

## **Text script – preliminary**

**Mats:** Popular media is definitely responsible for perpetuating gender stereotypes in conversation. I read this really interesting study recently on the Disney Princess movies in Wha..[...]

**Karyn:** [...] yeah I saw that too! That's the one where they looked at the percentage of words spoken by female and male characters in several different movies right?

**Mats:** Yeah, that's the one! It was really interesting to see how females occupied as little as 20-30% of the floor space in spite of these movies having main characters that were girls.

**Karyn:** Yeah! Really disturbing. But from what I gathered this was particularly the case for the movies produced in the nineties.

**Mats:** Yeah, I think you're right there.

**Karyn:** The statistics were actually a lot more positive for the earlier films,

**Mats:** uhu

**Karyn:** such as Snow White and Cinderella, and I think that in the movie Sleeping Beauty from 59, females actually produced about 70% of the dialogue.

**Mats:** Yeah, I think you're right there. I didn't really pay that much attention to the details.

**Karyn:** yeah

**Mats:** But from what I gather, it's improved in recent years. The more recent movies seemed to be more balanced, at least some of them.

**Karyn:** hmm, but of course there are other aspects than floor space to look at here [...]

**Mats:** [...] yeah, too right! But I think they actually did look at other aspects too such as the number of male and female characters,

**Karyn:** uhu

**Mats:** I think they found that male characters greatly outnumbered female characters in all the movies [...]

**Karyn:** [...] yeah that's right! All the side-kicks were apparently male. And all the other active roles, other than the female main characters of course, were apparently populated by men [...]

**Mats:** [...] yeah, all the funny side characters like the Genie in Aladdin, the lobster in the Little Mermaid etc. seem to be male.... [...]

**Karyn:** [...] and not only those! Did you ever see a female police officer in an animated Disney Movie for example?

**Mats:** Nope. Can't think of any [...]

**Karyn:** [...] or a shopkeeper, soldier or any other profession?

**Mats:** No. Can't actually think of any. Maybe Cruella de Vil in Pongo and the 101 Dalmatians would qualify as professional 'bitch'?

**Karyn:** ha ha. But didn't they also look at content in the conversations?

**Mats:** Yeah, and that's where it gets really interesting. They looked at compliments [...]

**Karyn:** [...] Ah, that's right! It was compliments. And [...]

**Mats:** [...] yeah, and I think that the majority of compliments that were given to female characters in the movies, had to do with looks rather than things they did [...]

**Karyn:** [...] yeah! But if I remember correctly this was not the case in the more recent movies where this was reversed.

**Mats:** yeah, you're probably right. There is hope after all.

**Karyn:** Yeah, but **I think** the important question is this: Do these movies actually affect children's behaviour and expectations (when it comes to gender roles).

**Mats:** Mmm. I think they definitely do have more influence than we think.

**Karyn:** Yeah.

**Mats:** I mean I often see children at the prep school where my son is, playing these characters in their every-day playing activities... [...]

**Karyn:** [...] yes I think you're right, and the age groups these films appeal to, 4-10 year-olds, are extremely formative years when it comes to gender roles.

**Mats:** mmm.

**Karyn:** In fact studies like this one illustrate the importance of linguistic research. I mean after reading this study, Disney will probably pay more attention to gender aspects in their dialogues.

**Mats:** True.

**Karyn:** Because, you know, they may not even be aware of these facts ... [...]

**Mats:** [...] yeah the movies are probably just a reflection of societal norms, and they cannot really be blamed [...]

**Karyn:** [...] but here I really do think that they have extra responsibilities given the impact Disney movies have on children of all ages.

**Mats:** True! Well at least we can conclude that linguists do have an important role then!

**Karyn:** Yeah! Not sure if all would agree though. But that's a different story.

Length: about 5 mins

Floor space: Karyn: 52% Mats 48%