

## Reading Roald Dahl with Roald Dahl: Aspects of His Transformation

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Roald Dahl (1916-90) was one of the most representative English writers of the 20th century. Contrary to his tremendous success, there has been many discussions about his writing style, and opinions are divided. Most of the studies of Roald Dahl are confined to a certain work, or otherwise, to either genre, short stories or children's books. I analysed the relation between his early works and his later ones and what happened in his thought process. The aim of this thesis is to deepen our understanding of him by comparing his short stories for adults with his children's books.

In Chapter 1, I compared a short story, "The Champion of the World" and a children's book, *Danny the Champion of the World*. The alteration of the viewpoint, from Claud to Danny, converted a story of failure which disgraced middle-aged men into a thrilling story of an adventure with a sparky father. When he wrote the original short story, he was in a period of suffering. He was struggling to find his own sparkiness. He must eventually have found the answer since he became a father.

In Chapter 2, I analysed the descriptions of female characters chronologically to shed light on the modifications of women's images in his works. In his early works, he depicted stereotyped women unconsciously. In addition, his children's books were influenced by folk tales which preserve traditional gender roles. Controversies over his works result from a combination of factors. Because of his popularity, he was required to be much more politically correct. He gradually raised his awareness of political correctness in order to flow with the tide.

As a writer, Dahl thought that entertaining the readers was the most important thing. He did all kinds of things not to tire children. One of his most characteristic advantages is his sense of humour. Dahl found a rewarding sense of satisfaction in writing for children than for adults. He thought that it was more difficult to write for children than for adults. In addition, he was motivated by a sense of responsibility to educate children, who will lead our future. His transition from a short-story writer to a children's author, it can be said, was a success in his career. During his whole life, he tried to approach readers of various ages. As a result, he won everlasting popularity across generations.