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Brienne of Tarth and Symbolic Interactionism: An In-depth Examination of Gender Norms and Identity Deconstruction in *A Clash for Kings* by George R.R Martin

Shelonitta.P[1], Dr S. Vahitha[2]

Shelonitta.P

Research scholar (Full Time)

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Vahitha. S

Assistant professor of English

[1,2]*Department of English and Research Centre, S.T Hindu College, Nagercoil affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli-627012. Tamilnadu, India.*
Email: vahithamv@gmail.com[2]

*Corresponding author's E-mail: shelonitta16@icloud.com.

Article History	Abstract
	This research paper utilises the sociological theory of Symbolic Interactionism to examine George R.R. Martin's A Clash For Kings from a transnational perspective. This paper emphasises the character Brienne of Tarth and her capacity, as per this theoretical framework, to confront and surpass conventional gender norms and societal anticipations. This analysis further explores her navigation of personal identity and interactions within the complex realm of Westeros, considering the impact of transnational dynamics on her trajectory. Westeros is a continent in A Clash for Kings. The study elucidates Brienne's unwavering endeavour for recognition, her skilful navigation of her identity, and her perceptive evaluation of her position within the esteemed Rainbow Guard amidst various cultural milieus.

1. Introduction

Symbolic Interactionism, as a sociological framework, emphasises how individuals ascribe significance to symbols within their interpersonal exchanges and immediate social context. Significantly, this framework emphasises the pivotal role that symbols and language play in forming individual identities and constructing societal frameworks. Within the given context, this theory offers a framework for understanding how Brienne's interactions and self- perception extend beyond societal boundaries, thereby exemplifying her resistance against conventional gender norms and her pursuit of genuine self-identity. Brienne's lineage originates from House Tarth, an esteemed noble family hailing from the island of Tarth, situated adjacent to the Stormlands within the fictitious realm of Westeros. The heraldic emblem of House Tarth is renowned for its depiction of a radiant yellow sun and a pristine white crescent moon, both prominently displayed upon a backdrop of azure blue.

Nevertheless, Brienne's physical appearance and interests render her incongruous with the conventional archetype of noble women within this societal context. In *Symbolic interaction Theory*, Nilgun Aksana and colleagues say,

Symbolic interaction is one of many theories in social sciences. This theory claims that facts are based on and directed by symbols. The foundation of this theory is meanings. Symbolic interaction examines the meanings emerging from the reciprocal interaction of individuals in social environment with other individuals and focuses on the question of "which symbols and meanings emerge from the interaction between people? (1)

The cultural relativity of gender norms is a topic of significant scholarly interest and exploration. It refers to the understanding that gender norms and expectations vary across cultures and societies. This concept challenges the notion of a universal, fixed understanding of gender roles. It highlights the importance of utilising Symbolic Interactionism in cross- cultural contexts. According to Norman K. Denzin in *Symbolic Interactionism And Cultural Studies -s: The Politics of Interpretation*, "The gendered identity is an interactional production. It is embedded in those interactional places (home and work) that give recurring meaning to ordinary experience (29). It enables us to acknowledge the potential variability of gender norms and expectations that Brienne confronts in diverse geographical areas. The perception of a bold challenge varies across different cultural contexts. The ubiquitous notions of symbols and language facilitate the involvement of readers from various cultural backgrounds in Brienne's expedition; however, the principle of cultural relativity mandates the need for discerning and subtle elucidations. Through a transnational lens, examining Brienne's interactions provides valuable insights into the potential reception of her defiance against prevailing gender norms across diverse regions. Brienne's endeavour for recognition and to secure a position within the Rainbow Guard assumes discernible nuances when contemplating the heterogeneous standards, hierarchical dynamics, and societal principles prevalent in various geographical areas. This intricate phenomenon encompasses constructing and developing an individual's sense of self within a rapidly globalising world. This paper explores the multifaceted factors that Brienne's exploration of personal identity is augmented by her recognition of the global factors that shape her trajectory. This acknowledges the interrelatedness of identities transcending national boundaries. Within a transnational framework, the analysis highlights the inherent potency of symbols and language in constructing identities. The symbols emblematic of the Rainbow Guard and the honorific designation of "Beauty" (311). This possess considerable import across diverse cultural contexts, exemplifying a collective comprehension of symbolic connotations notwithstanding variances in cultural construals.

"That's Brienne of Tarth, daughter to Lord Selwyn the Evenstar." "Daughter?" Catelyn was horrified. "Brienne the Beauty, they name her . . . though not to her face, lest they be called upon to defend those words with their bodies."

She heard King Renly declare the Lady Brienne of Tarth the victor of the great melee at Bitterbridge, last mounted of one hundred sixteen knights. "As champion, you may ask of me any boon that you desire. If it lies in my power, it is yours." "Your Grace," Brienne answered, "I ask the honor of a place among your Rainbow Guard. I would be one of your seven, and pledge my life to yours, to go where you go, ride at your side, and keep you safe from all hurt and harm." "Done," he said. "Rise, and remove your helm."(311-312)

This section conducts a transnational analysis of the dominant cultural norms about gender and their influence on the character development of Brienne. Through the application of an academic framework, this analysis delves into the complex and nuanced aspects of gender, examining its socially constructed nature and its impact within diverse cultural settings. The definition of defiance varies across cultures, as what is considered deviant in one culture may conform to societal norms in another. The aforementioned cultural variability serves to underscore the intricate interplay that exists between individual identity and societal expectations. Dov Cohen in his *Cultural Variation: Considerations and Implications* evaluates cultural systems as follows, "Cultural systems vary widely worldwide. Partly this is due to different cultures occupying different ecological and environmental niches. But partly it is due to similar circumstances giving rise to multiple stable equilibriums, each with a distinct cultural form" (1). Gender roles have long been a subject of interest and study, as they significantly shape societal norms and expectations. Brienne's engagement in a predominantly male-oriented endeavour such as the melee is a catalyst for challenging prevailing gender norms within certain cultural contexts, while concurrently aligning with established norms within others. In *Gender Handbook A Guide to Understanding Gender Terms, Analysis, and Applications to Social Investing* Gender Norms,

These are the roles, activities, responsibilities, and expectations that a culture or society considers appropriate for a woman or a man. Because gender norms are not necessarily developed based on differences in biological make up, they usually differ from one place to another or from one era to another. Some gender norms differ between developed and developing countries and others pervade through both. Norms can often lead to gender stereotypes that can be difficult to change. For example, a classic stereotype is the assumption that women are better suited for domestic roles. (5)

This examination highlights the malleability of gender roles and the impact of cultural contexts on the perception of resistance. Brienne's participation in a conventionally masculine endeavour symbolises her defiance against societal norms predicated on gender distinctions. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that within certain cultural contexts, her behaviours could be construed as aligning with distinct gender norms and societal expectations. This transnational analysis facilitates a more comprehensive comprehension of how her actions and aspirations intersect with diverse cultural norms. The present analysis aims to delve into the cultural interpretation of the character Brienne the Beauty and the derogatory epithet "Brienne the Beauty"(311). This interpretation varies among different cultural contexts. Within certain societies, applying this categorisation encompasses diverse connotations and anticipations about physical attributes and the concept of femininity. Its significance from a transnational perspective elucidates the intricate interplay between ideals of beauty, societal appraisals, and the richness of cultural variations. The dynamic interaction between Brienne and King Renly, a testament to her boldness, assumes varying facets when contextualised within cultural parameters.

Despite the cultural context, Brienne's endeavour to secure a place in the Rainbow Guard highlights her ambition to establish her sense of self beyond traditional gender constructs.

The universal yearning resonates with diverse readers from various cultural backgrounds, underscoring the collective human inclination to surpass societal norms and conventions. Brienne's pursuit of establishing her identity within the Rainbow Guard encompasses diverse cultural dimensions. The perception of Brienne's identity negotiation is influenced by different cultures varying values, skills, and roles. This transnational analysis demonstrates the impact of varied cultural values on identity formation.

Brienne's entreaty to join the Rainbow Guard encompasses a vocational ambition and a profound yearning for acknowledgement and inclusion. Brienne endeavours to ascertain her identity as a valiant combatant worthy of reverence and admiration, notwithstanding the disregard she faces due to her physical appearance. The entreaty to render her services to King Renly conveys her aspiration for acknowledgement and a departure from the confines imposed by societal norms. A dynamic between self-perception and external perception appears evident in Brienne's desire to join the Rainbow Guard. The concept of a self- fulfilling prophecy is evident in Brienne's deliberate adoption of the knightly persona, as she endeavours to effect a paradigm shift in the perception of her character, thereby confronting and subverting preexisting assumptions held by others. The discourse between Brienne and King Renly exemplifies the potency of language and symbols in moulding one's sense of self and interpersonal connections. The titles such as "Rainbow Guard" (312) and "Champion" (312). They both are significant, as they underscore the profound influence of language and symbols in shaping societal roles and engendering certain expectations. The designations attributed to the Rainbow Guard and the esteemed position of being a champion profoundly impact Brienne's self-concept and her standing within society. In the *Handbook of Social Psychology* by Sheldon Stryker and Kevin D. Vryan, social reality is expressed as follows:

Persons inter- act using symbols developed in their interaction, and they act through the communication of these symbols. Society is a term summarizing Such interaction; subparts of society designate the settings in which interaction takes place. In this image, social life is a thoroughly dynamic process. Neither society nor its subparts exist as static entities; rather, these are continuously created and recreated as persons act toward one another. Social reality is a flow of events involving multiple persons. Just as society derives from the social process, so do people: both take on meanings that emerge in and through social interact the entreaty made by Brienne exemplifies the capacity of linguistic constructs to exert influence over perceptions and mould the fabric of social reality. In conclusion, it can be inferred that the evidence supports the notion that the proposed hypothesis holds. (4)

The excerpt below from Martin's *A Clash for Kings* portrays the notable evolution of Brienne of Tarth, wherein she transitions from enduring derision and being perceived as aesthetically unappealing to ultimately garnering acknowledgement and acceptance from the esteemed King Renly. Through the utilisation of Symbolic Interactionism as a theoretical framework, an examination is conducted to elucidate how symbols, interactions, and the perceptions of others contribute to the formation of Brienne's self-identity and the construction of the social reality in which she exists.

Beauty, they called her . . . mocking. The hair beneath the visor was a squirrel's nest of dirty straw, and her face . . . Brienne's eyes were large and very blue, a young girl's eyes, trusting and guileless, but the rest . . . her features were broad and coarse, her teeth prominent and crooked, her mouth too wide, her lips so plump they seemed swollen. A thousand freckles speckled her cheeks and brow, and her nose had been broken more than once. Pity filled Catelyn's heart. Is there any creature on earth as unfortunate as an ugly woman? (312)

In the initial segment of the passage, the designations "Beauty" (312). And "mocking" (312). These serve as emblematic constructs that influence how her peers perceive Brienne. These labels possess more than mere descriptive qualities; they hold significance and actively contribute to forming her identity. The symbolic designations imposed upon her serve to exemplify how societal evaluations influence her self-perception and her interactions with her peers. The designation of beauty presents a paradox when juxtaposed with Brienne's physical attributes, exemplifying language's influential role in shaping individual identities. The process of identity formation is intricately intertwined with the labels ascribed to Brienne, exerting a profound influence on her self-perception and the perceptions of others, thereby moulding her interpersonal engagements. Upon closer examination from a transnational perspective, this elucidates the cultural contexts that influence the ascribed meanings of labels, symbols, and interpersonal exchanges, thereby exerting a significant impact on the process of identity construction. The cultural interpretation of beauty is a subject that has garnered significant attention. The examination of this label from a transnational perspective elucidates the variances in societal constructs of beauty across different cultures, thereby influencing individuals self-perception and their perception of others. The concept of mocking elicits diverse connotations within various cultural contexts. The act of derision is interpreted as an expression of esteem or veneration within a distinct cultural context.

Acknowledging cultural diversity in responses to labels underscores the dynamic nature of semantics and the influence of cultural conventions on interpersonal interactions. The oath undertaken by Brienne to serve as Renly's shield is imbued with profound cultural and religious implications.

Using a transnational analysis, one can delve into various regions diverse perspectives and interpretations of oaths, loyalty, and devotion. The aforementioned contextual comprehension enhances our explication of Brienne's unwavering dedication Extending beyond the confines of Westeros. The interpretation of the varying physical height disparity between Brienne and Renly assumes distinct connotations when scrutinised within different cultural contexts. In certain cultural contexts, the attribute of height represents power and influence, whereas in alternative societal settings, it carries distinct social implications. By adopting a transnational perspective, examining this interaction enables us to contemplate the ramifications of power dynamics within many cultural contexts. The topic of inquiry pertains to the process of identity negotiation and its intricate relationship with cultural disparities.

The act of Brienne gazing upon Renly from a higher vantage point, irrespective of his regal standing, possesses the potential for diverse interpretations contingent upon prevailing cultural norms. This behaviour is perceived as lacking in respect in certain cultural contexts, whereas it indicates assertive tendencies in alternative cultural settings. This instance highlights the significance of comprehending power dynamics and cultural hierarchies in interpreting character interactions. When examined through diverse cultural contexts, the depiction of Brienne's facial expression and vocal projection elicit varying interpretations.

Certain societies perceive these expressions as audacious and empowering, whereas others deem them inappropriate or confrontational. Examining these expressions from a transnational perspective highlights the heterogeneity of emotional standards. A profound metamorphosis occurs upon King

Renly's act of replacing Brienne's tattered cloak with a resplendent rainbow and formally designating her as a member of the esteemed Rainbow Guard. The symbolic interchange of the cloak signifies a transformation in Brienne's societal standing and acknowledgement. The rainbow cloak is a potent emblem of her transformed persona as a valiant knight, effectively obliterating the derision previously linked to her physical attributes. The utilisation of the rainbow cloak serves as a symbolic representation of a novel identity that starkly juxtaposes the prevailing negative labels. The act of Renly replacing the cloak serves as an interactive occurrence that engenders a transformative effect on both Brienne's self-perception and the perception of her by others.

This delves into the intricate process of identity negotiation and its relationship with the concept of the gaze. Examining these two interconnected phenomena sheds light on the complex dynamics individuals navigate in their quest for self-definition and recognition within society. The manifestation of Brienne's smile and her resolute proclamation of allegiance to King Renly indicate her burgeoning self-assurance and the process of negotiating her sense of self. This highlights her transition from a state of perceived misfortune to embracing her duty as a guardian and asserting her unwavering allegiance to the monarch. The exchange of gazes between Brienne and Renly is a poignant manifestation of the intricate interplay of power dynamics, the quest for acknowledgement, and the complexities inherent in social interactions.

When viewed from a transnational perspective, the comprehensive analysis of the intricate process of identity negotiation and the concept of the gaze enhances our comprehension of how cultural contexts influence individual experiences and interactions. The burgeoning self-assurance of Brienne is conveyed through her resolute proclamation of allegiance and the accompanying smile she displays. Nevertheless, the perception of self- assurance exhibits considerable variation among different cultural contexts. In certain cultural contexts, assertiveness is regarded as praiseworthy, whereas in alternative societies, it is construed as a manifestation of arrogance. Examining Brienne's adeptness in navigating self- assurance from various cultural perspectives elucidates the intricate interplay between confidence and cultural conventions. The notion of duty and allegiance encompasses diverse cultural connotations. In certain cultural contexts, steadfast allegiance to a sovereign is regarded as a commendable attribute, whereas in alternative societies, it is perceived as a manifestation of subservience. A transnational analysis acknowledges the culturally structed nature of duty and loyalty, which influence Brienne's navigation of her role and identity.

Gaze variability across cultures is a subject of academic interest and inquiry. The study by Reginald Adams and Robert Kleck titled *Effects of Direct and Averted Gaze on the Perception of Facially Communicated Emotion* aimed to investigate the influence of gaze direction on the perception of emotional expressions. The shared signal hypothesis was introduced, positing that the simultaneous presence of particular facial cues, such as expressions, and gaze direction, can effectively convey a common underlying signal value, such as approach or avoidance. This integration of cues is believed to augment the efficacy of emotion comprehension. When there is concordance between the facial expression and the direction of gaze about their communicative significance, it facilitates the process of emotional interpretation for individuals observing the display. The shared signal hypothesis posits that the perception of the underlying emotion conveyed by a facial expression is enhanced when there is congruence in the signal value, specifically referring to the common approach-avoidance behavioural tendency communicated, between the direction of gaze and the facial expression, shared signal hypothesis, which specifically stipulates that the congruence in signal value (i.e., the common approach-avoidance behavioral tendency communicated) between gaze direction and facial ex- pression will increase the perception of the underlying emotion communicated by the face." (4)

Adams and Kleck have provided empirical evidence indicating that the expresser's gaze's direction can substantially impact the interpretation of a specific emotion. The efficiency of emotion processing is enhanced when there is a convergence of distinct facial cues, such as expressions and gazes, in conveying a consistent emotional message. This is particularly pertinent in circumstances where emotions are intertwined or ambiguous.

Moreover, the findings of their study indicate that the orientation of one's gaze significantly influences the subjective evaluation of emotional states. When individuals observing facial expressions that may pose challenges in interpretation are provided with additional cues in the form of gaze direction, it can

enhance their understanding of the intended emotional state being conveyed. This suggests that the direction of gaze not only exerts an independent influence on the perception of emotions but also actively integrates with other facial cues to augment the recognition and comprehension of emotions. The research conducted by Adams and Kleck additionally underscores the heightened salience of gaze direction when the emotional expression and gaze are not equally discernible. In essence, in instances where the emotional expression lacks clarity, directing one's gaze can furnish supplementary context and information to facilitate precise perception. The dynamic exchange of gazes between Brienne and Renly encompasses multifaceted connotations within diverse cultural contexts. In specific cultural milieus, establishing direct eye contact is commonly construed as nonverbal communication indicative of reverence and confidence.

On the contrary, it is perceived as an act of impertinence in alternative societies. The analysis of the gaze through a transnational lens elucidates the diverse construals of nonverbal signals. This analysis explores the complex interplay of power dynamics and cultural hierarchies within the discourse. The objective of this study is to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the intricate interplay between these two phenomena, elucidating the fundamental mechanisms that govern their interaction. The power dynamics inherent in the act of exchanging gazes demonstrate variations that are contingent upon the prevailing cultural norms. In societies characterised by hierarchical frameworks, averting one's gaze downwards when in the presence of a superior is commonly interpreted as a display of disrespect. In stark contrast, it is construed as challenging or interrogating authority within alternative cultural contexts. The recognition of these disparities in power dynamics brings forth supplementary facets to the scrutiny of interpersonal interactions. Through exploring various cultural perspectives, this discourse examines the profound connection between Brienne's quest for acknowledgement and the dominant cultural norms that shape her experiences. In specific cultural milieus, the endeavour to obtain recognition is observed to materialise through personal achievements, while in societies characterised by collectivism, it is reliant upon communal endorsement. A transnational analysis reveals individuals diverse motivations and methods to achieve validation.

The interplay of gazes between Brienne and Renly encompasses diverse connotations within various cultural contexts. In certain cultural contexts, establishing direct eye contact is interpreted as a gesture denoting admiration and self-assurance. In contrast, it is construed as an act of insolence in alternative societies. Examining the gaze from a transnational perspective highlights the varied interpretations of nonverbal cues. It delves into this discourse's intricate interplay of power dynamics and cultural hierarchies. The aim is to critically analyse the complex relationship between these two phenomena, shedding light on their underlying mechanisms. The power dynamics inherent in exchanging gazes exhibit variations contingent upon the prevailing cultural norms. In cultures characterised by hierarchical structures, directing one's gaze downward towards a superior is perceived as a manifestation of disrespect.

In contrast, alternative cultural contexts interpret it as a form of challenging or questioning authority. The acknowledgement of these divergences in power dynamics introduces additional dimensions to the examination of interpersonal exchanges. In this discourse, by delving into these cultural perspectives, comprehensive of Brienne's pursuit of recognition is intrinsically intertwined with prevailing cultural norms. In certain cultural contexts, the pursuit of acknowledgement manifests through individual accomplishments, whereas in collectivist societies, it is contingent upon communal validation. A transnational examination elucidates the multifarious incentives and modalities by which individual endeavor to attain validation. Adams and Kleck's research examines the influence of gaze direction and facial expressions on emotion perception, providing insights into the complex relationship between nonverbal cues and cultural contexts.

Adams and Kleck proposed the shared signal hypothesis, which posits that the simultaneous presence of congruent facial cues (e.g., expressions) and gaze direction that convey the same underlying signal value (e.g., approach or avoidance) enhances the efficiency of emotion comprehension. Adams and Kleck's research indicates that the direction of gaze influences the interpretation of specific emotions. The alignment of facial cues, such as expression and gaze, enhances the efficiency of perceiving emotions when they convey the same emotional message. This is particularly relevant in situations characterised by blended or unclear emotions. Gaze direction has a dual impact on emotion perception,

both independently and in conjunction with other facial cues, enhancing the recognition and understanding of emotions. The studies indicate that the influence of gaze direction is stronger when emotions and gazes are difficult to differentiate. The direction of gaze is important in accurately perceiving emotional expressions when they are ambiguous.

Regarding gaze variability across cultures, the exchange between individuals, such as Brienne and Renly, holds various interpretations within distinct cultural contexts. Eye contact can have different cultural interpretations. In some cultures, direct eye contact is viewed as a display of admiration and confidence; in others, it may be perceived as insolent behavior.

This variation underscores the multifaceted interpretations of nonverbal signals and the interaction between power dynamics and cultural hierarchies. A transnational perspective highlights the impact of cultural norms on power dynamics in gaze exchange. In hierarchical cultures, looking down at a superior is considered disrespectful, while in other cultural contexts, it may indicate a challenge to authority. Acknowledging these distinctions adds complexity to the examination of interpersonal communication.

This study explores how societal expectations influence individuals behaviour and interactions, specifically regarding gender roles. By doing so, it seeks to provide insights into the intricate dynamics at play in this context. Gender norms and interpersonal dynamics vary significantly across different cultural contexts. Brienne's ability to navigate societal norms and her interactions with King Renly is influenced by cultural expectations of gender roles, highlighting the significant impact of cultural contexts on societal dynamics. Brienne's smile and declaration reflect her continuous process of negotiating a new identity and her inherent desire for recognition. Observing, often known as the gaze, plays a significant role in portraying Brienne looking down at Renly. This portrayal emphasises the existing power dynamics between the two characters and adds significant symbolic implications to their interaction. The evidence mentioned supports the proposed hypothesis. This example effectively demonstrates the core principles of Symbolic Interactionism, highlighting the significance of symbols, language, and interpersonal interactions in shaping individual identities and societal structures. From being ridiculed to being respected, Brienne's evolution demonstrates how symbolic transactions and interpersonal interactions can profoundly influence one's perceptions and self-image. This underscores the complex connection between external symbols and internal self-perception, highlighting how individuals navigate societal judgments and construct their identities through interpersonal interactions and symbolic exchanges.

Brienne of Tarth had been seated at the far end of the high table. She did not gown herself as a lady but chose a knight's finery instead, a velvet doublet quartered rose-and-azure, breeches and boots and a fine-tooled swordbelt, her new rainbow cloak flowing down her back. No garb could disguise her plainness, though; the huge freckled hands, the wide flat face, the thrust of her teeth. Out of armor, her body seemed ungainly, broad of hip and thick of limb, with hunched muscular shoulders. (315)

This analysis provides a detailed depiction of Brienne of Tarth's physical characteristics and manner of presenting herself, specifically focusing on her clothing choices and interactions with others. This describes Brienne's choice of clothing and her physical appearance. Despite her knightly attire and colourful cloak, her perceived lack of physical attractiveness remains a prominent aspect of her identity. The protagonist's physical features, such as her freckled hands, wide flat face, and teeth alignment, are symbolic markers that influence her self-image and how others perceive her. The subject of self-perception and identity is highly significant and merits comprehensive investigation. The central theme of this revolves around Brienne's self-perception. The choice to wear knight's attire instead of traditional feminine clothing represents her effort to redefine her identity beyond societal norms. The person's preference for the regalia of a knight rather than feminine clothing indicates a desire to adopt a social role that defies traditional gender expectations. Brienne's choice of clothing, along with her appearance, serves as symbolic intermediaries that influence her interactions with others. This suggests that despite her efforts to present herself as a knight, the primary determinant in social interactions seems to be how others perceive her physical appearance. This phenomenon demonstrates the active role of symbols in shaping societal roles and fostering associated expectations.

Identity performance pertains to presenting oneself in a manner that aligns with societal expectations and norms. Brienne's clothing choices can be seen as a manifestation of identity performance within

the theoretical framework of Symbolic Interactionism. In *The Performance of Identity in Online Social
Networks* by Ericka Pearson, she adds, "Developed by Goffman (1959), identity–as–performance is
seen as part of the flow of social interaction as individuals construct identity performances fitting their
milieu" (1). Her choice of clothing reflects her desired identity as a knight and member of the Rainbow
Guard. This performance embodies her ambitions and challenges societal norms regarding gender roles
and physical appearance. This also mentions how Brienne's perception by others is based on her
physical appearance. Brienne the Beauty's societal label contradicts her physical appearance, creating
a discrepancy between the nickname and reality. This demonstrates the complex relationship between
designations, representations, and tangible characteristics in shaping individual interactions. Identity
negotiation refers to the process by which individuals interact and exchange information to establish
and uphold their self-perception within a specific social environment. This process explores how
Brienne navigates her identity through her physical appearance and clothing choices in social
interactions. Through her clothing and behaviour, she seeks to redefine her identity beyond societal
gender norms. The excerpt from Martin's literary composition provides a strong example of how
Symbolic Interactionism can be used to analyse characters interactions, self-concept, and identity
negotiation. Brienne of Tarth's utilisation of clothing, physical appearance, and labels plays a
significant role in her process of self-discovery and her complex interaction with societal norms. This
highlights the theory's fundamental principles by emphasising the importance of symbols in shaping
individual thoughts, social interactions, and self-identity formation. Using Symbolic Interactionism, the
excerpt about Brienne of Tarth shows her challenging gender norms, seeking recognition, and
navigating her identity within the constraints of Westerosi society.

The sociological perspective emphasises the importance of symbols, language, and interactions in
shaping individual identities and social surroundings. Brienne's journey exemplifies how literary
characters can embody sociological concepts, prompting readers to reflect on the interplay between
self-perception, societal acknowledgement, and identity negotiation.

4. Conclusion

This study examines the impact of cultural norms on gender role-related identity performance in various
countries. Gender roles differ among cultures. Cultural norms dictate conventional and unconventional
behaviours, which exhibit variation across diverse cultures. Brienne's aspiration to adopt the identity of
a knight is subject to varying interpretations influenced by cultural values and beliefs. This study
examines the various interpretations of the character Brienne the Beauty. The societal designation
Brienne the Beauty holds different connotations in various cultures due to differing beauty standards.
The perception and appreciation of physical attributes can vary based on the cultural and social
environment.

This variation demonstrates the impact of cultural beauty standards on perceptions. The transnational
analysis focuses on cultural nuances in power dynamics and perceptions. Cultural nuances influence
one's identity negotiation and cultural viewpoints on self- identification. Cultural contexts influence the
process of identity negotiation. Cultural diversity involves surpassing societal expectations and
redefining one's identity. Societies differ in their emphasis on individual autonomy and collective
identity. The intersection of gender and culture pertains to the mutual influence and interaction between
gender identity and cultural norms and values. Brienne's negotiation of gender norms is relevant in
cultures with varied gender dynamics. Her pursuit of self-identity challenges societal norms in distinct
manners.

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