

Women's rights in the Middle East through the lens of Disney's 2019 Aladdin

Научный руководитель – Аникян Тамара Сергеевна

Кулик С.Б.¹, Глушкова Е.Ю.²

1 - Филиал МГУ имени М.В.Ломоносова в г. Севастополе, Историко-филологический факультет, Севастополь, Россия, *E-mail: sonya.kulik.05@bk.ru*; 2 - Филиал МГУ имени М.В.Ломоносова в г. Севастополе, Историко-филологический факультет, Севастополь, Россия, *E-mail: glushkova11@gmail.com*

The 2019 Aladdin is a live-action remake of the eponymous 1992 globally acclaimed animated musical fantasy and Disney's second film about a kind-hearted street urchin who finds a magic lamp and falls in love with the sultan's daughter [2]. The plot is based on a reworked and reimagined story from the collection of oriental fairy tales "One Thousand and One Nights."

Whereas the cartoon carries a negative impression of the entire eastern world as a wilderness that has seen no modern civilization and is full of greedy and dishonorable savages [4], the 2019 version approaches the depiction of the desert people more cautiously, trying to avoid ethnic stereotypes. Moreover, it contains a mixture of several Eastern cultures, such as various Islamic realia and costumes inspired by Indian national attire (as opposed to Jasmine's implausible outfit in the 1992 cartoon) [3].

More importantly, the film was remade according to a concept and plot that follow contemporary trends emphasizing women's equality [1]. According to the film's director and screenwriter, they wanted to make the live-action Aladdin a step towards diversifying the role of strong women represented in cinema. Thus, the film shifted the focus away from the male protagonist: unlike the cartoon, the 2019 live version has two main characters: it is no longer just the story of a simple guy from the streets who gets his happy ending by virtue of his unwavering integrity. It is also the story of a brave educated girl who is interested in the well-being of her state and will not stay silent in the face of injustice.

As a result, Jasmine's role is significantly expanded and reflects the character's evolution from a female love interest (though a complicated and well-crafted one), who would eventually become Aladdin's companion, to an ambitious political leader determined to serve her people, with the plotline given a substantial amount of screen time.

Источники и литература

- 1) Analysis of Messages and Perceptions about Feminism in the Aladdin Film (2019) In Affecting Global Awareness // American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research (AJHSSR). – 2019. – Vol. 3, no. 12. – P. 184-189. – e-ISSN 2378-703X (accessed: 2026-03-02).
- 2) Shelton M. «The Lamp of Aladdin» // Muslim Magazine. – 2000. – Vol. 3, No. 3. – Summer. – P. 1-5 (accessed: 2026-03-02).
- 3) Bekkin, R. Truth and Lies in the Animated Film 'Aladdin': What Can Be Learned About Islamic Culture from a Disney Fairy Tale: Commentary by Renat Bekkin, a Specialist in Islamic Law (Sharia) // Arzamas (educational project). – 2023, July 20. – URL: <https://arzamas.academy/materials/1602> (accessed: 2026-03-02).
- 4) Steve Rose. Aladdin review – live-action remake really takes flight // The Guardian. – 2019. – 22 May. – URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2019/may/22/aladdin-review-guy-ritchie-will-smith> (accessed: 2026-03-02).