

Gender Stereotypes in Rick Riordan's the Lightning Thief



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ABSTRACT: Gender stereotypes can be found in every facet of human life, and their development is complex and contradictory. Thus, this study aims to determine (a) how van Dijk's text analysis is applied in *The Lightning Thief* to reveal gender stereotypes in the novel and (b) how cognition and social situations motivate the writer to produce gender stereotypes in the novel. This study uses qualitative research and document as the research methods. The data source is taken from a novel by Rick Riordan entitled *The Lightning Thief*. The data is analyzed using van Dijk's critical discourse analysis. This study shows that (a) there are gender stereotypes in the text analysis (macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure), (b) gender stereotypes are accentuated by Riordan through his mental representation (opinion) in one of his interviews, and (c) the social situation of the United States also indicates that gender stereotypes still existed in the 1990s and 2000s which can be seen through advertisements, the lyrics of the song, discrimination towards women, and the negative perception of society in women that had higher positions in the workplace and political sphere.

KEYWORDS: Gender stereotypes, *The Lightning Thief*, van Dijk

INTRODUCTION

Gender stereotypes are set of beliefs about men's and women's attributes such as personality traits, attitudes, gender roles, or behavior and behavioral preferences (Brannon, 2017, p. 46; Dolan, 2014, p. 22; Swann, Langlois, & Gilbert, 1998, p. 76). Swann et al. (1998, pp. 76, 79,96) argue that the development of gender stereotypes is something complex and contradictory. It is complex because each individual is always bound by race, culture, ethnicity, and social class, as well as by the development of society. It is contradictory because pros and cons of gender stereotypes among the society that view men and women in two different ways (Brannon, 2017, p. 47). Those pros believe that men should act and behave as masculine while women are as feminine. In addition, those who are cons believe that gender stereotypes have produced significant distortions and incorrect generalizations that give disadvantages and terrible to men and women (Brannon, 2017, p. 53; Ellemers, 2018). They also criticize the negative portrayals of women in gender stereotypes.

Gender stereotyping is also common in human life because gender shapes every facet of human life to give beliefs about men and women in a particular way (Dolan, 2014, p. 22). Butler (1990) and Brannon (2017, p. 49) suggest that society constructs gender. Thus, men and women should behave based on their sex, gender norms, and cultural norms. Besides that, sex and gender continually act with other identities to shape people's behavior and judgment. Furthermore, gender stereotypes influence the color perceptions and impressions of men and women. Men are portrayed as having masculine skills and agentic qualities, while women are described as having feminine skills (nurturing) and communal attributes (Brannon, 2017, pp. 49-58; Dolan, 2014, pp. 22-23; Ellemers, 2018; Martin & Doka, 2000; Ridgeway, 2011, pp. 58-98; Swann et al., 1998, pp. 195-198).

Though the movement against gender stereotyping is increasing in the United States, it still can be found in society's norms, cultural beliefs, and literary works. First, gender stereotypes or sexism play an essential role in the fate of women candidates in politics because it is also shaped by gendered considerations (Dolan, 2014, p. 143). Second, there are gender biased in color preferences for babies and children (Heywood & Adzajlic, 2023, pp. 28). Boys are often associated with the color blue, while women are with the color pink. It can be seen through gender reveal parties, baby room decorations, or baby clothes. Third, boys are often associated with toys that tend to develop their activeness and aggressiveness, such as weapons, vehicle toys, or action figures, while women are associated with toys that tend to encourage social skills, empathy, and their ability to nurture, such as dolls, kitchen sets, or glamour and grooming sets (Swann et al., 1998, pp. 47-48; Heywood et al., 2023, pp. 38-41).

Furthermore, classics or modern literary works also play a significant role in construing gender stereotypes because the author can generalize and hegemonize particular gender stereotypes toward the readers. For instance, classics stories like the stories of

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Cinderella and *Snow White* conceive sexism or gender stereotypes (Heywood et al., 2023:36). Then, the female characters in *Alladine* (Jasmine), *Peterpan* (Tinker Bell), and *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel) are portrayed as feminine and centered around domesticity, nurturing, and modesty as well as powerless because their ultimate goals are to marry the princes to protect them (Heywood et al., 2023, p. 36). One example of the modern and best novels that are assumed to contain gender stereotyping is *The Lightning Thief*, written by Riordan (2005). To prove the gender stereotypes, van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis is employed as the main theory while gender theory. Several studies also have studied gender stereotypes using critical discourse analysis. First, Sriwimon and Zilli (2017) examined gender stereotypes in the news reports of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra of Thailand. The study found that she was represented paradoxically in the news. She was portrayed as (a) a successful businesswoman and (b) an inexperienced and incompetent politician. Second, Cendra, Triutami, and Bram (2019) studied gender stereotyping in twenties sexist jokes collected from *laughfactory.com* in October 2017. The study found that women were more frequently used as the targeted jokes than men. Women were often portrayed as men's sex objects, homemakers, gold diggers, expressive, talkative, stupid, and lower class than men in the jokes. Then, Heathy (2020) discussed gender stereotypes in four printed advertisements. The study found that the ad portrayed women as happy housewives and sexual objects. They were also described as subordinate, dependent, and weak. Even though previous studies have discussed gender stereotypes using critical discourse analysis, no one has discussed gender stereotypes in *The Lightning Thief* using van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis model (CDA). Thus, the previous studies contribute to this study to understand more about gender stereotypes using critical discourse analysis. Furthermore, they can be used to discover the current study's novelty.

LITERARY REVIEW

1.1 van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis

According to van Dijk (2013, p. 200; 2015, p. 466), critical discourse analysis (CDA) is an approach used to study social problems, power abuse, inequality, and domination in language use, either verbal or written language. Furthermore, there are three dimensions in van Dijk's model of CDA: text analysis, cognition, and social situation. Those dimensions are inseparable to form a unified analysis. Following van Dijk, the text analysis is divided into macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure (van Dijk, 2015, p. 468). Macrostructure is used to analyze the general meaning of the text (the theme or topic of the text). Then, the superstructure is used to analyze the text's structure. It compiles and organizes the text's topics according to the scheme of the text (from introduction to closing), while microstructure is used to analyze words, phrases, clauses, and sentences used in the text to get the meaning of the discourse. Semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetoric styles are analyzed in the microstructure.

In addition, the second dimension is cognition. Cognition is the mental representation of people in a particular group of society (van Dijk, 2013, p. 202). Thus, the meaning of the text is based on the mental representation and the social background of the author. It is supported by van Dijk's statements. He (1998, pp. 235-239) argues that the social background of the writer (his understanding, awareness, knowledge, or prejudice) produces every discourse. Furthermore, the last dimension is the social situation. The condition and situation of the society (context) construct the mental model of events in a discourse called the context model. It can clarify how discourse is adapted to the social situation at that time (van Dijk, 2013, pp. 207-208). It also affects (a) how discourses are produced, shaped, and understood and (b) the function of the discourse in the social situation (van Dijk, 1998, p. 211). Thus, discourses reflect society's condition and situations, as mentioned by Goldmann (1980, p. 11) and Mays (2019, pp. 1952-1953).

1.2 Gender Theory

Gender is defined as the way people perform as masculine or feminine (Butler, 1990, p. 8). It is constructed by society based on their sex (Butler, 1990, p. 8; Murray, 2020, pp. 9-10). Thus, sex implies the norms of the gender, such as the way of women or men should behave based on the culture's norms or social roles (Butler, 1990, pp. 9-10). Eventually, social roles cause gender roles. For instance, women are portrayed as having innate nurturing qualities, which make them associated with childcare or babysitting. At the same time, men are described as aggressive and initiative, making them capable of being hunters (Murray, 2020, p. 4). Therefore, men are often associated with outdoor activities (working in political, economic, and cultural power), while women are often associated with indoor activities (domestic activities such as cooking, nurturing, or doing housework). Furthermore, according to Murray (2020, pp. 4-37), men are portrayed as *systemizers*, unsentimental, aggressive, initiative, brave, dispassionate, solitary, reserved, utilitarian, powerful, and working in political, economic, and cultural power, while women are portrayed as *empathizers*, sympathetic, sensitive, accommodating, thoughtful, altruistic, sociable, kind, warm, powerless, working in the domestic sphere, and having feminine skills.

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2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses qualitative research because the data of this study are from qualitative data. Qualitative data are in the form of words (spoken or written) and visual images (Denscombe, 2007, p. 286). Accordingly, the data of this study are words, phrases, clauses, or sentences containing gender stereotypes.

2.1 Data Collection

The research method of this study is a document because the data source is taken from a novel by Rick Riordan entitled *The Lightning Thief*. It was published by Disney-Hyperion in 2005, and it contains twenty-two chapters. They are collected through several steps. First, read the novel comprehensively and critically to find the linguistic data that indicate gender stereotypes. Second, highlight the data that contain gender stereotypes. Third, Classify the data based on van Dijk's text analysis (macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure). Fourth, give coding to the data, such as C1:P1. C refers to the chapter of the novel, while P refers to the page of the novel. In addition, there are a total of 1,325 data used in this study. The number of data from the novel is 1,325 data, and this study uses purposive sampling. Therefore, only 20% of the data are taken as the sample data for analysis.

2.2 Data Processing and Analysis

The linguistic data of *The Lightning Thief* are analyzed using van Dijk's critical discourse analysis as the primary approach, while gender theory is used as the supporting theory. The data are analyzed based on the three dimensions of van Dijk's CDA model. First, the data are analyzed in text analysis. There are three stages in the text analysis: macrostructure (theme/topic), superstructure (scheme or structure of the text), and microstructure. Second, cognition is used to analyze the mental representation of the author and the social background of the author. Third, the social situation dimension is used to analyze the condition and situation of the society when the author writes the text.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Text Analysis

Following van Dijk, text analysis is divided into three stages: macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. Macrostructure analyzes the global meaning of the text, while superstructure analyzes the text's structure. Microstructure examines the discourse's meaning. The text analysis is discussed below.

3.1.1 Macrostructure

Macrostructure is the first stage of text analysis that analyzes the global meaning of the text (topic or theme). The theme is the general idea conveyed by the works (Mays, 2019, p. 429). There are three themes found in *The Lightning Thief*: a competition that belongs to men, males being the most powerful gods, and identity: male characters as leaders or heroes while female characters as complements.

a. Competition Belongs to Men

The first theme can be seen through (a) how Poseidon, Zeus, and Hades compete with each other to be the best god in the Olympians and (b) the way of Percy against Ares to take back Hades's helmet of Darkness and Zeus's master bolt. It can be seen through the sample analysis below.

(1) I stepped into the surf. **"Fight me yourself, Ares." [...]** **"If I lose, turn me into anything you want. Take the bolt. If I win, the helm and the bolt are mine and you have to go away."** (C20:P234-235)

Data (1) show how Percy shows his braveness to defeat Ares so that he can take back Zeus's master bolt and Hades's helmet. The sentences also indicate the negotiation done by Percy with Ares. If Percy becomes the winner of the fight, Ares should return the master bolt and Hades's helmet, but if Ares becomes the winner, he could change Percy into anything that he wants and take the helmet and the master bolt. Thus, both male characters are fighting over something precious, which refers to the competition between Ares and Percy to win the battle and get the rewards. Besides that, the data also portray Percy as someone with braveness, initiative, aggression, utilitarian, and power. Those characterizations refer to the stereotypes of men.

b. The Most Powerful Gods Are Male

The second theme is males being the most powerful gods. It can be seen through the sample analysis below.

"No. One of them, number two, is **Hera's**," he said. "That's another honorary thing. **She's the goddess of marriage**, so of course she wouldn't go around having affairs with mortals. That's her husband's job. When we say **The Big Three**, we mean the **three powerful brothers, the sons of Kronos.**"

"**Zeus, Poseidon, Hades.**"

"Right. You know. After the great battle with the Titans, they took over the world from their dad and drew lots to decide who got what."

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"Zeus got the sky," I remembered. "Poseidon the sea, Hades the Underworld." (C8:P113)

Data (2) contain information about the powerful gods, often called The Big Three. The Big Three refers to the most powerful brothers: Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades. First, Zeus gets the sky as his dominion and becomes the great god of the universe to displace his father, Kronos (Hard, 2020, p. 37). Second, Poseidon brings the sea as his dominion. Thus, he becomes the great god of the sea. Then, Hades gets to the Underworld, and he is the ruler of death (Hard, 2020, p. 37). Furthermore, they have swords that symbolize their power. Zeus has a master bolt. Poseidon has a trident, while Hades has the helmet of Darkness and a cane. In addition, data (2) also provide information about Hera (Zeus's wife) as the goddess of marriage. Hera can be called Hera Teleia or Gamalia (the goddess officiating at the marriage ceremony), Zygia (the goddess that unites marriage), and Gamostoles (a goddess that prepares the wedding) (Hard, 2020, p. 120). She also can protect women in childbirth. In addition, Data (2) also imply gender stereotypes. Men are portrayed as powerful, *systemizers*, aggressive, brave, providers, and unsentimental. Meanwhile, women are portrayed as powerful in feminine things and *empathizers*.

In *The Lightning Thief*, the male gods are often described as gods that use their power through their attributes and domination to rule the world, while the female goddess only focuses on marriage, feelings, beauty, and so on. It can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The powers of Olympians

Greek Gods or Goddesses	Powers	Attributes
Ares	Warfare	Baseball, sword, or shotgun
Hermes	Messengers, travelers, thieves, merchants, and medicine	-
Zeus	The ruler of the universe	Master bolt
Poseidon	The ruler of the sea, God of earthquakes and storms	Trident
Hades	The ruler of the death and Underworld	Helmet of Darkness and a cane
Hera	Protect women in childbirth, helping in matters of marriage	-
Apollo	Archery, music, and protects the flocks, grain, and corps	Bow and lyre
Athena	Battle, wisdom, and handicraft (feminine handicraft)	-
Demeter	Agriculture	-
Aphrodite	Love, sexuality, fertility, and beauty	-

c. Identity: Male Characters as Leaders or Heroes, while Female Characters as Complements

The last theme is identity. Identity refers to (a) the person's and collective membership's attributes and (b) the relationship between the individual and society (Chrysochoou, 2003). In *The Lightning Thief*, identity becomes one of the novel's themes. It can be seen through the sample data below.

"Two companions may accompany you. Grover is one. The other was volunteered, if you will accept her help." [...] Annabeth became visible, stuffing her Yankees cap into her back pocket. The truth was, I did. I needed all the help I could get. "A trio," I said. "That'll work." (C9:P147-148)

Data (3) contain information about Grover and Annabeth, that will accompany Percy in finishing his quest. The phrase "two companions" refers to Grover and Annabeth. They will attend Percy to complete the quest to find Zeus's master bolt. They will work together to finish the quest. However, the sentence "The other was volunteered, if you will accept her help" refers to Annabeth. That sentence indicates how women (Annabeth) are only used as a complement. If Percy does not want her help, Annabeth cannot participate in the quest. Annabeth as a complement can also be seen through Data (4).

(2) "I appreciate your coming back for us, okay? That was really brave." [...] "It's just that if you died...it would mean the quest was over. This may be my only chance to see the real world." (C11:P169)

Data (4) indicate how important Percy is to the quest. The quest will be over, and Annabeth will get the last chance to see the real world if Percy dies during their journey. Furthermore, Annabeth also appreciates Percy's action to save her and Grover from the monsters. The data also provide information about the braveness of Percy to protect others (Annabeth and Grover). Thus, Percy is described as brave, utilitarian, and powerful, while Annabeth as sensitive, powerless, altruistic, and thoughtful.

To sum up, gender stereotypes in *The Lightning Thief* are represented through the three themes above. First, a competition that belongs to men indicates that men are *systemizers*, powerful, aggressive, and have masculine skills. Second, males being the most powerful gods indicate that men are powerful and work in political, economic, and cultural power. At the same time, women are

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depicted as powerless and working in the domestic sphere (activities that use feminine skills). Third, male characters as leaders or heroes while female characters as complements also indicate gender stereotypes. Male characters are portrayed as unsentimental, brave, aggressive, utilitarian, *systemizer*, powerful, and having masculine skills. Meanwhile, female characters are portrayed as powerless, thoughtful, altruistic, and having feminine skills (nurturing).

3.1.2 Superstructure

Because *The Lightning Thief* is a part of narratives, the scheme of this text also refers to narrative structure. According to van Dijk (1974, 1976, 1980), the narrative structure consists of exposition, complications, resolution, evaluation, moral, and abstract. Apart from that, the narrative structure of *The Lightning Thief* represents in Table 2 below.

Table 2. The narrative structure of *The Lightning Thief*

Narrative Structure	Explanation
Exposition	The narrator introduces the characters of the novel (Percy, Grover, Mr. Brunner/Chiron, Mrs. Dodds, Sally Jackson, Gabe Ugliano, Annabeth, The three old ladies, Poseidon, Zeus, the Olympians, and so on)
	The narrator also introduces the setting of the novel (the setting of time and the setting of place). The setting of time is in summer, in the 1990s. The setting of the place is located in the United States.
Complications	Percy is suspected as the thief of Zeus's master bolt.
	Percy and his friends (Grover and Annabeth) are attacked by the furies or the Kindly One on the bus. Apart from that, their bags (money, clothes, food) are left on the bus.
	They meet Medusa/Aunty Em, and she wants to make them as statues.
	Echidna and his son attack Percy, and they want to kill Percy.
	In Wonderland Park, Ares traps Percy, Annabeth, and Grover.
	They are trapped in Lotus Casino for five days. Thus, they only have one day to finish the quest to find the master bolt and return it to Zeus.
	They meet Crusty, and he wants to make them fit into his bed.
Resolutions	They go to the Underworld, and then in the Underworld, they meet Cerberus and Charon. Besides that, Hades also suspects Percy as the thief of his helmet of Darkness.
	Luke betrays Percy and cooperates with Kronos to overthrow the Olympians' throne.
	Percy negotiates with Ares as one of the thieves of the master bolt and the helmet of Darkness.
Evaluation	Percy wins the fight and returns the helmet of Darkness through the Kindly One. Because of that, his mother (Sally) lives again.
	Percy returns the master bolt to Zeus in the Olympian, so Zeus and Poseidon stop the war.
Morals	Chiron, Percy, and the Olympian gods arrange a new strategy to face Kronos and Luke.
	Percy discovers that being dyslexic is not that hard.
An abstract	Percy discovers that everyone has vice and virtue.
	Percy realizes that his friends are important to him besides his mother.
	Percy and Annabeth realize that everyone (human and monster) needs a little attention occasionally.
	Percy realizes that being Hades is complicated due to the treatments he gets from the family.
	He realizes that someone that calls you a friend can betray you.
	The summary of the novel. It is on the last cover of the novel.

Moreover, the issue of gender stereotypes can be seen through the changes in the story, especially in exposition, complications, and resolutions. It is correlated with van Dijk's statements (1976). He (1976) said that the narrative structure contains obligatory categories and optional categories. The obligatory categories consist of abstract, exposition, complication, and resolution, while the optional categories consist of evaluation and moral.

Microstructure

This dimension aims to disclose the meaning of the text in *The Lightning Thief* by analyzing the syntax, stylistic, semantic, and rhetorical styles. The result of the study shows that the data of the syntactical style are 1,284, and they are divided into three categories of discourse elements. The three categories are the type of sentence (299 data), modality (47 data), and cohesion (938 data). Second, the study shows 3 data of the rhetoric styles: simile (2 data) and metaphor (1 datum). Third, the stylistics style

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contains 33 data of lexicon choices. In addition, Table 3 below presents the total data of the microstructure elements in *The Lightning Thief*.

Table 3. The linguistics elements of microstructure in *The Lightning Thief*

Linguistic Elements	The Discourse's Elements	Total Data
Syntax	Sentence's Types	299
	Modality	47
	Cohesion	938
	Total	1,284
Stylistics	Lexicon	33
	Total	33
Semantic	Background and Detail	-
	Presupposition	5
	Total	5
Rhetoric Styles	Metaphor	1
	Simile	2
	Total	3
Total Data		1,325

Furthermore, the following sub-sections present the discussions of the result of the study, which consists of the analysis of linguistic elements in *The Lightning Thief*, such as syntax, semantic, stylistic, and rhetorical style.

a. Syntax

Syntax is the study of word order, the forms of the clause, or the sentence forms (van Dijk, 1985:104; 1997, pp. 7-8; 2013, p. 222). It may be used to find an ideology or reference in verbal or written language (van Dijk, 2013, p. 219). It is used to find out the ideology of the discourse through the word order or the sentence forms in *The Lightning Thief*. Moreover, the sentence type, modality, and cohesion are discussed below as part of syntax analysis.

1) Sentence Types

There are five types of sentences: declarative, imperative, interrogative, exclamatory, and conditional sentences (Aarts & Wekker, 1987, pp. 96-100; James, 1986). The distribution of sentence types in *The Lightning Thief* can be seen in the table below.

Table 4. The frequency of sentence type

Sentence Types	Total	%
Declarative sentence	255	85.3%
Imperative sentence	19	6.3%
Exclamatory sentence	10	3.3%
Interrogative sentence	9	3%
Conditional sentence	6	2.1%
Total	299	100%

First, the main sentence types are declarative sentences. Those sentences provide statements, information, ideas, or facts supporting gender stereotypes in the text. It can be seen from the sample data below.

- (3) **She snarled, "Die, honey!" And she flew straight at me. Absolute terror ran through my body. I did the only thing that came naturally: I swung the sword. The metal blade hit her shoulder and passed clean through her body as if she were made of water. Hiss! (C1:P13)**

Data (5) indicate how the novel's narrator gives information, facts, and ideas about Percy when he encounters the monster. The data also indicate Percy's power, braveness, and initiative, which can be seen through the words, "I did the only thing that came naturally: I swung the sword. The metal blade hit her shoulder". The sentences mentioned above contain men's stereotypes. Data (15) also narrate Percy as the main character that has (a) powers to kill the monsters, (b) has the initiative to protect himself in a

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dangerous situation, (c) has the braveness to fight against the monsters, and (d) has the instinct to be aggressive. Thus, the data above contain men's stereotypes such as initiative, *systemizers*, brave, powerful, and aggressive.

Then the other types of sentences found in *The Lightning Thief* are imperative sentences, totaling 19 sentences. Imperative sentences are used to provide an instruction, a request, an invitation, or a command. This study found that Sally (Percy's mother), Zeus, and Percy were the ones that used imperative sentences, while other characters did not use this type of sentence. It can be seen through the sample data below.

- (4) **"Clime out the passenger's side!"** My mother told me. "Percy- you have to run. Do you see that big tree?"
 "What?" [...] "That's the property line," my mom said. **"Get over that hill** and you'll see a big farmhouse down in the valley. **Run and don't look back. Yell for help. Don't stop until you reach the door.**" (C4:P48-49)

Data (6) contain sample data of imperative sentences that are from Sally Jackson. When the monster attacks Sally and Percy, Sally instructs Percy to run from the monster that attacks them. It can be seen through several sentences such as "Clime out the passenger's side," "Get over that hill," "Run and don't look back," "Yell for help," and "Don't stop until you reach the door." However, those sentences show how Sally uses her power as Percy's mother to give instructions or commands to Percy to save his life. Apart from that, she sacrifices herself so that Percy can escape from the monster's attacks and save himself even though the monster would kill her because of her actions. Thus, in the novel, Sally is described as an altruistic and accommodating mother figure because she sacrifices herself to save Percy. According to Murray (2020), those traits lead to stereotypes of women.

Second, the sentence types found in the gender stereotypes data of *The Lightning Thief* are conditional sentences. A conditional sentence provides and describes the conditional situation (causality). It can be seen through the sample data below.

- (5) "... Gabe has been covering your scent for years. **If you hadn't lived with him every summer, you probably would've been found by monsters a long time ago. Your mom stayed with him to protect you.** She was a smart lady. **She must've loved you a lot to put up with that guy-if that makes you feel better.**" (C10:P159)

Data (7) contain the sample of the conditional sentence said by Grover. It provides a piece of information about the condition of Percy if his mother does not marry Gabe because Gabe is the best person to protect Percy from the monster due to his smell. Percy's scent, as a demigod, is not strong as others, even though he is the son of the Big Three Olympians (Poseidon). It is because Gabe's scent covers Percy's scent. Thus, those sentences show man's powerfulness and woman's powerlessness. Gabe is described as the person who saves Percy from the monster through his smelly scent, and Sally, Percy's mother, uses Gabe to protect Percy and to make him feel better. Moreover, it also characterizes Sally as the best mother who is kind, nurturing, altruistic, and accommodating. Those characterizations are related to gender stereotypes developed by Murray (2020). Murray (2020) suggests that men are portrayed as powerful while women are powerless, kind, altruistic, accommodating, and have nurturing skills.

2) Modality

Modality refers to interpersonal meanings used to express obligation and certainty (Eggins, 2004, pp. 65,110). It is also defined as the significant semantic categories that describe probability, possibility, obligation, and so on (Zhang, 2019). In *The Lightning Thief*, modality expresses the narrator or the character's judgments or attitudes towards events or actions. The modality in *The Lightning Thief* is presented from the two concepts initiated by Eggins (2004, pp. 110-181) and Zhang (2019) in Table 5.

Table 5. The frequency of modality

Modality	Total	%
Would (willingness, futurity, politeness, or past prediction)	21	44.7%
Could (Past tense of can, politeness, or remoteness in reality and time)	10	21.3%
Will (Inclination, willingness, or futurity)	6	12.8%
Can (Ability)	6	12.8%
Might (Mere possibility of the current situation or politeness)	2	4.2%
Must (Obligation)	1	2.1%
May (Expectation or possibility)	1	2.1%
Total	47	100%

Table 5 shows that there are 47 modal verbs found in this study. Apart from that, twenty-six modalities were followed by infinitives that indicated gender stereotypes and twenty-one modalities were not. In addition, the modality contained in the data uses high and low modal verb values to express certainty. These can be seen through the sample data below.

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(6) "... Gabe has been covering your scent for years. If you hadn't lived with him every summer, you probably **would've** been found by monsters a long time ago. Your mom stayed with him to protect you. She was a smart lady. She **must've** loved you a lot to put up with that guy-if that makes you feel better." (C10:P159)

Data (8) contain two modal verbs: would and must. The modal verb "would" indicates Percy's past prediction or futurity if his mother does not marry Gabe. Percy, the son of the stronger god, has a stronger scent that will make the monster find him easily and kill him. Then, the modal verb "must" is used to show how Sally does love Percy by marrying Gabe and putting up Percy with him. It also shows (a) the highest value of certainty in modulation and (b) women stereotypes such as nurturing, kind, warm, and powerless.

(7) "It's just that if you died... aside from the fact that it **would** really suck for you, it **would** mean the quest was over. This **may** be my only chance to see the real world." (C11:P169)

Data (9) contain three modal verbs: would and may. First, Annabeth uses two modal verbs, "would," to show her past prediction. She predicts the quest will end when Percy dies because he saves Annabeth and Grover's lives. This modal verb indicates that Annabeth is sensitive and altruistic. Second, Annabeth also uses the modal verb "may" to show her emotion and expectation if Percy is died because of the monster. It expresses Annabeth's powerless because she needs Percy to see the real world aside from The Camp of Half-Blood Hills by participating in his quest.

3) Cohesion

Cohesion is defined as the link or relation of the meaning of the text (Halliday & Hasan, 1989, p. 73). Apart from that, cohesion is divided into grammatical and lexical cohesion (Halliday et al., 1989, p. 73). Furthermore, the distribution of cohesive devices is presented in the table below.

Table 6. The frequency of cohesive devices

Cohesive Devices	Type of Cohesive Devices		
Grammatical Cohesion	Reference	Personal Reference (Personal and possessive pronoun)	441
		Demonstrative reference	138
		Comparative reference	7
	Substitution	That, that, this	3
	Conjunction	Additive Conjunction	63
		Adversative Conjunction	27
		Causal Conjunction	21
		Temporal Conjunction	23
Total		723	
Lexical Cohesion	Repetition		215
Total			938

Table 6 shows the distribution of cohesive devices found in *The Lightning Thief*. The results of the grammatical cohesion show that (a) personal reference, demonstrative reference, and conjunction do not indicate gender stereotypes, while (b) the comparative reference and the substitution contain gender stereotypes. Male characters are portrayed as powerful, initiative, providers, brave, aggressive, and utilitarian, while females are portrayed as altruistic, kind, warm, powerless, and having feminine skills. In addition, the results of lexical cohesion also show gender stereotypes. Some words or phrases are often used to describe the male or female characters, such as Percy, save, kill, steal, managed, protect, Annabeth, sad, cook, and so on. These can be seen through the sample data below.

(8) "Medusa is a menace. She's evil. I'd kill her myself, but..." Annabeth swallowed, as if "you've got the **better** weapon. Besides, I'd never get close to her. She'd slice me to bits because of my mother. You - you've got a chance." (C11-P181)

Data (10) are the sample data of comparative reference. The word "better" refers to the comparison of Annabeth's weapon and Percy's weapon. However, Percy's weapon is better than Annabeth's. The sentence also shows how powerful Percy is.

(9) All year long, I'd gotten in fight, keeping bullies away from him. I'd lose sleep worrying that he'd get beaten up next year without me. And here he was acting like he was **the one** who defended me. (C2:P24-25)

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Data (11) are the sample of substitution. The data use "one," referring to someone who keeps the bully away from Grover. It expresses the cohesive ties between the previous sentence and the following sentence. It is also used to prevent repetition in the text. Furthermore, "the one" in the data above indicates that Percy is brave, utilitarian, aggressive, and powerful.

b. Semantics

In discourse, semantics deals with interpretations (van Dijk, 1977, p. 7; 1985, p. 104). Interpretations are processes of meanings assignment into the discourse's expressions. There are two kinds of interpretation: intensional and extensional, and there are also two principles of semantics: functionally and structurally (van Dijk, 1985, p. 105).

1) Background and Detail

The background is used to provide the fundamental meaning of the text, while detail is used to provide additional information. This study found that the novel's background refers to how the narrator describes the name of the characters, the setting of the novel, and the ongoing events (the exposition) in *The Lightning Thief*.

Furthermore, the details in the novel can be seen through the text's narrative structure, especially in complications and resolution. First, the complications contain Percy's journey and his two friends (Annabeth and Grover) when they face difficulty or unexpected events such as being attacked by the monsters (the Kindly Ones, Enchida, Auntie Em, Ares, and so on). Second, the resolution contains the way of Percy and his friends solve their problems, such as negotiating with Ares or returning the master bolt and the helmet of Darkness to Zeus and Hades.

2) Presupposition

A presupposition is a proposition implied by a text that is part of the context (van Dijk, 2009, p. 16). It also provides "facts" that may not be true (van Dijk, 2001, p. 473). van Dijk (1985, pp. 104-105) also suggests that the object of kind X (expression or extensional) assigns an object of kind Y (meaning or intensional). Furthermore, there are presuppositions found in this study. It can be seen through the sample data below.

(10) **"Stolen," Chiron said.**

"By who?"

"By whom," Chiron corrected. Once a teacher always a teacher. **"By you."**

"At least"-Chiron held up a hand- **"that's what Zeus thinks."**

"But I didn't- "

"Zeus has good reason to be suspicious. Zeus believes Poseidon has taken the master bolt, and is now secretly having the Cyclopes build an arsenal of illegal copies, which might be used to topple Zeus from his throne. The only thing Zeus wasn't sure about was which hero Poseidon used to steal the bolt. **Now Poseidon has openly claimed you as his son. You were in New York over the winter holidays. You could easily have snuck into Olympus. Zeus believes he has found his thief."**(C9:P134-136)

Data (12) provide the first sample of presupposition. The data show how Zeus believes that Percy is the thief of his master bolt. It is because, during the winter holidays, Percy is in New York, which is also the location of Mount Olympus, a place for the Olympians' lives. The data also provide information about the reason for Zeus's prejudice towards Percy. That prejudice is regardless of a fact. Even though Percy is not the thief of his master bolt, Zeus's statements and prejudices are regardless of facts believed by other gods on Zeus's side.

Furthermore, this study also presupposes that there are gender stereotypes in *The Lightning Thief* that can be seen through the macrostructure (themes of the novel), superstructure (the narrative structure of the text), microstructure (the stylistics style, syntactic style, and the rhetoric style), and the context of the novel. First, the themes of the novel are (a) competition that belongs to men, (b) males being the most powerful gods, and (c) identity: men as leaders or heroes while women as complements. Second, the narrative structure shows how the narrator narrates the characters, either men or women. Third, the stylistic, syntactic, and rhetorical styles provide information about the analysis of gender stereotypes in *The Lightning Thief*. Last, the context of the novel also influences the presupposition of the novel.

c. Stylistics

Stylistics is the study of style, variation, or language that is meaningfully and actively used to interpret utterances (Sandig & Selting, 1997, p. 141; van Dijk, 1997, p. 11). Thus, the choice of words is related to the type of discourse, the membership of the group, and the position or the opinion of the writer or speaker (van Dijk, 1997, p. 11). Moreover, the analysis of stylistics contains the analysis of lexical choices used by the speaker, so this study also focuses on the lexical choices used by the narrator or the novel's characters.

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1) Lexical Choice

As mentioned above, the lexical choice or the choice of the words can be defined as the language style used by the speaker to (a) express the implied meanings, (b) show the relationship of the situation, or (c) adjust activities based on the recipient's type. This study found that the novel's writer uses several lexicons to describe the characters' activities, feelings, or characterizations based on their gender (Men or women). These can be seen through the data below.

- (11) The only good break she ever got was meeting my dad. [...] **my mom doesn't like to talk about him because it makes her sad.** She worked odd jobs, took night classes to get her higher school diploma, and raised me on her own. **She never complained or got mad.** Finally, she married **Gabe Ugliano**, who was nice the first thirty seconds we knew him, then showed **his true colors as a world-class jerk.** (C3:P30)

Data (13) use lexical choices such as "doesn't like to talk about him," "makes her sad," and "never complained or got mad" to describe Sally, while the data also use the lexical choice such as "world-class jerk" to describe Gabe as one of the male characters in the novel. The words "doesn't like to talk about him" mean that Sally refuses to talk about Percy's father because she will be unhappy and grieving. Her unhappiness and grieving indicate that Sally is sensitive. Furthermore, she never expresses her pain, grief, discontent, or mad to Percy and Gabe. Thus, based on the lexical choices above, Sally is described as kind, warm, and sensitive. Then, the phrase "world-class jerk," which describes Gabe, means the highest position of annoying person who is rude and cruel. Thus, the lexical choice used to describe Gabe indicates the aggressiveness of Gabe as a man. The differentiation of lexical choices used to describe male and female characters shows how the author gives gender stereotypes to them.

Furthermore, the novel's writer uses different lexical choices when narrating or describing the story or the dialogue of the male and female characters. For the male characters, the writer uses the words "world-class jerk, swung the sword, hit, manage, collecting paychecks, spending money, provide, punch, expect, learn, save the world, convince, steal, take, snuck, protect, and brave. For the female characters, the writer uses words "hug, glad, disappointed, knitting, never complained or got mad, sad, baked a cake, mixed blueberries smoothies, nursed, keep you from messing up, and cook breakfast. Apart from that, those lexical choices also refer to gender stereotypes of men and women. Those can be seen in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Gender stereotypes in the lexical choices between male and female characters

Gender Stereotypes				
Men	Word or Phrases	Women	Word or Phrases	
Systemizer	Steal	Kind and Warm	Never complained or got mad	
	Thief/theft		Hug	
	Fight		Glad	
	Learn	Sensitive	Disappointed	
	Snuck		Sad	
	Aggressive		Swung the Sword	Scream
		Hit	Working in the domestic sphere	Baked a cake
		Slashed		Mixed blueberries smoothies
		Punch		Knitting
	Fight	Cooking a breakfast		
	Kill	Having Feminine Skills (Nurturing)	Nursed	
	World-class jerk		Keep you from messing up	
Initiative	Save the world			
	Protect			
Utilitarian	Save the world			
	Provide			
	Protect			
	Keep			
	Expect			
Brave	Brave			

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	Hit
	Slashed
	Punch
	Fight
	Kill
Powerful	Swung the Sword
	Hit
	Slashed
	Punch
	Fight
	Kill
	Convince
	Save the world
	Protect
	Keep

d. Rhetoric Style

Rhetoric is defined as the study of persuasive public discourse (the special meanings, such as the use of the figure of speech) or persuasive 'devices' in discourse (van Dijk, 1997, p. 12). It is also related to flowery language or deviation (a type of misleading language or seeking to influence inappropriately or unfairly way) (van Dijk, 2013, p. 231). Moreover, several kinds of figurative language include metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, and so on. Those kinds of figurative language have different meanings and characteristics. The frequency of figurative language in *The Lightning Thief* can be seen in Table 8 below.

Table 8. The frequency of figurative language

Figurative Language	Total	%	The Data
Simile	2	66.7%	1. she married Gabe Ugliano, who was nice the first thirty seconds we knew him, then showed his true colors as a world-class jerk . 2. Summer camp for brats like you
Metaphor	1	33.3%	True colors
Total data	3	100%	

Based on the table above, the most figurative that is used in the data is simile with a total of twice, then metaphor that occurs once. First, a simile is a figurative language that compares two things by using as or like. It can be seen through the sample data below.

(12) "Father loves to punish me. The first time, Prohibition. Ghastly! Absolutely horrid ten years! The second time-well, she really was pretty, and I couldn't stay away- the second time, he sent me here. Half Blood Hill. **Summer camp for brats like you**. 'Be a better influence,' he told me. 'Work with youths rather than tearing them down.' Ha! Absolutely unfair." (C5:69-70)

Data (14) contain a simile. The simile can be seen through the word "like" to compare the phrase "summer camp" and the word "you." The summer camp is a camp for Half-Blood that is naughty or brats like Percy. The term "brats" also refers to Percy's aggressiveness. Thus, it also indicates gender stereotypes. Man is portrayed as aggressive, and it can be seen through the phrase "brats like you."

Second, the figurative language that can be found in this study is a metaphor. The metaphor is used to describe an object using another object. This figurative language can be seen through the data below.

(13) Finally, she married Gabe Ugliano, who was nice the first thirty seconds we knew him, then showed his **true colors** as a world-class jerk. (C3:P30)

Data (15) contain a metaphor. The metaphor of the data above refers to the phrase "true colors." The phrase "true colors" is defined as people's real personalities or characterization. Through the sentences, Gabe's real personality is like a world-class jerk,

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and it is not like the first time Percy and his mother know him. That word also refers to gender stereotypes that are the aggressiveness of Gabe.

3.2 Cognition

Cognition is the second dimension of van Dijk's model of CDA. It analyzes the mental representation of the author or his social background. Furthermore, the author of *The Lightning Thief* is Rick Riordan, who was born and lived in San Antonio (Texas) in the United States. In writing his novel, his social background influenced the novel's content. First, he was inspired by his son, who experienced dyslexia and ADHD in writing the *Percy Jackson* (Riordan, n.d.). Thus, Percy Jackson, the main character of *The Lightning Thief*, is portrayed as someone with dyslexia and ADHD.

Second, the results of one of the interviews indicate that he supports gender stereotypes and patriarchal ideology. In the interview, he (Riordan, n.d.) said that learning Greek mythology is not dangerous to the readers. The story of the mythologies is part of the United States' collective heritage. Thus, the readers must know those myths to understand and learn about the origin of their modern culture. However, Greek mythologies often contain abduction and marriage that support gender stereotypes and patriarchy by focusing on the domination of men towards women (Alwang, 2021; Meehan, 2017; Roque, 2017). The themes of Greek mythology also refer to patriarchy and male domination (Meehan, 2017). Women are often portrayed as manipulative, deceitful, subordinate, and powerless. Regardless of their status, they are also prohibited from participating in politics or outdoor activities. They work in the domestic sphere or indoor activities. In addition, the ideal women of ancient Greece are women who marry and have a son. Thus, women do not get as much freedom as men because their roles are only as mothers and a wife (Alwang, 2021). In contrast, men are portrayed as powerful, dominant, and the only ones to participate in politics, the military, and outdoor activities (social sphere). They also become patriarchs and male guardians in their families (Alwang, 2021). They also have higher positions.

Social Situation

In the 1990s-2000s, gender stereotypes in the United States still existed. First, the United States' advertisements in the 1990s contained gender stereotypes (Browne, 1998). Most of the commercial advertisements used male figures than female figures. Male and female figures were often portrayed based on traditional norms. For instance, men were depicted as professionals, workers, or sportspeople, while women were shown as homemakers, mothers, or teachers. Then, gender stereotypes also could be found in the United States lyrics songs in the 1990s-2000s. Women were often portrayed as having traditional, family, dependent, and objectified roles (Rasmussen and Densley, 2016).

Second, there were gender biases in the United States political sphere in 2000, proven by the survey result from late March to mid-April 2000 (Sanbonmatsu, 2002). The survey's results showed that female candidates often got negative stereotypes while male candidates got positive ones. Male candidates were believed to be able to govern and run well in the political sphere. Moreover, Fox and Oxley (2003) found that women often run for feminine offices rather than masculine ones, while men run the feminine and masculine ones. Then, the majority of executive elections would be filled by men, while women would fill the minority. Thus, women got discrimination and underrepresentation in state executive offices and the political sphere (Fox et al., 2003; Sanbonmatsu, 2002). Eventually, there was a disparity of contribution between men and women in politics. First, men occupied the positions of presidents in the United States. Bill Clinton was the president of the United States, and Albert Gore Jr was the vice president from 1993-2001. Then, George W. Bush became president of the United States with his vice president, Richard Cheney, from 2001-2009. Second, there were 15 heads of executive departments in President Bush's cabinet. In his cabinet, eleven men and four women became the head of executive departments.

Third, society's negative perceptions of female managers indicated gender stereotypes (Deal & Stevenson, 1998). Society, either men or women, described the excellent manager traditionally (based on masculine terms). Male subjects described the female managers as deceitful, easily influenced, uncertain, vulgar, timid, bitter, likely to dawdle and procrastinate, reserved, and shy, while female subjects described the female managers as ambitious, competent, talkative, sympathetic, discreet, creative, ambitious, assertive, sophisticated, valuing pleasant surroundings, and so on. Furthermore, Blau and Kahn (1994, 2000) found that there was discrimination towards women named the "glass ceiling." Glass ceiling is the term for blocking women from getting higher positions such as managerial positions. Some evidence of discrimination against women in jobs can be seen in some cases in court. Then, women were less to get promotions to higher positions, which can be seen through the percentage of women in professional jobs. There were (a) 44.7% of women that became assistant professors, (b) 16.2% of women professors, and (c) 3-5% of women who became senior managers in Fortune 1000 companies (Blau et al., 2000).

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CONCLUSION

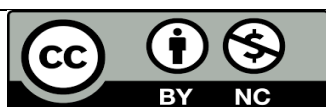
This study analyzes gender stereotypes using van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis and gender theory developed by Murray (2020). There are three stages in analyzing this object: text analysis, cognition, and social situation. First, text analysis is divided into macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. The result of the macrostructure found three themes in *The Lightning Thief*. The themes are (a) a competition that belongs to men, (b) males being the most powerful gods, and (c) identity: male characters as leaders or heroes while female characters as complements. Then, the result of the superstructure shows that the novel's structure consists of exposition, complications, resolutions, evaluation, morals, and abstract. The last stage in text analysis is microstructure which shows the elaboration of linguistic elements such as syntax, semantic, stylistic, and rhetorical style. Besides that, gender stereotypes in *The Lightning Thief* are distributed in the text analysis (macrostructure, superstructure, or microstructure). The male characters are often portrayed as aggressive, utilitarian, brave, powerful, reserved, unsentimental, *systemizers*, dispassionate, and working in political, cultural, and economic spheres. In addition, women are portrayed as *empathizers*, sensitive, kind, warm, thoughtful, altruistic, feminine, accommodating, and associated with the domestic sphere. Furthermore, the result of the cognition showed that Riordan's social background influenced the novel's content. First, he was inspired to write *The Lightning Thief* because his son experienced ADHD and dyslexia. Second, he supports patriarchal ideology and gender stereotypes, which can be seen through the result of his interview. Last, the condition and the situation in the United States influenced him in writing the novel. From the 1990s-2005, gender stereotypes in the United States still existed, as can be seen through advertisements and the lyrics of songs containing gender stereotypes. Then, women often got discrimination in the workplace and political sphere, and there were negative perceptions of society in women that became managers or other higher-status in their job.

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