

# TELL

*by* Ari Setyorini

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## THE SYMBOLS OF GENDER-STEREOTYPE IN HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S *THE LITTLE MERMAID*

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### Abstract

It is seen that there is an existence of gender-stereotype that unwittingly occurred in children's literature. The gender-stereotype of how man and woman should be and behave considering on his/her proper activities in a real life might be portrayed throughout the symbolizations in which numerous readers do not understand what they are about, whereas those symbols of gender-stereotype are teaching the children the concept of masculinity and femininity. This study thus scrutinizes the symbols of gender-stereotype in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. The data analysis is in the form of symbols which have the issues of gender-stereotype taken from the original fairy tale of *The Little Mermaid* in 1836. The aims of this study are to find out the symbols of gender-stereotype and describe the meaning of each symbol. Utilizing descriptive qualitative method, the results of this study are the symbols which have the gender-stereotype of masculinity are "King" related to non-emotional and intellectuality in authority of a man. "Knife" is found allied to the masculinity trait of a strong man and "Sword" is an analogue of a brave, adventurous and intellectual man. Moreover, the symbols of femininity found are the "Mermaid or Siren" is interwoven to such the embodiment of a flirtatious woman. "Long Hair" is germane to a loyal and submissive woman. The last, "Oyster" is represented as a nurturing woman.

**Keywords:** Symbol, Gender-Stereotype, *The Little Mermaid*

Today, within the era of post-modernism, the study of gender is being experienced a stratospheric to fame. It is because-at least in Helgon's view- the gender itself is become fairly interest for a lot researchers in recent times (Ifegbesan, 2010:29). Regards this phenomenon, the discussion about the stereotypical gender is also igniting to be talked over. At least, based on Brannon (1995:160) and Halim and Dianne Rubble (2010:500), the gender-stereotype is sort of believes about men, women, boys and girls to such proper activities on their attributes or characteristics which deals with the concept of masculinity and femininity in a real life.

The discussion towards the gender-stereotype in a real life might, on the other hand, be revealed in the form of literary works. In the fairy tale for instance, the depiction of gender-stereotype can be seen throughout the symbolization in the story. Besides, Perrine further states about the symbol itself, that is, something that not only has literal meaning but also propose other meaning. The symbols

themselves can be in the form of an object, a person, an action, a situation and so forth (See:Fadaee, 2010:20).

Granted on Perrine's view, along with the existence of gender-stereotype issue in the literary works, is true. It is blatant that there is simultaneous interwoven between the symbols in the story which can be in the form of characters, action, situation and so on with the issue of gender-stereotype. It is therefore seen that the placement of such characters, place, event and so forth in literary works, especially in children literature is not only being the attributes of the story, but also propose another meanings, that is, in the symbolism' perspective might be considered as a kind of symbol of gender-stereotype.

The symbols of gender-stereotype are also possibly seen in the fairy tale *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Anderson. Having considered as one amongst the well-known classical fairy tales cannon in the western world (Zipes, 2006:1), *The Little Mermaid* is precise to be scrutinized in the terms of the symbols of gender-stereotype.

In such phenomenon that a lot readers just concern to entertain themselves by such story of a human-fished woman who was trying to get love and immortal soul of a mankind, it seems that the readers neglect what actually another messages behind the story of *The Little Mermaid* whereof Hans Christian Andersen was trying to convey, especially to the children. Therefore, this research was conducted to further analyze the issue of gender-stereotype revealed throughout the symbolization in the story of *The Little Mermaid* written in 1836 by Hans Christian Andersen.

Guided with one research question, what are the symbols of gender-stereotype and their most possible meaning found in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*? is hoped to evoke the symbols of gender-stereotype whereof can be such a catalyst for the readers who do not only concern on reading the story of *The Little Mermaid* but also they can transfer the ideologies and virtues of being masculine and feminine to the children through the symbols of gender-stereotype that has already been interpreted limited to the context of the story and when and where *The Little Mermaid* was written.

There are four theories are utilized. Two minor theories (Literature and Fairy Tale) are used as the basis insight or understanding and as constructing the introductory of case building while the major theories (Symbol and Gender-Stereotype) are used to scrutinize further the issue of gender-stereotype revealed throughout the symbolization in *The Little Mermaid*.

*Literature*, at least in Klarer's view (2004: 01), has characteristic of "aesthetic" or "artistic" which differentiates from the text-everyday-used. Furthermore, Semi states that literature is the form and product of creativity which human and humanity are become the objects and language is used to be a media (as cited in Sadili, 2013). It is thus literature deals with human and humanity as the object of knowledge whereof posses "aesthetic" or "artistic" characteristic.

*Fairy Tale*, based on Lombardi (2013) definition, fairy tale is a story about dragon, fairies, and so on that intentionally for children. Another extent notion is from Bottiqheimer (2009:9). He states that Fairy tales is sort of narratives whose plot has narrative trajectory. Above all, the discussion about the fairy tales always relates to what we called the world of the children. It is because the fairy tale itself is story about fairies, dragons, giants and other fanciful stories

*Gender Stereotype*, based on Brannon, gender-stereotype is beliefs about the activities applicable to men or women on their psychological traits as well as their characteristics, in the other word beliefs and attitudes about masculinity and femininity (1995:160). Moreover, regards on attitudes, traits or characteristics of man or woman in the gender-stereotype, there are several views about these. First, Ifegbersan states that men are often described as intellectually, competent, strong, brave, while women areas homely, complement, warm, expressiveness, incompetent and passive (2010:29). Second, based on Bepko and Krestan's view, women are expected to have lots of personal behaviors and traits as like she has to be both competitive and nurturing, compliant and assertive, to appear in control without any signs of vulnerability, while she has to still be able to demonstrate the traditionally feminine trait of emotionality (as cited in Tang and Catherine Tang, 2001:181-182).

Third, Brannon (1995:162) makes six adjectives associated with men stereotype in all of the cultures which are adventurous, dominant, forceful,



independent, masculine and strong and three adjectives are identified with females in all cultures are sentimental, submissive and superstitious. The last, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2014) describes what the definition of as well as gives list of words that are commonly used to describe both femininity and masculinity. Femininity traits are such ways of behaving that the culture usually relates to being a girl or woman while masculinity traits are vice versa. The words are associated with femininity are dependent, emotional, passive, sensitive, quiet, graceful, innocent, weak, flirtatious, nurturing, self-critical, soft, sexually submissive, and accepting. Additionally, the words are in accordance with the masculinity are independent, non-emotional, aggressive, tough-skinned, competitive, clumsy, experienced, strong, active, self-confident, hard, sexually aggressive, and rebellious.

*Symbol* is images, figures, objects, actions, human body, and so forth that have literal meaning that stands for represents other meaning instead of the literal meaning itself and can be related to the issues or concepts relevance to the meaning of the symbol itself. This notion deals with the Perrine's view. He states that symbol is something that means more than what it is. It is an object, a person, a situation, an action or some other item that has literal meaning in the story, but suggests and represents other meaning as well (*See: Fadaee, 2010:20*).

*Three Effects in the Symbolism*, Stanton clarifies that in fiction or a story, the symbolism could bring three effects that each depends on how the corresponding symbols are used (as cited in Sugiarto, 2013:17): 1). A symbol that appears on one important incident in the story indicates the meaning of the event, 2). One symbol that is displayed repeatedly reminds us of some constant element in the universe of the story, 3). A symbol that appears on a different context would be helpful in finding the theme or the issues around it.

*Some Criteria in Interpretive Analysis Symbolic Meanings*, A reader – at least in Perrine's view- should be noticed for symbolical meanings. He ought to care to some cautions (as cited in Sugiarto, 2013:19): 1). The story itself must furnish a clue that a detail is to be taken symbolically. It means that symbolic phenomena can be identified by repetition, emphasis or position. 2). the meaning of a literary symbol must be established and supported by the

entire context of the story. It means that the meaning of the symbol can be identified inside the text, not outside it. 3). to be called a symbol, an item must suggest a meaning different in kind from its literal meaning. 4). A symbol may have more than one meaning

*Some Characteristics of the Symbols related to the Concept of Masculinity and Femininity in Ancient Times*, regarding of the symbols related to the concept of masculinity and femininity in ancient times, Hoffner (1966:327) states that the symbols of masculinity in ancient times were measured by two criteria: his prowess in battle and his ability to sire children. Moreover, the symbols of femininity were objects recalled her domestic duties frequently carry overtones of fertility and sexual drives.

#### **METHOD**

The method of this research is naturally descriptive qualitative, because the data are not in the form of statistics or numbers but in the form of phrases, words and sentences. The data of this research is in the form of symbols which can be an object, an action, a situation and so on in the story and thus the subject of data analysis is the original story of *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen written in 1836 taken from ZviHar'El published on 12 December 2007 from [http://hca.gilead.org.il/li\\_merma.html](http://hca.gilead.org.il/li_merma.html).

#### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

Here are the analysis and findings of the symbols of gender-stereotypes which are revealed in *The Little Mermaid* that are divided into two parts of discussion; the symbols of gender-stereotypes deal with the concept of masculinity and the other is the symbols of gender-stereotypes deal with the concept of femininity.

##### **The Symbols of Masculinity**

###### **a. King**

King in the story of *The Little Mermaid* is considered as a symbol. The presence of "king" as a person character deals with Perrine's idea about what actually symbol is, that is, a person, action, situation and so on that has both literal

and other meanings(See:Fadaee, 2010:20). The king symbol is emphasized by the fact that the role of King in the story is not much centered.

The king presence in the story was just seen at the introductory and nearly the last part of the story. This position is considered as a symbolic phenomenon by Stanton (as cited in Sugiarto, 2013:17). The-un-centered-character of King as a symbol is revealing the issue of gender-stereotype. It is germane with the role of King as a father. Although he is a widower, he still shows his care to her daughters, especially when Little Mermaid could not get the immortal soul of the young prince so that she had to be died. As illustrated below:

“The Sea King had been a widower for many years, and his aged mother kept house for him. She was a very wise woman, and exceedingly proud of her high birth; on that account she wore twelve oysters on her tail...., she was, however, deserving of very great praise, especially her care of the little-princess, her grand-daughter.”(The Little Mermaid, 2007)

“Once during the night her sisters came up arm in arm, singing sorrowfully,....., once she was saw her old grandmother, who had not been in the surface....., and the old sea king, her father, with his crown on his head. They stretched out their hands towards her, but they did not venture so near the land as her sisters did. (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

Thus, Based on the illustration, the king shows his ability to sire children by showing his care to his daughters. He trusted his grandmother to take in charge on his daughters’ education so that they can be praised and honored like the grandmother. This the way the king was siring his children as a widower. And it is related with criteria of the symbols of masculinity which deals with an ability to sire children (Hoffner, 1966:327)

The interpretation towards the king symbolism’s meaning is influenced with the context when and where the story of *The Little Mermaid* was written. The story was written in Denmark on 1836. At this time, the stereotypical man was on the top of position and always deals with the authority. Therefore, over years later in 1980’s the Denmark government made a public policy of equality of men and women in regard to wages and working conditions (Ohannesen and E Rling H, 2014).

This stereotypical condition influenced the literary works written in that year. *The Little Mermaid* for instance, the issue of gender-stereotype masculinity is seen dealing with the presence of king in the story. It can be seen by the fact that Hans Christian Andersen was not willing to center the issues of masculinity; the stereotype of man who has an authority or power. It is further accentuated by the fact that the person character (the sea king) is also not centered or much told in the whole story. Thus, this view might be evoked such the issue of stereotypical man of authority of king.

The meaning of King's symbolism in *The Little Mermaid* which deals with authority is stated vice versa in the story. The King characteristic in the story is represented as a patriarchy figure so that he is not easily emotional. He can control his power as "a king" in the sea world. He shows his intellectuality in authority by not destroying the young prince's ship or life due to the fact that king's young mermaid died because of young prince. Hence, it is seen that the most possible meaning toward the symbols of masculinity of king is man has non-emotional feeling and intellectuality in authority. As stated in Ifegbersan (2010:29) and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2014), two of the stereotypical characteristics of man are intellectuality and non-emotional.

**b. Knife**

In discussion about the presence of knife, it is always interesting to be talked over. In the story of *The Little Mermaid*, the presence of the word "knife" is repeated 7 (seven) times and a knife is kind of object given by a witch to young mermaid princes. This repetition or emphasized knife as well as a kind of object deal with Perrine (Fedace, 2010:20) and (Sugiarto, 2013:19) view as thing can be called a symbol.

Considering that knife as a kind of symbol, the presence of it is highly related to the issue of masculinity. The masculinity is revealed in such situations between the little mermaid and her efforts to strive surviving to such commitment to get an immortal soul of the young prince. The battle between the young mermaid and the knife are seen throughout efforts of young mermaid to hold up the pain made by the knife as illustrated below:

“Every step she took was as the witch had said it would be, she felt as if treading upon the points of needles or sharp knives; but she bore it willingly, and stepped as lightly by the prince’s side as a soap-bubble, so that he and all who saw her wondered at graceful-swaying movements”. (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

“....., She danced again quite readily, to please him, though each time her foot touched the floor it seemed as if she trod on sharp knives”. (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

From the illustration, it can be seen that how hard the little mermaid must hold up the pain made by the knife. The strong efforts did in order to get the immortal soul of the prince. She had to dance so elegantly to catch the prince’s attention. Thus, it is inferred that the little mermaid must be scarified by the knife presence. She also has to be tested how strong she get really able to restrain the pain given by the knife. Finally, in the end of the story, the little mermaid did not win the young prince’s immortal soul because she had to kill him by using knife given by the witch. But, she decided to throw away the knife to the sea and she died. Hence, the knife is seen as the tool of battle in which deals with the criteria of the symbols of masculinity in ancient times proposed by Hoffner (1966:327).

The presence of knife is seen related to death, sacrificing, and strength. The most possible meaning related to the masculinity trait throughout this case is strength. It is illuminated the strength of young mermaid to hold up the pain made by knife to get young prince’s immortal soul through sacrificing acts and pains in the story. This deals with the masculinity trait of man proposed Ifegbersan (2010:29), Brannon (1995:162) and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2014). They state that one of the masculinity traits of a man is strong. Thus, the most possible meaning towards the knife symbolism in case of gender-stereotype is a strong man.

### **c. Sword**

Sword is frequently become the part of literary work at most children literature. The king, army, and the prince in children story always have a sword in which to be used as vehicle to protect him or show his prowess in battle. This, in the symbolism’ perspective can have another meaning.

In *The Little Mermaid* story, the presence of sword is emphasized in such situation between the witch and the young mermaid when she was willing to transform herself into human form. The witch accentuated that the pain would be great as if a sword pierced in the body of young mermaid. Thus, a sword is revealed throughout the emphasized situation in which is considered as a symbol in such symbolic phenomena proposed by Perrine (Fedace, 2010:20) and (Sugiarto, 2013:19).

The presence of a symbol sword was revealing the issue of gender-stereotype masculinity. The presence of knife always deals with authority, justice and courage in the story as seen in the illustration bellow:

“I will prepare a draught for you, with which you must swim to land tomorrow before sunrise, and sit down on the shore and drink it. Your tail will then disappear, and shrink up into what mankind calls legs, and you will feel great pain, as if a sword were passing through you....., If you will bear all this, I will help you” “Yes, I will,” said the little princess in a trembling voice, as thought of the prince and the immortal soul” (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

“Then the little mermaid drank the magic draught, and it seemed as if a two-edged sword went through her delicate body: she fell into a swoon, and lay like one dead” (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

From the illustration, it is seen that the authority is depicted by the fact that the young mermaid had a right to take her own way of life. She had an authority to choose whether she lived with her grandmother, father, old five sisters or catch the immortal soul of mankind (young prince). Moreover, the courage is revealed through such an action of young mermaid to take decision to drink the drought from the witch although the effects would be so dangerous. The last, the justice is shown by the action of the young mermaid to get an equality of getting the immortal soul.

The authority, courage, and justice in the case of masculinity traits could be best replaced by brave, adventurous and intellectuality. The brave is aligning with courage. It shows the bravery of young mermaid to transform herself into human form though the efforts would be so great. Moreover, the adventurous trait is germane with authority. It represents young mermaid’s curiosity and inquisition to further know her life path. The last, intellectuality trait deals with justice, it

represents the critical thinking of young mermaid to question and find out why just the human being has the immortal soul not the mermaid. Therefore, the masculinity traits of sword are brave, adventurous, and intellectuality. These traits are in accordance with the masculinity trait of man proposed by Ifegbersan (2010:29) and Brannon (1995:162). Thus, the most possible meaning of sword as a symbol of masculinity is a brave, adventurous and intellectuality man.

### **The Symbols of Femininity**

#### **a. The Mermaid/Siren**

The presence of Mermaid or in the 15<sup>th</sup> century as called Siren (Cirlot, 1971:298) is related to a symbol of femininity in the story of *The Little Mermaid*. The mermaid or siren herself is kind of a symbol of person as to the fact that she is the central character in the story. Furthermore, the femininity symbol is seen throughout the sexual drives depicted in the actions and attitudes of young mermaid. This deal with Hoffner's criteria of symbol of femininity in which one of them is woman is driven by her sexual drives (1996:337).

The sexual drives of the young mermaid are seen throughout the temptations actions or attitudes of young mermaid in the story as illustrated bellow:

“Beautiful female slaves, dressed in silk and gold, stepped forward and sang before the prince, and his royal parents: one sang better than all the others, and the prince clapped his hands and smiled at them..... The slaves next performed some pretty fairy-like dances, to the sound of beautiful music. Then the little mermaid raised her lovely arms, stood on the tips of her toes, and gilded over the floor, and danced as one yet had been able to dance. At each moment her beauty became more revealed, and her expressive eyes appealed more directly to the heart that the songs of the salve. Everyone was enchanted, especially the prince who called her his little foundling; and she danced again quite readily, to please him, though each time her foot touched the floor it seemed as if she trod on sharp knives. (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

“Very soon it was said that the prince must marry, and that the beautiful daughter of a neighboring king would be his wife, for a fine ship was being fitted out..... “I must travel,” he had said to her; “I must see this beautiful princess; my parents desire it; but they will not oblige me to bring her home as my bride. I cannot love her; she is not like the beautiful maiden in the temple,



whom you resemble. If I were forced to choose a bride, I would rather choose you my dumb founding, with those expressive eyes." And then he kissed her rosy mouth, played with her long waving hair, and laid his head on her heart, while she dreamed of human happiness and immortal soul". (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

"...., and that she had as pretty pair of white legs and tiny feet as any little maiden could have:.... (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

From three illustrations, it can be seen that the temptations are revealed by the movements, expressive eyes, and beautiful form of young mermaid. The beautiful movements are shown by the fact that young mermaid was willing to get the people's attention especially young prince. She was not willing to be competed even just with the slaves. Moreover, the expressive eyes are shown as a tool for attracting the young prince's affection regards that she is dumb. Her expressive eyes as if talking and communicating her willing to the prince. Therefore, she got kiss from the prince. The last, the beautiful form is shown by the fact that she has the beautiful white leg and tiny feet as to get the human kind's heart. Thus, the symbol of mermaid deals with femininity trait of temptation. This trait is included in the femininity trait of woman by Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2014). It is stated that one of the characteristics of femininity traits is temptation which deals with flirtatious trait. In short, the most possible meaning of sword symbol of femininity is flirtatious woman.

#### **b. Long Hair**

When discussing the "long hair" presence in the fairy tale, it is interesting to be noticed that some of fairy tale such as *Rhapunzel*, *Aladdin*, and *The Little Mermaid*, the main character of the girl in that story always has "long hair". This, in symbolism's perspective does not have the literal meaning of a "hair" which is long, yet other than that, it also proposes other meanings.

The long hair in the story of *The Little Mermaid* is considered the symbol; it is because the word "long hair" which is part of human body of the mermaids mostly comes up on the important events of the story. It is found the word "long hair" is emphasized and repeated four times as the object of a symbol. This



repetition, emphasized and an object symbol are in line with the idea of symbolic phenomenon and characteristics proposed by (Fedae, 2010:20) and (Sugiarto, 2013:19).

In the story of *The Little Mermaid*, the long hair is found highly related to the femininity symbol. This idea is line with the criteria of the symbols of femininity based on Hoffner's idea (1966:327), that is, one of the criteria is the domestic duties. Thus this long hair is germane with the idea of domestic duties. It is reflected by the presence of young mermaid and the mermaids as a loyal and graceful woman. The interpretation of the meaning is highly related to the young mermaid and mermaid's characters as to the important event throughout the whole story related to the presence of them who has the long hair. This idea is illustrated bellow:

"A great company were to go with him. The Little Mermaid smiled, and shook her head. She knew the prince's thoughts better than any of the others. "I must travel," he had said to her, "I must see this beautiful princess; my parents desire it; but they will not oblige me to bring her home as my bride. .... And then he kissed her rosy mouth, played with her long waving hair, and laid his head on her heart, while she dreamed of human happiness and an immortal soul". (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

"The prince said she should remain with him always, and she received permission to sleep at his door, on a velvet cushion" (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

"She saw her sisters rising out of the flood: they were as pale as herself; but their long beautiful hair waved no more in the wind, and had been cut off. "We have given our hair to the witch," said they, "to obtain for you, that you may not die to-night....". (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

From the illustration, it is seen that though the prince has already been engaged by his parents, the young mermaid still strive to catch the young prince's love. She still in her commitment to be a loyal woman as reflected in the second illustration that young mermaid is always submissive to the prince, whatever he asked, she would do it. Even she had to sleep on a velvet cushion at the prince's door. The last, the long hair dealing with domestic duties are seen from the last illustration that the old five sisters' of young mermaid show

their faithful to help her young sister to strive alive. They had to cut their long hair to do so. Thus, it is inferred that long hair deals with domestic duties of loyal and submissive. These ideas are in accordance with Brannon's view about the femininity trait of woman which is submissive (1995:162). In short, the most possible meaning of long hair as a symbol of femininity is a loyal and submissive woman.

**c. Oyster**

The presence of Oyster in the story of *The Little Mermaid* is a kind of animal symbol whereof has important role or position as a sign of sovereignty or high rank of mermaid in the sea world. The interpretation of a symbol of oyster is highly related to the presence of grandmother's characters and actions in the story. It is because the grandmother holds the highest rank and gets the most numbers of oysters posed as illustrated below:

“The Sea King had been a widower for many years, and his aged mother kept house for him. She always a very wise woman, and exceedingly proud of her birth; on that account she wore twelve oysters on her tail; while others, also of high rank, were only allowed to wear six. She was, however, deserving of very great praise, especially her care of the little sea-princess, her grand-daughters”. (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

It can be seen from the illustration that the presence of oyster is always related to high rank, to the status of a mermaid and to the grandmother herself as got the highest praise. In the story, whenever this old lady teaches her grand-daughters to behave like princes, she always shows the high rank by the number of oyster posed. For instance, when her grand-daughters reach the age of fifteen, what it means they are allowed to swim to the sea surface as explained below:.

“At last she reached her fifteenth year. “Well, no, you are grown up,” said the old dowager, her grandmother,...., then the old lady ordered eight great oysters to attach themselves to the tail of the princess to show her high rank. “But they hurt me so”, said the little mermaid. “Pride must suffer pain” replied the old lady.” (The Little Mermaid, 2007)

Above all, it can be concluded that the presence of oyster is always related to the figure of grandmother and what the grandmother does who always nurtures and gives guidance to her grand-daughters. This nurturing trait is part of the symbols of femininity trait proposed by Planned Parenthood Federation of America (2014) and Bepko and Krestan's view in (Tang and Catherine Tang, 2001:182). In short, the most possible meaning of long hair as a symbol of femininity is a nurturing woman.

### **Conclusion**

This research was conducted in the area of symbols revealed in the story that has the gender-stereotype issues. As to which the research was driven by the aim whereof be portrayed into one research question as follow; what are the symbols of gender-stereotype and their most possible meaning found in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid?*, The research question was successfully answered.

The question was answered by the fact that the researcher found 3 (three) symbols related to the masculinity which are king, knife and sword and 3 (three) symbols related to the femininity which are the mermaid/siren, long hair and oyster.

The question related to the most possible meaning was answered by interpreting each of the symbols found into their relation to the gender-stereotype of masculinity and femininity utilizing several dictionaries of symbolism as the basis of interpretation. King found as the symbol of masculinity has the most possible meaning of man who has non-emotional feeling and intellectuality in authority. Knife considered the symbol of masculinity has the most possible meaning of a strong man. Sword found as the symbol of masculinity has the most possible meaning of a brave, adventurous and intellectual man. Additionally, the Mermaid/Siren considered the symbol of femininity has the most possible meaning of flirtatious women. Long Hair found as the part of femininity symbol has the most possible meaning of loyal and submissive woman. Oyster as found to be the symbol of femininity has the most possible meaning of nurturing women.

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