behave properly, be honest and responsible. The most important theme in Anastasia is empowerment and discovering the truth about the main character. In the film, Anastasia fights her insecurities and gradually discovers her true identity. Through Anastasia's struggle, the film

highlights the importance of finding one's truth and empowerment. The most important theme of both films is salvation and freedom. The difference in between the songs, is in the notion of the achievement, after being lost without everything, and coming of the age of dark princess Tiana, in not only coming back home, but becoming the Tiana's palace restaurant owner.

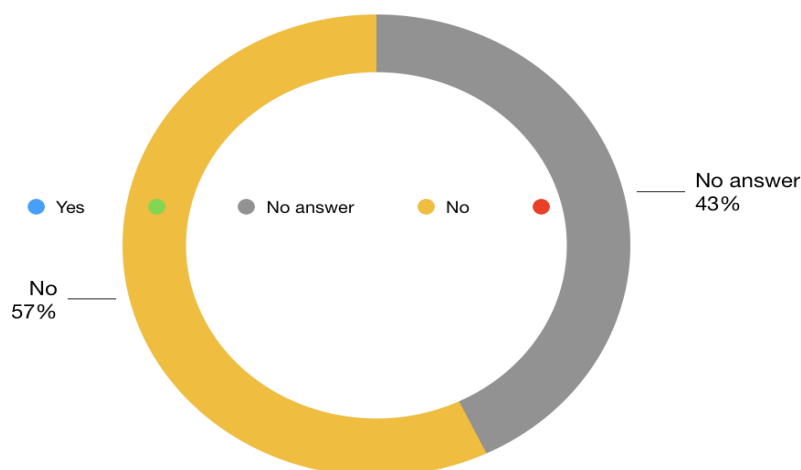
### Are There Differences in Between the Families Romanov and Pinocchio?

Students responses involve direct answers about the questions, describing the different origins of the characters, and upbringing relationships, to differences in the cartoons, movies and documentaries. Some of the students, identified villains with the former royals, not answering about two characters. The others confirmed that the stories are more focusing to villains. When it comes to Anastasia's animation, she was born into the Romanov Royal Family. Anastasia is a girl of royal blood who grew up in a stable and wealthy family. What are the differences in between the documentary movie the "Ultimate Fate of the Duchess Anastasia Revealed (History Channel)", and the Anastasia cartoon (20th Century Fox, Directed by Goldman Gary, and Bluth Don) while on the other hand we have the

cartoon Anastasia, "The film is based on a speculative story; it is assumed that when Russia's ruling Romanov family was killed in the revolution, one child escaped the carnage and survived to legitimately claim the throne. It was Anastasia, the granddaughter of Empress Maria, who herself fled to Paris and is now tiredly rejecting one swindler after another." Documentary movie, described student from the focus group, is investigating the possibilities whether the Anastasia Romanov, was killed/dead in family massacre, whether she lives after them, did she stay alive, and diapason of perspectives, and theories about that, around year of 1917, during the Russian Revolution. Animation Anastasia, by Fox Animations Studio, is a avoiding the death as a tragical end, and it is not based, fully, on authentic story, and events. Opinions about what did happen to Anastasia, are different, from believing that she did survived the family massacre, to she was killed with her family. Graphically presented, the question whether Anastasia survived, is in the following statistical equation. Around 57 % of the student think that she did not survived, around 43% did not respond to the question.

### Question 1a. Did Anastasia Romanov Survive?

#### Question 1. a.



### Disney princesses and Their Importance for Socialisation of Young Femininities, and Masculinities

This research was conducted among the group of MA students, at Faculty of political Sciences, Sarajevo University. The comparison is focused onto the evolution of the Female emancipated Disney characters, and widespread criticism over the traditional position of Women, in

Society.

### Disney Princesses Importance for the Socialization (2018, and 2022)

**Table 1.** Role of Princesses 2018/2022

Disney Princess	Role (2018)	Role (2022)

Cinderella	Negative	Negative
Sleeping Beauty	Negative	Negative
Snow White	Negative	Negative
Alice on the Wonderland	Positive and Negative	Negative
Ariel	Negative	Negative
Beauty and the Beast	Negative	Negative
Princess and Frog	Positive/Responsibility	Positive

### Conclusion

The most positive Disney princes is Tiana, from Princess and the Frog, and it is identified with responsibility, and gastronomy, in fulfilling the dream of becoming a real **Tiana Palace** restaurant owner, after being left out on streets. The investigation on the theme Disney Princesses, had shown that full example of students, considered the Tiana positive model, in both years of the examinations, being done, in 2018, and 2022. Tiana, Anastasia, and Pinocchio, all were left out on the streets, but what they become at the end, is more globally evaluated as an appropriate model, in Tiana's refusing to be homeless, and depending person. Tiana, as new black princess becomes successful businesswoman, by selling Creole's cuisine food, such as Tiana's Gumbo, celebrated in Disney Parks, and Restaurants around the World (Sanders, 2020), but in culinary book on over 100 tantalising dishes inspired by the Princess and Frog (2023), and plurality of different colourful books about the creole cuisine, celebrated inside the jazz culture. Afro-American Music, Dance, and culture, inspired entire movement afrofuturism, Afro fabulist Nyong, Tavis, Vincent Joslin, and John Szwed "Space is the place", support the ideas of Ytasha L. Womack, that can be found in the representation of blackness, as a new model of Princess and the Frog. In terms of partnership, Tiana model is more accomplished, too, "In fulfilling many of the same postfeminist tropes, .... Naveen often portrayed as the butt of jokes (with frying pans to the face) and as the female protagonists'

unwilling and unwittingly travel partners who eventually fall for her charm and charisma." (Macaluso, 2018). Naveen, is a real post feministic masculinity, while as Pinocchio represents youth masculinity that learns to become a boy, and Dimitri is low class traditional worker masculinity. The new black princess Tiana, was released in "2009, during the presidency of the first Afro-American President, and feminist, Obama" (Chowdhury, 2009) and there is furtherance of this idea globally celebrated in forthcoming of the Princess and the Frog movie, in 2024, along with Disney animated series Tiana.

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