Abstract

This study discusses the development of the *kathoey* characters in three Thai commercial films, *Kung Fu Tootsie* (Mokjok, 2007), *It Gets Better* (Sukkhapisit, 2012), and *The Last Song* (Akaraseranee, 2006) with the view to exploring the representation of the *kathoey*, as well as the stereotypes associated with their portrayal. The three selected films belong to different genres: comedy, drama, and tragedy. The study uses qualitative research methods and is based on textual analysis. Character development is discussed in three parts related to characterization, deep character, and character’s arc and each level of character design is examined for its potential contribution to stereotypical representation. Despite the difference in genres all the films exhibit similarities in the way their *kathoey* characters are portrayed, and their representation can often be found stereotypical, both in relation to the characters’ strengths and weaknesses.