

THE LESBIAN PERCEPTION: REPRESENTATION IN ANONYMOUS QUESTIONNAIRES

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ABSTRACT

This article is a small portion of my Ph.D. thesis; it shows the process and conclusion of integration of Lesbian characters in a western context in the media from an anonymous international questionnaires' point of view addressed to the Lesbian community. My research compared different Lesbian oriented films, television shows and Internet based (web) series from the early 1930's to today; the Butch & Femme categorization, the shattering of the Lesbian masculine image throughout media history and the need to become mainstream opposed to queer, and simply blend into the majority of the population. I have explored it with numerous films, television shows and Internet based series (web series) – in order to show the progress. In addition, I have administered anonymous questionnaires, conducted a small sample focus group with Lesbians ages 16 to 45, in order to understand how the modern Lesbian portrays herself and believe the media represents her. I have explored various films and television shows from the different eras, based my research on different books, articles and studies of a similar nature, starting with Queer theory, and post-feminist theory; based on Foucault (1978), Butler (1990), Kama (2003) and Beauvoir (1949) The need to “Belong” is every minority - group’s aspiration, especially in young women, the desire to “look up to someone, or imitate them” or identify with them; or how “deification” according to: Lemish, D. 1998 Spice Girls’ talk: A case study in the development of gendered identity influences this generation of Lesbians. Explains it in her study of “deification” while looking into teenage girls and their relation to a pop group called “The spice girls”, you can clearly see it in my study as Lesbians wear their hair like some characters on the Lesbian Television show “The L Word” which influences this generation of Lesbians.

KEYWORDS: Lesbian Mainstreamism, Stereotypes, Media, Butch & Femme, Evolution, Queer Theory, LGBT