

First Name: Fatemeh
Degree: M. A.
Supervisor: Dr. Faride Pourgiv

Last Name: Farnia
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The Study of Power in the Works of Roald Dahl and Lewis Carroll

The issues of power and empowerment play a very important role in everyday life. The adults are likely to impose their dominancy over the children using all their power either by punishment or other familiar ways to them. The writers of children's literature—mostly being adult themselves—include these issues in their works and what is more, they sometimes try to break the hierarchical power relationship between adults and children, in order to empower the latter. There are five chapters in this thesis: the first chapter is devoted to 'Introduction'. In the second chapter, the notions of power and empowerment are explained. In chapters three and four the notions of power and empowerment are studied in the works of Lewis Carroll and Roald Dahl. The researcher has chosen Carroll's Alice books: *Alice in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (1872) and Dahl's *Matilda* (1988) and *Charlie and Chocolate Factory* (1964) for the present study. Finally chapter five is dedicated to conclusion.

In this thesis, the researcher has used Michel Foucault's ideas regarding power to study the quality of power in the works of Lewis Carroll and Roald Dahl. Also by using Elisheva Sadan's theory of empowerment mentioned in her EBook: *Empowerment and Community Planning: Theory and Practice* (2004), the researcher analyzes the quality of empowerment in Carroll and Dahl. These two famous writers have revolutionized children's literature with their works. Carroll revolutionizes the dominant concept of childhood in the Victorian period. Furthermore, Dahl deals with the issues of power and empowerment with a somehow new and revolting look.

Comparing these two writers, the researcher comes to this conclusion that Roald Dahl includes modern ways of power domination and more realistic empowerment procedure in his work. Finally in chapter five, the researcher proposes a possible theory for studying empowerment in children's literature.