

ABSTRACT

The Takarazuka Revue is a prominent Japanese theatre company known for its unique phenomenon where women play male roles. A key feature of this is the Top Star position, central to the company's Star System—a hierarchical structure that shapes its social dynamics. Analysing this structure through the anime adaptation "Shoujo Kageki Revue Starlight," using critical discourse analysis, provides a fresh perspective on critical issues and inequality in Takarazuka. The study reveals three frequently recurring lexical elements and various metaphors throughout the series. This data allows to interpret the social discourse around the Takarazuka Star System's inequality as portrayed in "Revue Starlight." The anime reflects the ways in which this discourse is presented, contested, and reimagined, highlighting struggles over norms, efforts to assert control, and resistance to the Star System within the theatre context, especially at Takarazuka. "Revue Starlight" successfully demonstrates how language and discourse can shape or perpetuate specific social inequalities and ideologies. It offers a nuanced view of how artistic representations can challenge or reinforce existing power structures, making it a compelling exploration of the intersection between theatre, discourse, and social critique.

Keywords: *Takarazuka Revue, Otokoyaku, Top Star, Revue Starlight*