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The Stereotype of the Witch in the Harry Potter Books Series

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ABSTRACT

Throughout history there have been cases of massive persecution of people because of their ethnicity, race or nationality. This dissertation aims to study the movement of persecution of people under the pretext of committing witchcraft: The Great European Witch-Hunt. This hunt took place mainly between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries although the persecutions started a little earlier. Despite what many people believe and the large number of women persecuted, there was also a percentage of men judged under the pretext of practicing magic. All of this led authors such as Brian P. Levack to carry out different studies on the patterns that made a person become accused of witchcraft. The aim is to analyse whether and to what extent the stereotype of the witch is portrayed in the Harry Potter saga through some characters.

Keywords: Great European Witch-Hunt, witch, stereotype, magic, Harry Potter books, characters.

RESUMEN

A lo largo de la historia ha habido casos de persecuciones masivas de personas por su etnia, raza o nacionalidad. Con este trabajo se pretende estudiar un movimiento que persiguió personas bajo el pretexto de la brujería: La Gran Caza de Brujas Europea. Esta caza tuvo lugar principalmente entre los siglos XVI y XVII, aunque realmente comenzó un poco antes. A pesar de lo que mucha gente cree y del gran número de mujeres perseguidas, también hubo un porcentaje de hombres juzgados bajo el pretexto de practicar magia. Todo esto hizo que autores como Brian P. Levack llevaran a cabo distintos estudios sobre los patrones que hacían que una persona se viera acusada por brujería. El objetivo de este Trabajo de Fin de Grado es analizar si el estereotipo de la bruja se representa y en qué medida, a través de algunos personajes, en la saga de Harry Potter.

Palabras clave: Gran Caza de Brujas Europea, bruja, estereotipo, magia, Harry Potter, personajes.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout history and everywhere in the world, there have always been cases of witchcraft that have caused social unrest because of the fear that witches and magic provoked. Society was inclined to think that people who committed witchcraft were allied with the devil, to whom they sold their souls in exchange for favours. Due to this and added to the different crises (economic, social, religious and demographic) and changes in Europe, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there was a phenomenon or movement known as "The Great European Witch Hunt". In addition, when people actually think about this topic, they tend to presume that only women were prosecuted and tried for committing witchcraft but, in fact, at least 20% of the people judged were men. This means that between the 75 to 80 percent of people tried for witchcraft were women. The fact that the largest percentage of those accused of witchcraft were women has been attributed to the machismo and misogyny of the judges of the time by authors such as Lara Apps and Andrew Gow (26).

Due to all this, society has generated a fixed stereotype of what should be a common witch that leads to what currently everyone thinks a witch to be. Since witchcraft and witches have always caused much controversy, many myths and tales have been created throughout history in which different versions of these witches were narrated. All this has led to many books on witchcraft such as Harry Potter, which have also been adapted to the big screen (achieving great success).

With this dissertation I aim to study whether the witch stereotypes seen during the Great European Witch-Hunt have been respected in the Harry Potter Books series. In this way, this essay seeks to investigate the impact of the stereotypes of the Great European Witch-Hunt in relation to Harry Potter Books series. Therefore, the characters will be compared with the stereotypes and analysed in detail regarding their personality and role in the books.

In order to carry this out, this project will examine the main history of the Great European Witch-Hunt (theoretical part) and it will be linked with the analysis of the characters (analysis). Concerning the theoretical part, I will explain the background on witchcraft and gender, and also the main stereotypes of the witch regarding sex, gender, marital status, socio-economic status and personality according to what Brian P. Levack stated in

his book *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*. On the other hand, regarding the analysis, I will analyse some of the most important characters and this will also be divided into two main parts depending on the age of the characters. To end up with this project, I will conclude with some thoughts that have come to my mind when analysing all the characters comparing them to the theoretical part.

The main reason why I have chosen this topic is because the Harry Potter books arouse my interest on witch-hunt and witchcraft literature. I preferred to research something that I was really passionate about and that in the future would make me want to continue researching by myself, even if it was not academically. I am very impressed by the way in which the stereotype of the witch has derived in what society currently has in mind: the image of an elderly woman with a broom, with a hat and a wart on her nose.

1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.1 Witchcraft and Gender

During the Middle Ages, before the Great European Witch-Hunt, it was believed that there were two ways of committing witchcraft, the first one was used for useful and beneficial purposes, regardless of the gender of the person carrying it out. On the other hand, witchcraft that was not used for these useful purposes or ‘black’ magic was attributed to women. (Jones and Zell, 1).

When looking for the meaning of the term “witchcraft” it is easy to find different definitions or ways of referring to it, but according to Levack in his book *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* published in 1987, at that moment witchcraft could be defined as:

(...) the practice of harmful, black or maleficent magic, the performance of harmful deeds by means of some sort of extraordinary, mysterious, occult, preternatural or supernatural power. This type of magic would include the killing of a person by piercing a doll made in his or her image (...) (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 4)

Everyone could be accused of practising magic or witchcraft. Nevertheless, as I have mentioned before, ‘black’ magic was attributed to women. There are pieces of evidence that make clear that at least 80% of all witches were females between 1450 and 1750 (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, xii). Although there are different reasons why women were highly accused of witchcraft, historians associate this percentage to the misogyny of the society but even more to the judges and clerical inquisitors (Levack, *New Perspectives*, 55). There are authors, such as Stuart Clark, who position themselves with no problem saying that witch-hunting was ‘primarily a history of women’.

One of the most famous and important medieval manuals about witchcraft, *The Malleus Maleficarum* (1487), was written by two Dominican authors: Heinrich Kramer and Jacob Sprenger. The main purpose of this treatise on witchcraft “was to challenge all arguments against the existence of witchcraft and to instruct magistrates on how to identify, interrogate and convict witches” (“The Malleus Maleficarum”). These kind of manuals also helped to increase misogyny by saying that women were seeking for carnal lust, which drove them to make pacts with the Devil (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 141).

Moreover, women were accused of witchcraft because of many more reasons such as poverty, isolation, their current activities (to heal ill people), their marital status since unmarried women were also accused of witchcraft and so on (Levack, *New Perspectives*, 134-135). Nevertheless, men were also tried for witchcraft either because of being relatives of female witches or because men were always more associated with heresy than women.

1.1.1 The Great European Witch-Hunt

The Great European Witch-Hunt took place between the early decades of the 14th and 17th centuries, where people (both men and women) were prosecuted, tortured, tried and executed for being considered witches. Nevertheless, before these great hunts that began in the 14th century, a negative view of the supernatural world did not exist, in other words, witches had an important role with deities and therefore, her/his power could be used to “compel them to perform specific actions” (Ben-Yehuda, 3). In the early decades of the 14th century everything changed and those witches who were previously thought to be useful, suddenly were transformed into a completely evil entity which created problems instead of solving them” (Ben-Yehuda, 3). At the same time, the *Malleus Maleficarum* was published causing an increase in sensationalism against the witches: witches were no longer appreciated for serving as midwives or healers. What’s more, they started to be persecuted for the same reasons for which they were previously respected.

Between these centuries, Europe went through several crisis and changes that caused the Great European Witch-hunt, such as religious, economic, demographic, social and political ones of the late sixteenth century (Jones and Zell, 45). The economic, social and demographic developments made the tension worse in society which led into more witchcraft accusations (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 157). Some of the problems which derived from the changes mentioned above were the following: inflation leading to poverty, growth of the population which caused limited supplies of resources, changes in the structure of families due to the increase of unattached female population famines, epidemic diseases, etc. In addition, accusations were also made because of personal problems between neighbours and misfortunes (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 134).

In dealing with the records of how many people were prosecuted or executed, it is important to take into account that not every single action was recorded but also that many judicial records were destroyed or lost (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 21). This issue will be addressed later on since it has its repercussion.

1.1.2 The stereotype of the witch

In the book *Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe* written by Brian P. Levack, he makes clear the fact that it was practically impossible to provide a single witch's profile. Nevertheless, there are some patterns or characteristics that could be taken into account when classifying the stereotype of a witch during the early modern period such as the sex, age, marital status, social and economic status, and the personality.

1.1.2.1 Sex

Although there was also a little percentage of men who were tried or accused of witchcraft, through history it is known that women were the main group of people accused of this issue. Levack says, “witchcraft was a sex-related but not a sex-specific crime” (*The Witch-Hunt*, 133). More or less, the habitual percentage of women tried for witchcraft was 80% of the total, and therefore, 20% of people tried were men. Some historians, as I have mentioned above, attribute these percentages to the misogyny of the judges (Levack, *New Perspectives*, 55). However, as Anne Llewellyn Barstow says in her article, *On Studying Witchcraft as Women's History*, “the witch craze has been interpreted by most historians as *not* a matter of gender” (7).

1.1.2.1.1 Women as Witches

As I have discussed above, 80% of the people tried or accused of witchcraft during the Great Witch-Hunt were women. Nevertheless, “historians were denying that misogyny

and patriarchy are valid historical categories and were refusing to treat women as a recognizable historical group” (Levack, *New Perspectives*, 13).

The fact that the biggest percentage of people accused of witchcraft were women could be by the virtue of their sex, but there was nothing real that excluded males from these accusations and from the definition of a witch (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 141). Nevertheless, people, such as Reginald Scot, dared to describe witches as “women which be commonly old, lame, bleare-eided, pale, fowle, and full of wrinkles;” (5) in his book *The Discovery of Witchcraft*. It is important to keep in mind this description since R. Scot wrote this book – even though he gave this “negative” definition of the witch – in order to show people that witchcraft did not exist.

The Italian physician Girolamo Cardano described witches as “miserable old women, beggars, existing in the valleys in chestnuts and field herbs” (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 158). As it is said on the following quote: “Demonologists often used the masculine form for the word witch in their treatises and sometimes specifically referred to witches of both sexes” (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 142).

1.1.2.1.2 Men as Witches

Although mainly women were accused of witchcraft, there were also instances of male witches and several situations in which men tended to be accused of it. As Levack states in his book, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*, there are three main exceptions in which men were accused of witchcraft: other forms of heresy, political sorcery and when “witch-hunts got out of control” (144). The first one has to do with the Spanish and Roman Inquisitors since they tried people for heresy, and heresy has nothing to do with sex-linking when accusing people. In this case, male witches’ accusations were above the average of the rest of Europe. The second one deals with political sorcery, it was said that men practised sorcery when they wanted to develop their political status or fortunes. Finally, the last situation in which men were also accused of witchcraft took place at times of social hysteria and anxiety, provoking a wave of indiscriminate accusations.

1.1.2.2 Age

Although the main stereotype of a witch is to be a woman, there are more characteristics that convert a person into a witch, for instance: their age. Every time people imagine a person performing magic, a witch or a wizard, they think about someone elderly, just as Merlin (the wizard) or Madame Mim in the book *The Sword in the Stone* written by T. H. White in 1938.

During the Early Modern Period, the European society were going through a period of anxiety and several social changes (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 134) that made neighbours clash with each other. In this way, people began to use witchcraft accusations against others over the years, but so many years passed from prosecution to the trial that those accused of witchcraft were already old. At this point, when aged people were accused of witchcraft and easily presented signs of senility or anti-social behaviour, they were more likely to confess.

Nevertheless, as women were the higher percentage of people accused of witchcraft, there is also the typical stereotype of the old and unattractive female witch, the old widow who is object to “male sexual fear, male hostility and male accusations of witchcraft” (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 153).

1.1.2.3 Marital status

Due to the scarcity of information on the civil status of witches, it is difficult to establish a clear scheme on who was most prosecuted or tried based on their marital status. What is known about women is that widows and spinsters were much more suspected of being witches or practising witchcraft than married women. In addition, as Levack said in his book, *The Witch-Hunt in Early Modern Europe*, “there is reason to believe, however, that the single status of many witches contributed at least indirectly to their plight” (147).

In the patriarchal society, in which they lived in the Modern Period, a spinster or a woman who was not controlled by a man caused concern, but it was also believed that a woman in such situations was more likely to be seduced by the devil incarnated in the form of a man (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 156). In addition, as it is said in *Witchcraft Masculinities*

in *Early Modern Europe*, “certain historians interpret witch-persecution as a means by which contemporaries identified and eliminated women who were perceived as a threat to the patriarchal order of early modern society” (Rowlands, 1)

Concerning the marital status of male witches, men were often accused of witchcraft for being married to a woman who was considered to be a witch. This was not always the case, but one of the reasons men were accused of witchcraft was because of their relationship with female witches.

1.1.2.4 Social and Economic status

One of the causes of the Great Witch-Hunt that took place in Europe during the Early Modern Period was the economic changes. At this time, people were more aware of the importance of their social and economic status and therefore, anyone who would interfere signified danger. That is to say, the most wronged people at this moment of economic difficulties were poor people, but most importantly poor women.

In a society that was going through social changes and an economic crisis, poor people were the most vulnerable and affected. However, if in addition to being poor you were a woman, it would have been even more complicated.

It was said that poor people made pacts with the devil in order to improve their social and economic situation (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 150). However, there were also instances of wealthy people being accused of witchcraft, breaking down the stereotype of the poor witch. Wealthy people were accused of being witches for political reasons or just because other people wanted their properties. Men being accused of witchcraft occurred mostly in the early days of the European witch-hunt, ‘usually in connection with some sort of real or imagined political conspiracy’ (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 151).

1.1.2.5 The Personality of the Witch

In regard to their personality, although male witches have not been described in as much detail as female witches, witches cannot be described just in one way or with one kind of

personality even though they share certain behaviours (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 152). Nevertheless, witches are often described as ‘sharp-tongued, bad-tempered and quarrelsome’ what made them being avoided and rejected by neighbours (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 152). Witches were also described as ‘intrinsically evil creatures’ and, thus, to have ‘poor moral record’ (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 153).

As can be assumed at this point, the sum of being female (sex), older (age), a spinster (marital status), and poor (social and economic status) made women an easy target for accusations but also formed the personality of a deranged woman who only sought revenge against men and made it more difficult to live with neighbours. As I have previously said, being aged also made a person suspect of being a witch, as they did not have the same resources as we have nowadays, and what they thought to be hysteria was just signs of senility (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 153). Furthermore, another characteristic of the witch personality has to do with religion. Ecclesiastical courts named female witches for different “crimes” such as not going to the church, cursing, fornication, prostitution, abortion and adultery, while male witches were named because of issues such as homosexuality (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 153). The reputation of these witches made them more vulnerable to witchcraft accusations, and possibly, people attempted to show them in the worst possible way so they would be tried.

Another feature that turned a person into a witch was the rebellious character. Both men and women who did not submit under the control or mandate – who were against God, the political, social and moral order of man (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 154) – were possible candidates to suffer accusations of witchcraft. Men were mostly accused of witchcraft when society suspected them of being heretics.

Moreover, at that time, women were expected to always obey a man: their grandfather, father, brother, or son, and those who sought independence (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 155) somehow caused some kind of fear that led men to accuse them of witchcraft.

Finally, Levack described the witch of the early modern period as follows:

... If we need one word to describe the witch of the early modern period, we might refer to her as a nonconformist. The witch was usually not a foreigner or stranger in her community, but she was hardly a typical villager. Older and poorer than average, and more often than not unmarried, she did not adhere to the traditional behavioural standards of her community or of her sex. By

her actions and her words she defied contemporary standards of docility and domesticity and inverted the ideal of the good Christian wife and mother. Cranky, acerbic and often angry about her plight, she attracted attention, hostility, suspicion and fear. Sometimes, but by no means always, she possessed physical characteristics that made her appear even more different from the norm. (156)

1.2 The Harry Potter series

Harry Potter books are fantasy novels written by British writer Joanne Rowling, also known as J. K. Rowling. In 1995, Joanne finished the manuscript of her first book on Harry Potter – *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (published year 1997). After seeing the success this book achieved worldwide, she continued publishing more books of equal success and subsequently the book was finally brought to the big screen. Surprisingly, these books reached both youth and adult audiences. At the moment, there are more than 500 million copies sold all over the world, but they have also been translated into eight languages.

The Harry Potter series is based on a wizardly world in which there is a huge conflict between good and evil. Specifically, it is about a young wizard who continuously fights for his life but also for the life of the rest of the world against the most feared magician, Lord Voldemort. However, Harry is not alone, he counts on Hermione Granger and Ronald Weasley, two Hogwarts' students who he met on the first day of school.

1.2.1 Books

Talking about the books, there are seven that tell the main story of Hogwarts, Harry and Lord Voldemort, which are the following: *The Philosopher's Stone* (1997); *The Chamber of Secrets* (1998); *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (1999); *The Goblet of Fire* (2000); *The Order of the Phoenix* (2003); *The Half-Blood Prince* (2005); *The Deathly Hallows* (2007). In fact, as these books have been so successful, J.K Rowling continued writing books such as *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* and *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*. This last one is mentioned in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* as Hermione uses it to solve the last adventure of these books.

1.2.2 Films

Seeing the social and media repercussion that the saga had since the first book, it was decided to take the story of the ‘child who survived’ to the big screen. Although there are just seven books, there are eight films since the last book *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* was split up into two films. The films were released between three and five years later than the books: *The Philosopher’s Stone* (2001); *The Chamber of Secrets* (2002); *The Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004); *The Goblet of Fire* (2005); *The Order of the Phoenix* (2007); *The Half-Blood Prince* (2009); *the Deathly Hallows Part 1* (2010) and *the Deathly Hallows Part 2* (2011)

1.2.3 Fandom Phenomenon

Given the enormous success of the Harry Potter saga, different online resources or tools have been carried out exclusively to feed the desire for more on the part of fans, such as the official web *Pottermore* and *The Harry Potter Shop at Platform 9 ¾*. Both websites have an online shop for fans who want to buy exclusive Harry Potter items.

As a fandom phenomenon, thousands and thousands of people have written on the Internet which are the places that a real Potterhead – the name that fans of the Harry Potter series identify themselves with– should visit, such as the European filming sets in England and Scotland and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter (Universal Orlando Resort).

1.2.3.1 Pottermore

Pottermore, as I have said above, is an online tool created by the writer J. K. Rowling, and as it is described by itself, it is ‘the digital hear of the Wizarding World’.

Pottermore.com is the official entertainment and news channel for the Wizarding World. It offers the latest magical news and features, the authentic Sorting Hat and Patronus

experiences, and original achieve content from J. K. Rowling. Pottermore.com has been creating innovative digital experiences for fans of the Wizarding World since 2012. (“About us”, Pottermore)

On this website, fans have the opportunity to make their dreams come true and have their own account, which they can personalise with their own ‘Patronus’, find their ‘Hogwarts House’, carry out ‘The Wand Ceremony’ and so on. In this way, J. K. Rowling has achieved that every fan can feel even more attached to Hogwarts and to the Wizardly World in a closer and special way.

1.2.4 Prohibition

As everyone knows, in America during the 20th Century a prohibition against the consumption of alcoholic beverages, promoted by religious groups and later on by other sectors of the population, took place. Surprisingly, the Harry Potter saga also found itself in a similar situation: religious groups tried to ban and keep these books away from both classrooms and libraries. Religious groups such as “Bible-believing” and conservative groups saw them as ‘dangerous’ texts because of dealing with issues like death and witchcraft.

The American Library Association’s main goal is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all”. This association makes lists of the top most frequently challenged books and the *Harry Potter* series in 1999, which at that time three of them were already published, were on that list.

2 ANALYSIS

After having studied the witch stereotype in both women and men through The Great European Witch-Hunt, some of the characters in the Harry Potter book series will be analysed according to such stereotype. Only eight of the characters will be analysed and they will be grouped in accordance with their age since it will allow us to examine them in much more detail and see the differences –if any– between generations. The first generation to be examined will be the youngest or “the new generation” (Harry, Ronald, Hermione and Draco Malfoy) and then the adults or “the old generation” (Professor Albus Dumbledore, Professor Minerva McGonagall, Severus Snape and Lord Voldemort).

I chose these characters to analyse them because in a certain way they are the most important ones within the saga, but also because their personal and social features are what most called my interest when selecting them.

2.1 The New Generation

The youngest characters that will be analysed are Harry Potter, Ronald Weasley, Hermione Granger and Draco Malfoy. Harry, Ron and Hermione met on the train on their way to Hogwarts for their first year of school. Later on, they met Draco and since the beginning the reader can see some kind of tension or differences between them.

They appear in the first book when they were 11 years old since they all were born between 1979 (Hermione) and 1980 (Harry, Ronald and Draco), and their first year at school was in 1991. Following the previous analysis of the witch stereotype carried out in the theoretical part, their age is not very relevant when it comes to witchcraft accusations since they were children and the most accused of witchcraft were adult people.

The saga focuses on the story of a boy, Harry Potter – also known as the boy who lived – , who survived the attack of the most feared wizard by the magical community: Lord Voldemort. Because of this attack his parents died and he had to live with his uncle and aunt during his childhood. Due to all this, Harry develops a special personality throughout the saga that will later on be analysed and compared to that of his two friends.

2.1.1 Harry James Potter

Harry Potter was born on 31st July 1980, and as I have mentioned above, he attended Hogwarts for the first time at the age of 11. What makes him one of the main characters – if not the main one – is that he survived the attack of the most feared magician, who killed his parents when he was a child and, as a consequence of this, he will develop a strong personality that many times will lead on to some problems or situations.

Concerning the witch stereotype, Harry Potter breaks it down from the very beginning as he is a man instead of a woman. Moreover, we mainly know him during his childhood and adolescence, although at the end of the saga and in another book he appears as an adult.

Another issue to be dealt with his marital status. As it has been explained in the theoretical part, most of the male witches who were accused of witchcraft was because they were married to a woman who was believed to be a witch, although there also were other reasons why men were persecuted for it such as political reasons or property issues. During his adolescence, Harry had a kind of girlfriend whose name was Cho Chang, although they never get to make it formal. In fact, the reader knows Harry when he is a child, and therefore, when he is not married, nevertheless, at the end of the saga he finally marries Ginny Weasley, Ronald's sister. All in all, as I have explained in the theoretical part, men were mostly judged for witchcraft because of their relationship with female witches. In order to conclude, Harry fits within the men's marital status stereotype due to two main reasons: he always was in Hermione's company, marries Ginny and he also adored Molly Weasley for being the mother figure he never had.

In the magical world of Harry Potter, the social status concerning the blood is very important. What I mean by this is that some witches cared about the pureness of the blood. If you descended from a family in which everyone was a witch you were called "pure-blood"; if half of your family was a witch and the other half was muggle (a term used for non-magical people in the Harry Potter saga) you were called "half-blood"; and finally, if your family was completely non-magical you were known as "muggle-born". In this case, Harry Potter was "half-blood" since, although his father was "pure-blood", his mother Lily James Potter, was muggle-born. Moreover, another important issue for some witches in this saga was economic status. In the theoretical part, I have explained that

during the Great European Witch-Hunt witches were mostly poor people, marginalized and those who relied on the charity of other people. Again, Harry breaks with the stereotype since his parents had a lot of money kept in Gringotts, which is the “Wizarding bank in Diagon Alley, run by goblins” (“Gringotts.” *Pottermore*)

Griphook unlocked the door. A lot of green smoke came billowing out, and as it cleared, Harry gasped. Inside were mounds of gold coins. Columns of silver. Heaps of little bronze Knuts.

“All yours,” smiled Hagrid.

All Harry’s—it was incredible. (Rowling, *The Philosopher’s Stone*, 80-81)

Regarding the personality of this character, as I have mentioned before, one of the most important facts that left him with a mark on his forehead was the death of his parents when he was a child. Unsurprisingly, he declared himself the enemy of Lord Voldemort, the person who killed his parents. In addition, in the theoretical part I have explained that female witches are frequently depicted as “sharp-tongued, bad-tempered and quarrelsome” (Levack, *The Witch-Hunt*, 152). Witches were the most rejected people of the community in which they lived because of their reputation. Linking this to the character of Harry Potter, Harry was admired by his friends, by almost all of his schoolmates and by the magical society because of the fact previously mentioned: he “defeated” Lord Voldemort when he was a child and his parents died. Moreover, there were other situations in which Harry was marginalized when his classmates and even Ron, his best friend, stopped talking to him such as can be seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*: “So Fleur was part veela, thought Harry, making a mental note to tell Ron . . . then he remembered that Ron wasn’t speaking to him” (260). In addition, in the same book and almost at the same moment, the students at Slytherin’s house made badges that read “Potter sucks”, as can be observed in the following quote: “The Slytherins howled with laughter. Each of them pressed their badges too, until the message POTTER STINKS was shining brightly all around Harry. He felt the heat rise in his face and neck” (252).

Harry always fought Lord Voldemort and many times both the Ministry of Magic and the magic community refused to believe Harry when he said that Lord Voldemort had returned after so many years of absence, perhaps out of fear that he might return and cause many deaths again. Because of this, Harry was harshly criticised by almost all the magical society, making his schoolmates to stop talking to him, marginalize him, or ridicule him

directly. In this way, Harry fits the witch stereotype when this person is marginalized and avoided by his/her neighbours, because even his best friend stops talking to him once.

Furthermore, in relation to Harry's personality, within Hogwarts there are four houses, each of which formed by students with different personalities depending on the house. Harry belongs to Gryffindor and one of the best descriptions one can find of Harry's personality in the books is the one given by the Sorting Hat when choosing a house in Hogwarts for Harry:

“Hmm,” said a small voice in his ear. “Difficult. Very difficult. Plenty of courage, I see. Not a bad mind either. There's talent, oh my goodness, yes—and a nice thirst to prove yourself, now that's interesting . . . So where shall I put you?” (Rowling, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 129)

There is a song that the Sorting Hat sings each year at the beginning of the academic year that describes every House in Hogwarts, and Gryffindor is described as follows:

You might belong in Gryffindor,
Where dwell the brave at heart,
Their daring, nerve, and chivalry
Set Gryffindors apart; (Rowling, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 126)

To conclude, Harry does not fit within this stereotype since he was very beloved by everyone around him (excluding Lord Voldemort and his followers). He did not make life difficult for anyone (except those who deserved it), and except for a few moments when the magical community and some students avoided him, Harry was a character that everyone appreciated.

2.1.2 Ronald Bilius Weasley “Ron”

Ron Weasley was born on 1st March, 1980, and similar to Harry, he attended Hogwarts for the first time when he was 11 years old. He is one of Harry Potter's best friends, and, thanks to this, Ron has a great importance in many conflicts that occur during all the saga and what shows us his actual personality.

Similar to Harry, Ron breaks the witch stereotype concerning the sex and the age, since he is a man and we also meet him when he is 11 years old and the whole time of his adolescence. He also appears at the end of the saga as an adult which does fit with the traditional witch stereotype.

Furthermore, his marital status is practically the same as Harry's. During his school years he just had one girlfriend whose name was Lavender Brown. This relationship did not last more than one book and the person to whom Ron married was Hermione Granger, Harry's other best friend. As happens to Harry, Ron fits within the men's stereotype regarding marital status because men were not judged because of their marital status as such, but due to his relationship with female witches, and in this case, Ron fits within the stereotype since he is, practically during all the saga, with his (future) wife Hermione, his sister Ginny and his mother Molly.

As I have explained before, there are three "kinds" of blood that will classify the person into different social status. Ron belongs to the "pure-blood" type since all his family are magic people. Nevertheless, although Ron belongs to the "best" kind of blood – according to some magical people – he also comes from a poor family. Because of this, Ron does fall within the stereotype of a poor and marginalised witch, given that the house – known as The Burrow – is on the outskirts of Ottery St Catchpole in Devon. Moreover, he is sometimes embarrassed because of his family economic situation and that almost all of his clothes are hand-me-down, second hand. Even some some of his classmates, like Draco Malfoy, who boasts about descending from a family of "pure-blood" and wealthy, who laughs at the economic family situation of the Weasleys.

Ron gave a slight cough, which might have been hiding a snigger. Draco Malfoy looked at him. "Think my name's funny, do you? No need to ask who you are. My father told me all the Weasleys have red hair, freckles, and more children than they can afford." (Rowling, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 115-116)

Therefore, although Ron belongs to a pure-blood lineage and his social status may be better than others, his family is in a difficult economic situation with little money, with Ron having to inherit clothes from his older siblings. In general, Ron adjusts to the witch's economic situation because he is poor.

Finally, in terms of Ron's personality, he did not fit within the stereotype of a witch. He was a very loyal person to his friends and family. Ever since he became friends with Harry and Hermione, they were always together in all the adventures, even if they meant some risk for anyone's life. However, Ron was often left behind or given less credit for being next to Harry (always the protagonist because of his family history), Hermione (a very intelligent girl) and his family (all his brothers and his sister). All this caused Ron self-esteem problems and also showed his more immature and jealous side.

“Look,” said Hermione patiently, “it's always you who gets all the attention, you know it is. I know it's not your fault,” she added quickly, seeing Harry open his mouth furiously. “I know you don't ask for it . . . but—well—you know, Ron's got all those brothers to compete against at home, and you're his best friend, and you're really famous—he's always shunted to one side whenever people see you, and he puts up with it, and he never mentions it, but I suppose this is just one time too many . . .” (Rowling, *The Goblet of Fire*, 244)

An example of his immature and jealous side, although he married Hermione at the end of the saga, Ron became jealous of his friend Harry since he thought that Hermione might have some kind of interest in him.

“Are you staying, or what?”

“I . . .” She looked anguished. “Yes—yes, I'm staying. Ron, we said we'd go with Harry, we said we'd help—”

“I get it. You choose him.”

“Ron, no—please—come back, come back!” (Rowling, *The Deathly Hallows*, 252)

Despite all this, Ron was also sorted by the Sorting Hat to be part of the house of Gryffindor as Harry and Hermione. This means that, as I made clear at the beginning of this section, that Ron does not fit the stereotype. Ron was a boy much appreciated and loved by all those around him.

2.1.3 Hermione Granger

Hermione Granger was born on 19th September, 1979, and the first year she attended Hogwarts was the same year as Harry and Ron. Although we know Hermione when she is a child, she perfectly fits within the main witch stereotype concerning gender: she is a girl. She met Harry and Ron aboard the Hogwarts Express, and although they later are

befriended, Harry and Ron's first impression of her was that of a "know-it-all". As Harry and Ron, she does not fit within the age since she appears in the saga mostly as a child and a teenager, she just appears as an adult at the end of it.

"Are you sure that's a real spell?" said the girl. "Well, it's not very good, is it? I've tried a few simple spells just for practice and it's all worked for me. Nobody in my family's magic at all, it was ever such a surprise when I got my letter, but I was ever so pleased, of course, I mean, it's the very best school of witchcraft there is, I've heard—I've learned all our course books by heart, of course, I just hope it will be enough—I'm Hermione Granger, by the way, who are you?"

She said all this very fast. (Rowling, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 112-113)

Concerning her marital status, and as I have said before, the typical witch's marital status was the one of spinster and widowed, and since she is a child and a teenager during the saga, she cannot fit within this stereotype. Nevertheless, it is curious how from the first book we can see how Ron comments to Harry that nobody stands Hermione and that she has no friends (spinster) for the fact of knowing more than they do.

"Oh, well done!" cried Professor Flitwick, clapping. "Everyone see here, Miss Granger's done it!"

Ron was in a very bad mood by the end of the class.

"It's no wonder no one can stand her," he said to Harry as they pushed their way into the crowded corridor, "she's a nightmare, honestly."

Someone knocked into Harry as they hurried past him. It was Hermione. Harry caught a glimpse of her face—and was startled to see that she was in tears.

"I think she heard you."

"So?" said Ron, but he looked a bit uncomfortable. "She must've noticed she's got no friends."
(Rowling, *The Philosopher's Stone*, 184)

In addition to marital status, although Hermione marries Ron at the end of the saga, she had two boyfriends during her school years. The first one was Viktor Krum, a Bulgarian wizard who was the Seeker for the Bulgarian Quidditch team and student at Durmstrang Institute. He appeared in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. The fact that Hermione had a thing for Viktor made Ron jealous of him. Her second boyfriend was Cormac McLaggen, who belongs to Gryffindor and was also a Quidditch Keeper. Therefore, Hermione fits with the spinster and know-it-all female witch since though she had some boyfriends, these relationships did not last more than half of a book.

Regarding the social and economic status of Hermione, first of all, it has to be clear that she is “muggle-born” and, as I have explained, this kind of people do not come from a magician family, she knew by letter that she was a witch when she turned 11 years old. Moreover, the books do not talk much about the economic position of Hermione’s parents in their muggle life, although it is said that they are dentists, so it can be assumed that Hermione does not have any kind of need regarding money. Nevertheless, Hermione is bullied by Draco Malfoy and his friends for coming from a Muggle family. As I mentioned before, there are some families that only consider “pure-blood” families as worthy magicians. Having said that, Hermione does not fully fit the stereotype of a poor witch, nonetheless, Hermione could fit within the witch who is avoided because of her social status (blood status in this instance), added to this, she could also fit the middle-class woman with money who is prosecuted for witchcraft.

Concerning her personality, if one had to highlight a quality of Hermione, it would be how intelligent, curious and hard-working she is. In addition, she is responsible and perfectionist, devoted to the rules and known by everyone as “know-it-all”. All these qualities have made Hermione as much admired as hated or envied by many people, including Ron. Nevertheless, the fact that Hermione spent more time in the library than with her friends, separated her a little from them, as can be seen in the following quote by Harry Potter:

But this was a downright lie. Harry liked Hermione very much, but she just wasn’t the same as Ron. There was much less laughter and a lot more hanging around in the library when Hermione was your best friend. (Rowling, *The Goblet of Fire*, 268)

This last characteristic could fit with the fact that witches were expected to be more isolated than other people, because of their “strange” behaviour previously mentioned in “the Personality of the Witch & Witches as Rebels”. In fact, when they were in their third year of school, Dumbledore gave Hermione a time-turner – a magical device that can transport the user back in time (“Time-Turner”, *Pottermore*) – so she could attend all the classes. Therefore, Hermione perfectly fits within the personality stereotype of the witch because of her overwhelming personality and her strong character that often overshadows both Ron and Harry.

2.1.4 Draco Malfoy

Draco Malfoy was born on 5th June, 1980 and attended Hogwarts the same year and at the same age as the three previous characters. Similar to Harry and Ron, he does break the witch stereotype since he is a boy and also because of his age, he is also a child when he goes to Hogwarts.

Concerning his marital status, he did not have a girlfriend at Hogwarts although a girl named Pansy Parkinson had a crush on him. They went to the Yule Ball together, but that was it. After Hogwarts, Draco married Astoria Greengrass, a girl two years younger than him but who died during the summer of 2019. The fact that he was widowed could have importance within the female witch stereotype with respect to marital status, nevertheless as I have explained in the theoretical part, men were not an easy target because of their marital status but because of their relationships with women. To sum up, he did not fit within this stereotype because of being widowed but could fit because of his relationship with his wife.

One thing Draco Malfoy valued when he was at Hogwarts was the pure-blood lineage, as I have mentioned before when describing Hermione, he bullied her because she was muggle-born, since Draco came from a family full of magicians. Moreover, his family were also wealthy, so Draco also boasted in front of his schoolmates. Therefore, Draco does not fit again with the witch stereotype of a poor person. Nevertheless, as I have explained in the theoretical part, wealthy men were prosecuted for two main reasons: political issues and their relationships with women. Draco does not fit within the stereotype of men judged for political reasons but he could fit in that little percentage of wealthy men tried for their relationships with women accused of witchcraft, this could be just at the end of the saga, when he gets married.

Regarding Draco's personality, he was arrogant, narcissistic, and spoiled by his parents. Nevertheless, it is important to know the context in which he was grownup. First of all, in this magic world there are two kinds of sides: good vs evil. Harry Potter was in the good one while Draco was in the evil one. He was taught that just the witches who came from pure-blood lineages were good enough to understand what Lord Voldemort wanted to do, but also to be part of what is known as the Death Eaters – Acolytes of Voldemort (“Death-Eaters”, *Pottermore*) –. He was arrogant and believed himself to be better than

the others just because of what his family had – wealth –and came from – pure-blood lineage –. In this way, he mistreated and made fun of people such as Ron because of his familiar economic status and Hermione due to her blood lineage (muggle-born), as it shows in the following quote by Draco:

He turned back to Harry. “You’ll soon find out some wizarding families are much better than others, Potter. You don’t want to go making friends with the wrong sort. I can help you there.”
(Rowling, *The Philosopher’s Stone*, 116)

In addition, he became a Death Eater since his father was imprisoned in Azkaban – an island prison in the middle of the North Sea for dangerous wizards and witches (“Azkaban”, *Pottermore*) – during the Battle of the Department of Mysteries. He had to compensate Lord Voldemort for his father’s failure and he was demanded to murder Albus Dumbledore. Draco always disliked him since the headmaster was in favour of muggles and magicians who came from muggle families. At the moment of killing Dumbledore, Draco could not fulfil his task and showed the reader his better facet: he really cared about the others. Right at the end of the saga, Draco regretted his decisions when being a child. In short, Draco fits into the stereotype of the personality of a bad witch who tries to make life difficult for others, although at the end of the saga he shows that he was not as bad as he pretended to be during the books.

2.2 The Old Generation

The characters I am going to analyse, who are Albus Dumbledore, Professor Minerva McGonagall, Professor Severus Snape and Tom Riddle, also known as Lord Voldemort, were born between 1881 and 1960. The first three of them are part of the Hogwarts faculty, while Tom Riddle was just a student who later became the feared magician of this magical world.

2.2.1 Albus Dumbledore

Although the actual name of Albus Dumbledore is Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, he is best known as just Dumbledore or Albus Dumbledore. He was born

in August of the summer of 1881 and died on 30 June 1997. Dumbledore, evidently, was a man and he did not fit in the witch stereotype regarding gender. Nevertheless, when he first appeared in the book he already was an adult (he was 110 years old when Harry went for the first time to Hogwarts), so he actually fits in the witch stereotype concerning the age.

In addition, Dumbledore's marital status was single since he never had any kind of sentimental relationship with any woman or any man, beyond friendship and strong affection (as he had towards McGonagall, Severus or Harry). As I have explained in the theoretical part, female witches were persecuted and tried for witchcraft basically for two reasons: being single or widowed. Nevertheless, it was not the same for men, who were tried for witchcraft when they had some kind of relationship with a witch or when there were political or property issues involved. Therefore, Dumbledore did not fit within the marital status stereotype of a witch as he was always single and that was not a reason to be judged when being a man.

Concerning his social and economic status, first of all, Dumbledore has a half-blood wizard. Moreover, as happened to Harry, Dumbledore was both admired and hated for being as he was. In the first place, he was admired for being considered to be a genius and the best wizard in the world (Rowling, *the Philosopher's Stone*, 131). Since he was a child, he was always outstanding and known to be one of the best – if not the best – student who had ever gone to Hogwarts. After being a student, he went back to Hogwarts to be a teacher. On the contrary, he was always hated by some people such as Lord Voldemort and The Death Eaters, although at some points of the saga more people thought he was mad and tried to remove him from the position of Hogwarts headmaster. The main reason Dumbledore was hated by Voldemort and the Death Eaters was that these last ones, as I have previously mentioned, believed in the pure-blood lineage as the good one and went against Muggles or Mud-blood people, but Dumbledore always defended Muggles causing him many problems.

“Who said none of us was putting the news out?” said Sirius. “Why d’you think Dumbledore’s in such trouble?”

“What d’you mean?” Harry asked.

“They’re trying to discredit him,” said Lupin. “Didn’t you see the Daily Prophet last week? They reported that he’d been voted out of the Chairmanship of the International Confederation

of Wizards because he's getting old and losing his grip, but it's not true, he was voted out by Ministry wizards after he made a speech announcing Voldemort's return. (Rowling, *The Order of the Phoenix*, 87-88)

So it can be deduced that Dumbledore both fitted and did not fit this stereotype of the witch since, on the one hand, he was hated by a group of people who tried both to make his life more complicated and kill him, just as neighbours did with witches during the Great European Witch-Hunt. However, on the other hand, Dumbledore was quite adored by so many people such as Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Professor McGonagall.

Moreover, concerning his personality, he is a strong and powerful character – in every sense – during all the seven books. Since the beginning of the saga, he shows actual interest in Harry and his well-being, expressing his most benevolent facet. He was wise, calm and cautious, even when Harry spoke to him in very bad ways, Dumbledore remained calm and cautious, waiting to respond wisely. In addition, he is not afraid of death and every time he has to face it he shows himself quite calm, including at the time of his murder, he is very calm down as it can be seen in the following quote:

“My options!” said Malfoy loudly. “I’m standing here with a wand—I’m about to kill you—”

“My dear boy, let us have no more pretense about that. If you were going to kill me, you would have done it when you first disarmed me, you would not have stopped for this pleasant chat about ways and means”. (Rowling, *The Half-Blood Prince*, 491-492)

In brief, in some way Dumbledore fits the witch stereotype concerning personality due to his rebellious character. Many times the magic community unsuccessfully tried to remove him from his post as headmaster, causing him several enemies but also lots of admirers.

2.2.2 Professor Minerva McGonagall

To begin with the character of Minerva McGonagall, it has to be said that she perfectly fits within most of the witch stereotypes of the Great European Witch-Hunt. First of all, she was a woman and, as it is explained in the theoretical part, more than 80% of people tried for witchcraft were women. Secondly, she appeared for the first time in the saga as an adult and again, most of the people tried for witchcraft were adult people as it is explained in the theoretical part.

Moreover, in order to prove that she really fits in this profile, it has to be said about her marital status that she got married in 1985 to Elphinstone but he died three years later, and therefore she was widowed. Being a woman, aged and widowed was the perfect profile to be the easiest target to be prosecuted for anything, and in this case, in the Great European Witch-Hunt, for being a witch.

Regarding her social and economic status, as it is clear in the title of this section, McGonagall was a professor in Hogwarts, but when Dumbledore died she took the position of Headmistress. During the saga, nothing is mentioned about her economic status but, as she was a professor, it can be deduced that she did not need more money than she earned as a teacher. Moreover, as her mother was a witch but her father was a muggle, she was half-blood, and depending on the person she met, this placed her in a worse social class or not because she was not pure-blood. To conclude, Professor McGonagall did not fit within the witch stereotype regarding the social or economic status since, although being a woman, she was not poor or depended on charity, neither she was rich and had political or property issues to deal with.

Concerning her personality, although she was a strict teacher, McGonagall was very intelligent, admired and respected. In fact, she is described on *Pottermore* “About us” as follows “The strict but fair Head of Gryffindor house and Transfiguration teacher”. Although McGonagall seemed to be in the second place, she is a very important character in the saga. She provided loyalty and support to both Dumbledore and Harry, but she was also, as it says on “*Pottermore*”, a natural leader when she had to, for example in the Battle of Hogwarts:

“Hogwarts is threatened!” shouted Professor McGonagall. “Man the boundaries, protect us, do your duty to our school!” (Rowling, *The Deathly Hallows*, 491)

In addition, not only can you observe McGonagall's personality through her strict behaviour with students, but you can also see her bravery and strong personality with teachers or people she thinks are not good or impertinent. All this can be appreciated in the following quote:

“I wonder,” said Professor McGonagall in cold fury, turning on Professor Umbridge, “how you expect to gain an idea of my usual teaching methods if you continue to interrupt me? You see, I do not generally permit people to talk when I am talking.”

Professor Umbridge looked as though she had just been slapped in the face. (Rowling, *The order of the Phoenix*, 297)

Furthermore, she was not just a protective and supportive teacher with Harry Potter, as I have mentioned, she was a very loyal person to the Gryffindor House, and therefore to all Gryffindor students. The following quote shows how McGonagall supports Neville:

“Why do you want to continue with Transfiguration, anyway? I’ve never had the impression that you particularly enjoyed it”.

Neville looked miserable and muttered something about “my grandmother wants”.

“Hmph”, snorted Professor McGonagall. “It’s high time your grandmother learned to be proud of the grandson she’s got, rather than the one she thinks she ought to have—particularly after what happened at the Ministry”.

Neville turned very pink and blinked confusedly; Professor McGonagall had never paid him a compliment before. (Rowling, *The Half-Blood Prince*, 145)

In short, Professor McGonagall did not quite fit the personality stereotype, as she was adored by many of the students and many other people in the magical community. However, she only obeyed orders from Dumbledore so it is deduced that she never followed orders from other people, in fact, rebellion and not submitting to the orders of others was one of the main causes why witches were prosecuted during the Great Witch Hunt of Europe.

2.2.3 Professor Severus Snape

Professor Severus Snape was born on 9th January, 1960 and died on 2nd May, 1998. Severus was a man who appeared in the saga as an adult so it can be inferred that he did not fit within the gender stereotype, but he did within the age one. Nevertheless, he appears as a teenager in some flashbacks in the book *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Concerning his marital status, it is not known until, practically, the end of the saga that Severus Snape had always been in love with Lili Evans, Harry Potter’s mother, since the day he met her and that he never stopped loving her.

“I have spied for you and lied for you, put myself in mortal danger for you. Everything was supposed to be to keep Lily Potter’s son safe. Now you tell me you have been raising him like a pig for slaughter—”

“But this is touching, Severus,” said Dumbledore seriously. “Have you grown to care for the boy, after all?”

(...)

“After all this time?”

“Always,” said Snape. (Rowling, *The Deathly Hallows*, 561)

First of all, during the saga, there is nothing mentioned about the economic position of Severus Snape, so we can draw the inference that Snape was not in need of money or that he did not belong to the lower classes. Secondly, and in relation to his social status, it is interesting that Severus, in a timeframe before the one in which the book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* is placed, was a Death Eater and therefore, follower of Lord Voldemort. This is captivating because Snape being a Death Eater made him hated by many people, and especially by Harry Potter, as he thought that he was a traitor, when he truly was the one who tried to protect him above all. Despite all this, he does not fit within this stereotype since he is not a vulnerable person because of his economic position as he is not poor. In addition, although he is hated by some students and teachers at some point of the story, this does not make him to fit within the stereotype.

Concerning his personality, it can be seen in some flashbacks during the saga that Severus Snape was a very shy person who was bullied by some colleagues, such as James Potter (Harry’s father). Curiously, Snape was in love with Harry’s mother, James’s girlfriend, which made him hate him even more. All this made Snape become a cold, bitter, cruel and vindictive person, mostly when, in a way, he attacked Harry Potter for no reason, as can be observed in the following quote:

“What’s that you’ve got there, Potter?”

It was Quidditch Through the Ages. Harry showed him.

“Library books are not to be taken outside the school,” said Snape. “Give it to me. Five points from Gryffindor.”

“He’s just made that rule up,” Harry muttered angrily as Snape limped away. “Wonder what’s wrong with his leg?”

“Dunno, but I hope it’s really hurting him,” said Ron bitterly. (Rowling, *The Philosopher’s Stone*, 195)

Something quite important to emphasize is the loyalty and trust that Dumbledore and Snape have between them. The trust reached such a point that Dumbledore, knowing that he would die from a curse and because of the state of weakness he had at the time, asked Snape to kill him and so Draco Malfoy, who was destined (for different reasons) to kill him in the name of Lord Voldemort, would not stain his hands with blood. Having said all this, Snape was a very loyal person but not everyone knew it. In this way, he could in some way fit in some way within the witch stereotype of the personality of the witch as he was a solitary person, who made the life of Harry Potter more difficult, although at the end of the saga it can be seen that he truly is a good person.

2.2.4 Tom Marvolo Riddle (Lord Voldemort)

Tom Marvolo Riddle, best known as Lord Voldemort, was born on 31st December 1926 and he went for the first time to Hogwarts in 1938. He does not fit within the main stereotype of the witch since he is a boy but he does fit regarding the age, as during the saga he appears as an adult. Anyway, in the saga, there are some flashbacks of Dumbledore remembering when he met Tom Riddle in which he appears as a child.

Concerning his marital status, there is one very important fact that is constantly repeated during the saga: he is not able to love. Tom Riddle considers love one thing that makes you weaker and that could make you fail facing anything. Having said that, it is obvious that this character never had any girlfriends or ever got married (there is no mention of it in the books), so his civil status is that of a single man. However, being single as a man is not something that made them an objective during the Great European Witch-Hunt. Nevertheless, there is evidence in the book *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* that Lord Voldemort had a daughter with Bellatrix Lestrange (Death Eater) but this book is not analysed in this project.

Moreover, in reference to his social and economic status it is important to mention where does he come from. First of all, his mother (Merope Riddle) was a witch while his father (Tom Riddle) was a Muggle who was bewitched by his mother with a love potion so that he would fall in love with her and consent to having relations with her. After some time,

Merope stopped giving him love potions hoping he would really be in love with her. On the contrary, as soon as the effects disappeared, Tom abandoned both Merope and his son. Tom Riddle ended into an orphanage (Wool's Orphanage) where his mother died days after giving birth. Therefore, although his father came from a wealthy family, he did not inherit anything from him.

“You see?” he whispered. “It was a name I was already using at Hogwarts, to my most intimate friends only, of course. You think I was going to use my filthy Muggle father's name forever? I, in whose veins runs the blood of Salazar Slytherin himself, through my mother's side? I, keep the name of a foul, common Muggle, who abandoned me even before I was born, just because he found out his wife was a witch? No, Harry—I fashioned myself a new name, a name I knew wizards everywhere would one day fear to speak, when I had become the greatest sorcerer in the world!” (Rowling, *The Chamber of Secrets*, 331)

As can be assumed from the data previously given, Tom Riddle was a Half-Blood since, as I mentioned earlier, his father was a Muggle. Tom Marvolo Riddle is described on *Pottermore* as “Formerly known as Tom Marvolo Riddle and commonly referred to as “He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named”. The most powerful Dark Wizard of all time”. He was known for his reputation as the most powerful and most feared magician of all time, he killed Harry Potter's parents and so many more people who stood in his way. Although he was “half-blood”, his first attacks were at Hogwarts when he opened the Salazar Slytherin's Chamber of Secrets where there was the Serpent of Slytherin, so she (as this serpent was a female basilisk) could attack Muggle-Born students. In conclusion, this character could fit within the stereotype of a poor person who begs for charity. Although he never begged, he was an orphan child whose mother (a witch) had have recently died and whose father did not want to know anything about him. Later on, when he was at Hogwarts, he caused problems to other children as he threatened them or frightened them.

Tom Riddle or Lord Voldemort perfectly fits within the witch stereotype regarding his personality as he was practically a rebel and a person who almost everyone tried to avoid or none wanted as a neighbour. Lord Voldemort earned the hatred of most of the magical community, for several reasons. First of all, as a child, he tried to kill some muggle-born students by opening the Chamber of Secrets, which was created by Salazar Slytherin. In addition, as the years went by, he became more evil and killed more and more people. He was obsessed with the power that along with his anti-social behaviour he had since childhood, triggered his desire to be immortal. In this way, he found the Horrocruxes,

which are defined in the following way on *Pottermore* “Objects used by Voldemort to conceal parts of his soul and tether him to life. They can only be created after committing murder”. As he divided his soul into seven parts, he had to end seven lives. Secondly, it is very clear through the books that Voldemort thought love was a weakness, he did not have any kind of feeling for anyone, even neither for his own followers. All in all, Voldemort was a solitary and narcissist person, obsessed with pure-blood lineages and who did not mind about anything just himself, because he did not trust on anyone. As I have stated at the very beginning of this paragraph, Lord Voldemort did fit within the main stereotype of the personality of the witch.

3 CONCLUSIONS

After having analysed these eight characters by comparing their role and way of being in the books with the stereotype of the witch during the Great European Witch-Hunt, we can come to the conclusion that all of them, in one way or another, fit the stereotype.

First of all, taking into account that most people tried for witchcraft were women (over 80%), we suppose that the female characters would have more characteristics in common to those witches of the Great European Witch-Hunt than male characters. The pieces of evidence in this assignment have shown that Hermione and Minerva McGonagall (female characters) fit the stereotype almost to perfection. Both females are intelligent and independent women, with an overwhelming personality and that, in one way or another, impose a respect on those around them. Besides their personalities, McGonagall appears in the saga as a widow and adult, which added to the fact of being a woman, increased the possibilities of being tried during the Great European Witch-Hunt. Regarding Hermione, she is not an adult but she is kind of bullied by Draco Malfoy because of her social status (blood status in Harry Potter books), which also was a trigger when accusing someone of being a witch in that period.

On the other hand, concerning male characters (who belonged to the low percentage of those accused of witchcraft), the one that fits the witch stereotype the most is Tom Riddle, who, in regard to his personality, is cruel, mean, vindictive, egocentric and makes life impossible for others. However, it should be noted that Voldemort fits the current and cultural "contaminated" stereotype of what a witch is: the typical ugly, bad witch with a wart on her nose, a hat, a broom and solitary. It can be deduced that Voldemort also fits into the social context of the historical witch whom neighbours avoided because of their reputation. In this case, Voldemort was avoided by the magic community because he was a cruel being who killed those who were not on his side.

Regarding the new generation, although Harry, Ron and Draco also fit the standard to a certain point, they are less compatible than Hermione with the characteristics examined according to the stereotype of the great European Witch-Hunt. The same happens with the old generation, as Albus Dumbledore and Severus Snape also fit the stereotype although to a lesser extent than Minerva McGonagall and Tom Riddle.

All in all, the characters of Hermione, Minerva McGonagall and Tom Riddle are the ones who fit the witch stereotype best concerning the features of the Great European Witch-Hunt. In addition, it is important to keep in mind that this saga is based on a fictional world in which there can be historical characteristics but also fictional ones, as happens with Tom Riddle.

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