

Darna and Valentina: Republic Era's Strong Women in Comics

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Abstract: In the world of literature, superheroes are viewed as role models for the readers to do something good in everyday situations. In the Philippines, one superhero remains iconic even years after it was first published, and that is Darna. This study investigates the influence of Mars Ravelo's Darna in the Philippine literature, and how it represents the strong women during the republic era in comic books. As such, this research uses the characters, symbols, and scenarios present in the comic book to show the republic era's strong women in comics. This study uses discourse analysis method for qualitative data gathering. The data gathered are scrutinized with the use of Mary Wollstonecraft's Liberal Feminism theory, and Aldous Huxley's Visual communication theory, supported with Carl Jung's Archetypal theory. The findings of the study implies that Mars Ravelo's Darna exposes the representation of strong Filipina women during the Republic era.

Keywords: darna, Mars Ravelo, strong women, republic era, valentina.

1. Introduction

During the Republic era, there is not much female representation in comic books, both internationally and locally. In comic books, customers are bombarded by life-size posters of popular comic book characters in stores and at comic gatherings. Superman, Batman, and Iron Man are examples of masculine superheroes (Marker, 2017). In the mainstream media, such as films and comic books, women are often portrayed as a damsel in distress, a character that needed the help of a prince. Characters like Aurora in Charles Perrault's Sleeping beauty, and Snow White in The Grimm's Snow White are some examples of characters of how women are being portrayed in the world of literature. In the Philippines, women are portrayed as soft, and mildly mannered such as Maria Clara in Dr. Jose Rizal's El Filibusterismo. However, after World War II, Mars Ravelo created a character that later changed the views of many in the idea of making women as the main characters in a comic book. Mars Ravelo is a Filipino cartoonist and writer, who originally created the superheroine, Varga. Varga debuted on July 23, 1947, in Bulaklak Magazine, Vol. 4, No. 17. According to a website, Ravelo and some magazine editors in the company got into some kind of argument, which later resulted in Ravelo transferring to Pilipino Komiks where he later rebranded Varga and renamed her Darna (Alchetron).

Darna is the superhero identity of the host body, Narda. Originally, Narda once witnessed a shooting star and followed where it landed. Narda then found a white pebble with encryption. Narda's friends start calling and searching for her. She places the stone in her mouth out of concern that it would be taken away from her. Whenever Narda shouts the encrypted word in the stone, which is Darna, she transforms into a warrior woman namely Darna. The opportunity presented by Darna is ideal for introducing and describing the standardized components and iconographies that make up the Filipino superhero genre (Brillon, 2021). The Gorgon Valentina, and Darna's sworn enemy, is also considered as an icon in the Filipino superhero genre. According to Brillon, Filipinos might identify with Valentina because of her tragic tale of being mistreated and rejected, which drove her to torment others. With Jane De Leon taking the mantle of the famed superhero in the latest teleserye, Darna still continues to grace the Filipino viewers ever since she landed in Pilipino Komiks in the year 1950. This study mainly focuses on how the characters Darna and Valentina contribute to representing strong women during the Republic era (Brillon, 2021).

This study investigates how Darna and Valentina contribute to represent Republic Era's strong Filipino women in the selected comic issues of Mars Ravelo's Darna. Specifically, it looks into the characters, symbols, and plot.

This study is supported by Liberal Feminism Theory by Mary Wollstonecraft and Aldous Huxley's Visual Communication Theory anchored by Archetypal Theory of Carl Jung as the sub-theory.

Liberal Feminism Theory is the first theory being utilizes. It is an approach to achieving gender equality that emphasizes the power of an individual to change discriminatory practices against women (Liberal Feminism: Definition & Theory - Video & Lesson Transcript, 2021). It means that this theory places a strong emphasis on women's capacity to uphold their equality by independent decision making and deeds. Liberal feminists argue the false belief of society that women are inherently less intelligent and physically capable than males. Such erroneous assumptions fuel prejudice against women in all fields (Liberal Feminism Primarily Focuses on Women's Ability, n.d.). Moreover, Liberal Feminism Theory asserts that men's superior status and segregation from women are the

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causes of women's inferior standing in society. To add, the goal of liberal feminism is for people to use their own skills and the democratic process to promote gender equality in the workplace, society, and the law.

Liberal feminism is a theory and body of work that focuses more on topics like political rights, educational equity, and employment equality. Liberal feminism also emphasizes how one's personal life affects or advances equality in society. The main objective of this theory is to achieve gender equality in the public domain, including better working conditions, equal access to education, and wage equity. In addition, Private sphere concerns are important primarily because of how they affect or hinder equality in the public realm. Accessing traditionally male-dominated occupations and receiving equal treatment in terms of pay and promotion is a crucial objective (Lewis, 2019). In this study, Mary Wollstonecraft's Liberal Feminism Theory is utilized to analyze how the characters represent the strong Filipino women in the Republic Era.

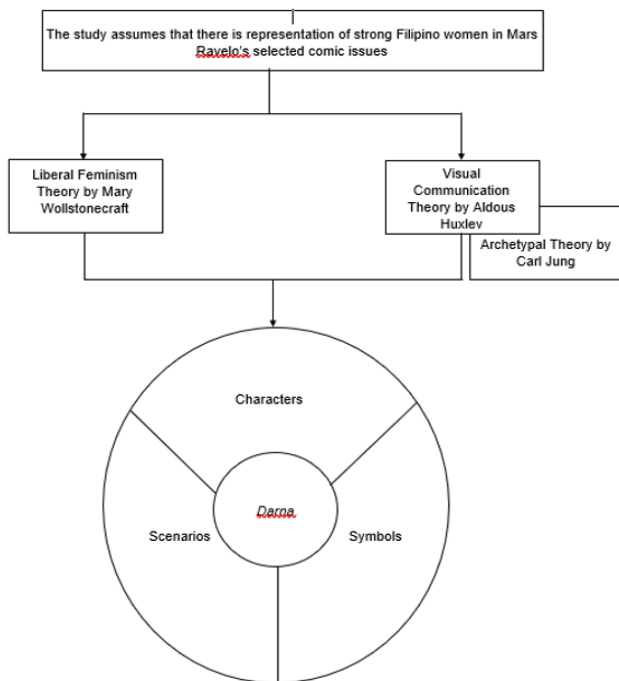


Fig. 1. Schematic presentation of the theoretical background of the study

Furthermore, the second theory is visual communication theory, as studied by Aldous Huxley, states that ideas and information can be conveyed through the use of visual elements such as drawings, graphics, illustrations, and etc. Comic books always contain drawings from cartoonists, in this case, Nestor Redondo illustrated Darna (Visual Communication Theories| a Journey Within, 2012).

Huxley's method consists of three stages for achieving clear visual communication. These are the stages of sensing, selecting, and perceiving. By combining these stages, we can achieve a perfect visual communication vision. After experiencing the world through your five senses, you choose a specific aspect of it to focus on and analyze. You are now making sense of that choice as you reflect on what you are experiencing. According to Huxley, you must actively work to

understand the meaning of what you see at every moment of sensing and selecting. Then you start to notice things. This requires concentration and a great deal of observation to determine the meaning of what you perceive. Furthermore, perceiving is what allows an individual to apply what people already know about the world to new situations or events, allowing an individual to analyze and think critically about what a person see. This procedure will assist people in better understanding any situation that arises. Huxley's stages of sensing, selecting, and perceiving can help people see the world more clearly, providing them with a much broader perspective on what the world has to offer (The Art of Visual Communication, Visual Communication with Alison, 2016).

In this study, the Visual Communication Theory by Aldous Huxley is utilized to analyze the symbols and scenarios of Darna and Valentina, and how the characters represent the strong Filipino women in the Republic Era. To add, archetypal theory was used to further scrutinized the comic's symbols. Archetypes are the unknowable basic forms personified or concretized in recurring images, symbols or patterns which may include motifs such as the quest or the heavenly ascent, recognizable character types such as the tricksters or the hero. Moreover, archetypal criticism argues that archetypes determine the form and function of literary works, that a text's meaning is shaped by cultural and psychological myths. In the comic's the prevalent symbols are found in Darna's costume in images of her star bikini and golden winged helmet, that connotes power that will fight injustices. On the other hand, Valentina's power that comes from her snake hair has a symbolic power of an evil in terms of how it was usually served as the animal who works against the good.

2. Literature Review

The following readings relate and support the main problem and sub-problem of the study.

According to the article of Sebroach, in comics the characters are simplified, but distinguishable from one another; this is exactly what they need to be. The appearance of the character in a comic book is one of the most obvious and important things an artist can do to convey the tone of the story (The Importance of Character Design – The Graphic Novel, 2015).

In a blog titled Scott McCloud: Revealing the True Purposes and Effects of the Misunderstood Comic Genre, cartoons enable universal identification and are a "little piece of" their readers. Cartoons communicate with readers by adhering to the philosophy of "amplification through simplification." Cartoons should not be interpreted as omitting details, but rather as focusing on particular details. As mentioned and stated by McCloud "it is through stripping down an image to its core meaning that an artist can amplify that meaning in a way that realistic art can't." In that manner, comics readers play a significant effect in how comics are perceived (Ericks, 2011).

According to Sebastian Domsch that cited by De Gruyter in a published document Halftone Reality: Icon and Symbol in Graphic Narrative, the best comics derive much of their meaning; making power from the abstraction of visual signs and the foregrounding of their nature as created signs, loading them

with symbolic content. This symbolic content is incorporated into the narrative's overall symbolism. Simultaneously, comics incorporate the most symbolic sign system available, written language, into iconic storytelling.

In an online website called The Darna Wiki, Darna is always associated with her iconic red bra with stars on each cup which symbolizes the Philippine flag, a red-winged helmet, a golden bracelet, a golden medallion belt with a cloth, which symbolizes the traditional clothing of the ethnic people in the Philippines, and the iconic white stone, that is inspired from the Filipino's idea of *agimat*. On the other hand, Valentina is always associated with the girl with snakes as her hair. She is based on the Greek mythology monster, Medusa, and is wearing Greek-styled outfits.

According to an article titled *Scenarios, User Stories and Use Cases... Oh My!*, scenarios are narratives that depict the objectives, drivers, and responsibilities of a character in a specific situation. A scenario will feature images of the protagonist, the setting, and any other relevant details. To make the persona come to life, scenarios are employed, allowing designers to simulate design decisions. Scenarios in comic books are unique since they are incorporated with drawn images. This helps in emphasizing the scenes, in this case, Darna and Valentina's fight scene in the comic book (Iaboni, 2013).

Furthermore, a research study titled *The Heroine Concept in a Filipino Graphic Narrative* aims to explore the concept of "Heroine" in the context of the Filipino graphic narrative of Mars Ravelo's work, Darna. The realities of experience and innuendos pertaining to the real character of Darna, the superheroine, are extracted from the 27 episodes of Darna. Moreover, this study looks beyond the lexical meaning of heroine to a deeper meaning. As a result, the researcher defined "HEROINE" as "Humaneness and Equanimity in Reimagining Optimistic, Iconic, Novel, and Empowered" persona, which resulted in the findings that Darna has definitely attained her apotheosis as a superheroine. Without the researcher's emphasis on close reading, Expressive Realism, and "Argustic" reading, these findings would not have been perceived. To enjoy reading a graphic narrative that is both visual and verbal, keen eyes are necessary. The study showed that Darna is the most accepted, loved, and idolized Filipino icon in Philippine Society as a savior of a devastated and crippled society after World War II. Finally, it is aimed that this humble analysis will be accepted into the body of Pop Literature and the Humanities (Arroyo, 2021).

According to Cherish Aileen A. Brillon in her study about *Darna Movies in the Time of Martial Law: National Trauma and Historical Memory*, even though superhero stories were once viewed solely as vehicles for entertainment and profit, modern research perceives them as metaphors for understanding social and political issues. In this article, trauma and memory are utilized as frameworks to analyze the two films from the 1970s that featured the female superhero, Darna. The selected movies give insights not only on how their production was influenced by the martial law rhetoric but as well as how they contributed to discussions of trauma in local films. The

alternate interpretation of the Darna texts, presented in this article, places them within a larger historical context, both actual and imagined (Brillon, 2019).

3. Methodology

This study utilizes qualitative research, specifically discourse analysis. Qualitative research is used to accentuate the qualities of a strong woman that contradicts the norm of being a Filipina in the Republic Era. Understanding the visual context of the comics, and its sole focus is on the qualities that describe the role of women. And by then, the characters' being representation of Filipino women in the Republic Era recognize. Discourse analysis is a research method used to analyze the sub-problems of the study in formulating new ideas about the comics' characters. By the use of this method, the research problems are thoroughly investigated to obtain the study's objectives and purpose.

The primary data source is Mars Ravelo's Darna, which was published on May 13, 1950, under Pilipino Komiks, inspected and digitized by Comicbookplus, with 39 pages, and published to Comicbookplus.com on the 14th of June, 2016.

The secondary source of data is taken from electronic sources including articles about Darna, published studies, journals, dissertations, and theses on the representation of Filipino women.

This chapter presents the research method used to achieve the objectives of the study; it follows three phases. Phase 1 Characters, Phase 2 Symbols, and Phase 3 Scenarios.

A. Phase 1. Character

Phase 1 focuses on the analysis of the characters in the comics Darna. The characters are analyzed through Liberal Feminism Theory. This phase scrutinizes the attributes of the characters that determine the representation of strong Filipino women in the Republic Era. Moreover, scrutinizing the attributes helps to understand the characters further and depict the female representation present in Darna. Also, this phase utilized a table titled Character Analysis.

B. Phase 2. Symbols

Phase 2 discusses the analysis of symbols. The symbols present in the comics will be analyzed through Visual Communication Theory and Archetypal Theory as sub-theory in order to examine the composition of the comics, which evokes a representation of strong Filipino women. Defining the symbols used in the comics by scrutinizing the composition helps to further understand the representation present in Mars Ravelo's Darna and composition is utilized to explain the meaning of the symbols present in the comics. Moreover, the Symbol Analysis table is used in this phase.

C. Phase 3. Scenario Analysis

Phase 3 tackles the analysis of the comic's scenario. The scenario is analyzed through Visual Communication Theory. Also, it scrutinizes the extracted composition to further help the study in obtaining the representation of strong Filipino women during the Republic Period. Utilization of the composition's

information and characters' thoughts are the key points in visualizing scenarios. Here a table is used titled Scenario Analysis.

4. Results and Discussion

A. Characters

Table 1 presents each character's representation of strong Filipino women.

Table 1
Character analysis

Characters	Attribute	Representation of Strong Filipino Women
Darna	Strong	Policewoman
	Full of Integrity	Lawyer
	Brave	Doctor
	Empowered	Teacher
	Committed	Politician
Valentina	Independent	Businesswomen
	Fierce	Lawyer
	Fearless	Policewomen

The table shows that the characters possess different characteristics, but both have the same strong personality that somehow breaks the stereotypes of women being described as modest and feminine like Maria Clara.

Darna is a renowned Filipina superheroine that Mars Ravelo created. According to Manila Times as cited in a website called writersup.org, "Darna is a cultural icon born at a time when the Philippines was struggling to recover from the devastation of World War II; she serves as a salve to a country looking for a champion" (Fuqua). With that being said, the character of Darna represents great cultural significance to the people during the Republic period as she is an embodiment of Filipino traits of empathy and compassion.

In the comics, Darna shows a great character that stands by her beliefs and responsibilities. It shows that she is not only a woman who possesses great flight and superpowers, but she also possesses the qualities of a strong, full of integrity, brave, empowered, and committed woman. It can be read in the comics that Darna encountered and fought many enemies. She fought the enemies with bravery and fear cannot be seen on her face. Darna bravely faces the enemies and thinking the safety of the people. With the great attributes, Darna possesses, it shows the representation of a policewoman, lawyer, and woman politician that bravely faces the problem of society despite the threats and enemies that anytime will attack them. They possess a strong moral character and have the ability to respond quickly and effectively to any circumstances and problems the society is dealing with. Back in time where there are three successive American governors-general endorsed woman suffrage in the Philippine legislative assembly, which was a major factor in the push for woman suffrage, though such high-level endorsements were no guarantee of easy success (Casambre & Rood, 2012). However, according to a website called JICA, Filipino women were allowed to vote and run for office, as early as 1937, to be elected. Furthermore, a woman was elected to Parliament as early as 1941 - the first in the region (Gender Profile for the Philippines, n.d.). It simply shows that women are strong and

brave enough to fight for their rights despite the stereotypes and discrimination during the Republic period. To add, it cannot be denied that many people were enraged during this time by the ongoing repression and injustice that sparked revolt and protest among many people. Despite the important role that women play in society, the majority of land titles held by landowning households are in the name of their husbands. This could be explained by the patriarchal system in the Philippines, where men are traditionally thought to be the primary breadwinners while women are in charge of childbearing. Women in the Philippines remain strongly bound to their traditional roles as mothers, wives, and housekeepers (Gender Profile for the Philippines, n.d.).

Women were stereotyped as meek, timid, and subservient during this time. In fact, within the patriarchal social structure, these "feminine" characteristics were idealized (Philippine Women in UM Archives · The Philippines and the University of Michigan, 1870- 1935 · Philippines, n.d.). However, the role of women is not just being the "ilaw ng tahanan" because women are capable to do things and can do what men can also do. With that being said, women can be a politician and a teacher as a representation of the attributes of Darna being empowered and committed. Being a teacher is a noble work that influence, empower, and instill students into a great lesson. A teacher is a role model of society because without teachers there will be no professionals succeeding in their respective fields. In addition, being a politician requires the qualities of a good leader and is committed to serving the people for the betterment of society. Just like the character of Darna, teachers and politicians use their influence to cause people to listen and subtly influence their decision in a good way. Therefore, the character of Darna is an example of a strong, full of integrity, brave, empowered, and committed woman that does not tolerate injustices (Fuqua).

On the other hand, Valentina, the enemy of Darna, possesses the attribute of being independent, fierce, and fearless. The character of Valentina is normally depicted as a woman who always seeks revenge. However, the character of Valentina does not only show being a bitter woman, but she is an independent, fierce, and fearless who also seeks freedom and want to find her true identity. The attributes of Valentina are the representation of a businesswoman, lawyer, and policewoman. Being a businesswoman requires a courage that need to muster, take risk to venture a business, and make it flourish. Entering into the business world means you need to be independent and brave to face the challenges along the way. Just like the character of Valentina, she is an independent woman who risk and muster her courage to face the world and seek freedom for the world to accept her true identity. In addition, being a lawyer is not for weak-hearted. It has the qualities to be fierce in fighting for the rights and injustices and being a policewoman is described as fearless as they show no fear in fighting the bad people and putting the people who abuse their power behind the bars.

Darna is an example of someone seeking to defend the weak and whose values can seem somewhat naïve at times; particularly in the face of the corruption the Philippines' legal system. While Valentina, is an example of someone who seeks

freedom and muster the courage to go out from the world she lives in to face the world with her true identity. Therefore, policewomen, lawyer, politician, teacher, doctor, and businesswomen are the representation of strong Filipino women found in scrutinizing the attributes of the characters.

B. Symbols

Table 2 presents the symbols used in Mars Ravelo's Darna and its representation of strong Filipino women in the Republic era.

Darna is created by Mars Ravelo as a symbol of hope during the republic era. In the comic books, Darna represented strong Filipino women by breaking gender stereotypes in the world of superheroes.

The superheroine wears a brassiere cup with star symbols, as it represents the stars in the Philippine flag.

Darna may have shocked the country, as the Philippines is a conservative country. Mars Ravelo mainly made Darna as a representation of strong Filipino women in the republic era, as there are not enough female superheroines in the comic book market that young women can look up to.

Darna also wears a red bikini with a belt made up of gold medallions, and a loincloth in the middle as part of the costume.

In addition to the superheroine's upper costume, Darna also wears a belt made up of golden medallion and a loincloth in the middle part. The loin part of the belt represents the traditional wear of the ethnic groups, which is called bahag. Traditionally worn by males, Darna made history by wearing it as part of her costume which makes the character more iconic. Bahag is a traditional clothing by the Ifugao's, a group of ethnic people in the Philippines, and it is said that the more colorful it is, the higher the rank of the person wearing it in the community.

Darna protects herself with her bracelet and a winged helmet.

As a superheroine, costumes that are functional and useful during battles are not new. In Darna's case, she wears a golden

bangle which she uses as her protection from bullets or even from weapons like swords and knives. Darna also protects her head with a red helmet with a golden-winged emblem in the middle. The emblem symbolizes the Agila, an eagle commonly found in the Philippines, and was eventually proclaimed as the national bird of the Philippines in 1995. The middle of the emblem is also adorned with a gemstone, which symbolizes the stone Narda swallows to transform as Darna. In Philippine folklore, the white stone that Narda swallows symbolizes the Philippine tradition in giving purehearted people Agimat, an amulet that grants its holder powers to fight villains (Wikipedia).

With these representations, Darna has contributed to introducing strong and empowered women in the country during an era where women were considered as lesser than men. Representation of strong Filipina women such as police and military women, models and celebrities, politicians and female leaders, lawyers and teacher, women activists and athletes, are being presented during a time of feminine oppression.

C. Scenario

Table 3 presents the extracted composition taken from the scenarios of the comics that show the representation of strong Filipino women.

This volume of the comic emphasizes the importance of proper utilization of effects and graphics in presenting the story. Dialogues may not be essential in understanding the whole point as long as the artist properly arranged the flow of ideas through pictures. According to Lauren Ericks' blog titled Scott McCloud: Revealing the True Purposes and Effects of the Misunderstood Comic Genre, cartoons enable universal identification and are a "little piece of " their readers. Cartoons communicate with readers by adhering to "amplification through simplification." Cartoons should not be interpreted as omitting details, but rather as focusing on particular details. It does not need too many graphics and effects for the readers to

Table 2
Symbols analysis

Symbols	Composition	Archetypal meaning	Representation of Filipino Strong Women
Darna's Costume	Darna appears to wear armor made up of a brassiere cup with a star symbol.	Power, patriotism	Police and Military women
	She also wears a red bikini with a belt made up of gold medallions and a loincloth in the middle	Femininity, power	Models, Celebrities
	She protects herself with her bracelet and a winged helmet which makes her look more like a warrior.	Bravery, Fearlessness	Politicians and female leaders
Valentina	Valentina's hair, which is made up of snakes, represents her power.	Authority, cunning	Women lawyers, teachers
	Valentina can command the snakes and do what she wants to do with her enemies.	Power, superiority	Women activists, women athletes

Table 3
Scenario analysis

Scenario	Composition	Representation of Strong Filipino Women
Darna is looking for Ding in the forest to protect him against the enemy. And that is when Valentina spotted her through the magical water.	Darna has been running around the forest until Valentina notices her.	Female Police Officer, Female Action Star
Valentina confronts Darna and Darna informs her that her true intention is to make Valentina surrender and pay for what she did to her town's people.	Confrontation of the two characters and both of them have an intense will to win against one another.	Business women, Models
Valentina and Darna fighting against each other.	Valentina's group of snakes attacks Darna	Public Servants, Lady Law Makers
Darna defeated Valentina	When Darna and Ding are on their way home, people are thanking them.	Women Government Leaders, Woman Philanthropist

be able to understand the comics, it is how an artist can effectively convey the message in a very concise and straight-to-the-point manner. In the same manner in the comic it shows the first scene where Darna is looking for Ding in the forest, the presentation is that the whole panel shows the visualization of the forest and Darna running. With that, it simply utilizes the amplification of the idea rather than showing off extra details. This is the representation of a policewoman that will not give up on finding ways to stop injustices and protect civilians.

In the comics, one of the scenarios is that Darna is looking for Ding in the forest to protect him against the enemy. And that is when Valentina spotted her through the magical water. It is shown in the comics that Darna has been running around the forest until Valentina notices her. This scenario is a representation of the First Female third-level official in the

Philippine National Police. Here in the Philippines, the First Female third-level official in the Philippine National Police only proves that women also are great investigators and capable of doing a job that the general mass conceives as masculine work (Yap, 2012). Being the First Female third-level official is a representation of a strong woman that can be found in the first scene. She became the first female police officer to have a position of a police major which is considered a high-rank official that breaks the gender role bias in this field of work. It also shows how an action star actress paved the way in cinema as one of representation of a strong Filipino woman, acting is one of the skills that you can imprint some of your insights and advocacy in making a masterpiece artwork. And there is a Filipina actress who is known for her feminist role in the film industry. Won a FAMAS award as the best actress (Prabook). Valentina also masters her crafts in communicating and being one of the venomous snakes in order to start her vengeful thoughts. Darna uses her superpowers in protecting those who are dear to her and save people in danger.

On the other hand, in the comics, there is another scene wherein Valentina confronts Darna, Darna informs her that her true intention is to make Valentina surrender and pay for what she did to her town's people. It is shown that there is an intense tension between the two during the confrontation. Thus, this scenario presents another representation of a strong Filipino woman who is a businesswoman and a model (BusinessMirror). Being a businesswoman, one should be bold enough to make decisions and sees challenges as opportunities to learn (Wahm). Darna and Valentina are also strategic in making moves as they know every decision, they make will put their people at risk. Being strategic is one of the characteristics of a successful businesswoman, thinking before acting it out.

Another scenario in the comics is that Darna and Valentina are fighting. It is illustrated that Valentina's group of snakes attacks Darna. This scenario is a representation of a Public Law Servant. In the Philippines, Public Law Servant is competitive in a way they will boast all of their achievements in times of election that way people will be enticed to vote for them. Public servants also represent a person that wants change and they are the ones who take the lead and make the first move (Tort, 2022). Just like Darna who wanted to have peace and fight injustices, she made the first move in fighting against villains. Valentina

on the other hand wanted to get revenge on people that treated her strangely and that are why she would do bad things to people in general, acting it out to reach her goal.

The scenario that is the most interesting of all is when Valentina is defeated by Darna. The moment Valentina is defeated, Darna and Ding can be seen on their way home and people are thanking them. This is a representation of a Government Leader. In the Philippines, when a Government Leader has done something that is good for the public, then the people are thanking them, praising them. One of the first lady government leaders that fought for democracy (Sanchez, 2021). A leader that will do things for the sake of its people will surely be rewarded with praises and gratitude by those they have helped.

Lastly, a philanthropist who has a heart in lending a hand to those in need is one of a motherly act, and there is one personality that was known for her act of service and sharing to others (Business World). Just as Valentina wanted others to treat her with kindness despite being different, the snakes kept her company that is why she treasures them. And Darna being thankful of the superpowers that she has wanted to give back to people by serving them with what she has, which are the skills and capabilities to fight against villains.

Thus, female police officer, female action star, businesswomen, models, public servants, lady law makers, women government leaders, and woman philanthropist are found as the representation of strong Filipino women during Republic period.

5. Conclusion

The comics of Mars Ravelo, Darna, is considered as a cultural icon that represents great cultural significance to the people during Republic period as she is an embodiment of Filipino traits of empathy and compassion. During Republic period, Darna and Valentina became an inspiration or a model of feminist movement. The character of Darna is the representation of strong Filipino women as Darna is not the type who is modest and has a "feminine characteristics. However, in modern times, feminism is not based on superheroes anymore. It is based now on real people so Darna and Valentina is immortalize within the modern women at this time. At this modern time, each woman is already considered as Darna and Valentina in different form – not as a superhero. Although the comics are already old, but until now Darna and Valentina are still present in the person of woman's life like our mothers and teachers because our mothers and teachers can be our hero at the same time became the villain. Therefore, Darna and Valentina are still known as a symbol that represents to describe our mother, teachers, etc.

Statements and Declarations

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