

ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the representation of female heroes in Chinese and Khasi folktales. It looks through several of these folktales focusing on how women are represented as powerful or prominent characters who subvert patriarchal interfaces in relation to cultural construction of gender and power. To achieve this, gender relations, cultural studies, and folklore studies are utilized to analyse women's cultural roles and status as unsung heroes in these narratives. This research also analyses how these folktales shape and are shaped by the worldview, social roles, and traditions of women in Chinese and Khasi societies. The study looks into how female heroism is constructed across cultures and the gender roles that it delineates in various societies. This topic is unique because it deals with issues of gender dynamics and cultural representations through the female heroes of Chinese and Khasi folktales. However, by focusing on quite often overlooked narratives of daughters and female protagonists, this research study seeks to open up a vast, diverse, and multihued canvas of portraying women and challenge the existing gender order as well as allow new perspectives in cultural storytelling. Women in the history and culture are important foci of this research in the realm of folklore. The key words of this research work are female heroes, gender dynamics, Khasi folktales, Chinese folktales, cultural representations, folklore analysis, gender roles, cultural identity.