



Visual Analysis of Sekhmet's Costumes and Attributes in Marvel Comic Book

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to analyze the costume and attributes of Sekhmet's character in one of marvel's comic books titled "The Heroic Age: Prince of Power, where Sekhmet is a female supervillain character that was adapted from Egyptian mythology. In The Heroic Age: Prince of Power, issue 3, Sekhmet is visualized wearing costumes and attributes that match the description and visualization that can be found in ancient Egyptian artifacts. This research used descriptive qualitative with a narrative method and one of Tsukamoto's manga matrix theories, the costume matrix, to analyze further the ornaments and attributes that Sekhmet wore in the comic. This study found that Sekhmet's ornaments and costumes were indeed adapted from Egyptian mythology. However, even with so much similarity, there was an additional costume and attributes that differentiated the visualization of female supervillain Sekhmet and the Egyptian mythology goddess Sekhmet where female supervillain Sekhmet is visualized wearing attributes and costumes specialized for male soldiers, which adds masculinity factor to Sekhmet's female character.

Keywords: Egyptian Mythology; Manga Matrix; Marvel; Sekhmet; Visual Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Egyptian mythology is a collection of Egyptian myths depicting the Gods' activities and policies as a way of knowing the world. Belief in these myths was an essential facet of Ancient Egyptian Religion, especially in stories containing religious material such as hymns, ritual texts, burials, and temple decorations. The myth contains only a brief description. Several prominent goddess figures are worshiped by the ancient people of Egypt, one of which is the goddess Sekhmet. Sekhmet is usually depicted as a woman with the head of a lioness wearing a solar disk wrapped by a uraeus (snake symbol) and a long tripartite wig. (Jackson, 2018).

Marvel Comics or Marvel Worldwide Inc, formerly known as Marvel Publishing Inc and Marvel Comics Group, is a company that produces comics in the United States. It was founded



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in 1939 under the name "Timely Publications" and changed its name to "Atlas Comics" and then changed in 1961 to Marvel Comics, which is currently the largest publisher alongside its competitor, DC Comics (Daniels, 1993). One of Marvel's comic books titled "The Heroic Age: Prince of Power" issue 3 adapted the character of Goddess Hathor-Sekhmet into one of its supervillain characters, Sekhmet. Sekhmet plays the enemy of the character Thor and Amadeus Cho, the protagonist and hero.

Visual elements are one of the most important factors and medium for the author or illustrator to send the desired messages to their audience (Rini, 2018). The background and visualization of Sekhmet's character can be seen as an adaptation from ancient Egyptian mythology, which was found in the artifacts left by ancient Egyptians. The costumes and attributes used by Sekhmet in comics are an example of an adaptation of Egyptian mythology. To further analyze the background and the costumes used by Sekhmet in the comic, Sekhmet's costumes and attributes were analyzed using one of the manga matrix theories, the costume matrix, and its parameter standards. The costume matrix helps analyze the attributes and costumes used by Sekhmet's characters in comics. The costume matrix analyzed the costumes and attributes used by Sekhmet's characters in detail by dividing them into six parameters. These six parameters are Bodywear, covering/footwear, ornaments, makeup, wrap/tie, and carry-on items, where the author dissects Sekhmet's costumes and attributes with standard parameters set in costume matrix theory.

METHOD

The method that was used in this research is descriptive qualitative with a narrative approach, where this method is used to analyze research problems using the collected data that was gathered from interviews and personal communication with certain groups that were involved (Creswell, 2007). Especially the groups that were involved in creating Sekhmet's characters. A character can be analyzed based on the costumes that were used by the character (Yully, 2018). To analyze the visual aspect, researchers use the manga matrix approach. Tsukamoto found the manga matrix method to separate the visual appearance of the characters from the character design approach. The approach breaks the character into parts. The types of the character matrix are form matrix, costume matrix, and personality matrix, this method is a technique for



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designing a character. (Tenma, 2020). In costume matrix (see Figure 1), when the character base has been designed in such a way using a form matrix, the next step is the use of costumes. The character designs that are formed and demonstrated can later use props as if they were using certain objects. Typical costumes from this matrix are clothing, motifs, props such as weapons, attributes, and so on. For the Costume Matrix, Tsukamoto provides parameters to facilitate the creation; the parameters listed are as follows; Bodywear, covering/footwear, ornaments, makeup, wrap/tie, and carry-on items. (Tsukamoto, 2008)

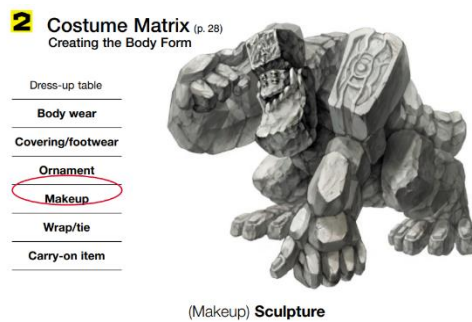


Figure 1 Costume Matrix

Source: Manga Matrix

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION


Sekhmet's Costume matrix analysis results show that Sekhmet has 6 dress-up costume matrix categories. These categories are bodywear or clothing used, covering/footwear or covering and shoes attributes, ornaments or accessories, makeup or makeup which can be interpreted as accents or characteristics that become a unique characteristic that can be added to the character by the creator, wrap/tie or binding attributes such as a belt or tie, and lastly are carry-on items or tools carried or used by the character, in this analysis, it is the weapons used by Sekhmet. The analysis was carried out in table form by including the type of dress-up, visuals of the type of dress-up, and comparison references obtained from the results of personal communication with the character creator Sekhmet and the results of processing the data sources used. To specify the purpose urgency of this research, only body wear and covering will be discussed in this research.



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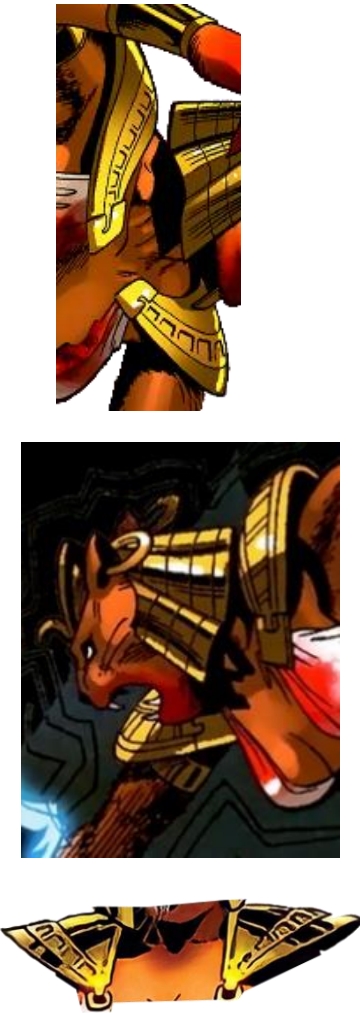




<i>Dress-up table</i>	Visual
Body Wear	
Covering/Footwear	
Ornament	
Makeup	
Wrap/tie	
Carry-on Item	
Total	



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Costume Matrix Dress-up Type Covering/footwear

Dress-up Covering/Footwear Type			
No	Name	Visual	comparison reference
1	The Shoulder Protector uses a Usekh or Wesekh design, a wide collar worn around the neck like a necklace.		   



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<p>2</p>	<p>Hand Shield or hand guards, used by male soldiers or guards to protect themselves during the war, made of wood and iron pinned to the wrist or held</p>		
<p>3</p>	<p>Underbust Leather Cuirass Corset or type of waist girdle for body armour made of leather and straps with iron buttons.</p>		



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4	Flat sandals with a gladiator-style model made of leather and an iron hook		
5	Male soldiers use Greaves or gaiters to protect the legs, especially the shin area. They are made of hard metal and leather with metal hooks.		

Explanation

1) Shoulder Protector

The shoulder armour worn by Sekhmet was a type of accessory that uses the usekh/wesekh design, a wide collar design often made of wrought gold or repousse worn by pharaohs in the



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early 18th Dynasty. The king gave the Wesekh collar as a gift to worthy officials, which then will be worn as a statement of honour. In ancient Egyptian mythology, when this wesekh/usekh collar is used by a God/Goddess, this collar will have the power to protect, just like an amulet. The illustrator who created the character Sekhmet added this collar as one of the accessories used by Sekhmet, which functions as a protector and a symbol of its connection with ancient Egyptian mythology.

2) Hand Shields

Hand Shield or body armour embedded in the wrist area, in ancient Egyptian mythology, was used by male warriors to protect themselves from enemy attacks while in war or when on duty to guard. The hand shield used by Sekhmet is kept minimalist and uses comparative references from ancient Egyptian warrior artefacts. The hand shield used by Sekhmet is made of gold with a smaller size compared to its reference counterpart.

3) Under-bust Leather Cuirass Corset

This body armour corset is used under the chest, made of leather, metal and rubber hooks, and worn by male and female soldiers. The reference used by the illustrator who created the character Sekhmet is the body corset used by warriors in medieval or medieval times. The girdle worn by Sekhmet is a combined design from the references worn by warriors in ancient Egyptian mythology and medieval warriors.

4) Flat Sandals

Flat sandals are a type of open shoe with a flat sole. The reference used is the sandals from the gladiators or Vikings era. This sandal is wrapped with rope sewn to the sandal and attached with an iron hook or tied. The flat sandals Sekhmet wears are the open type and stick tightly to the feet, making it easier for her to move quickly.

5) Greaves

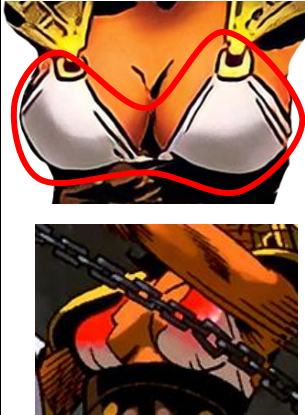
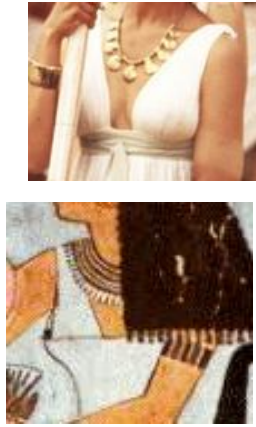
Greaves or gaiters from the comparative reference provided by the illustrator who created the character Sekhmet were gaiters used by male warriors during the medieval Vikings or medieval times. Sekhmet's gaiters were made of gold-coloured iron, which blended in with the flat sandals she wore from the ankles to the knees to protect the leg area.



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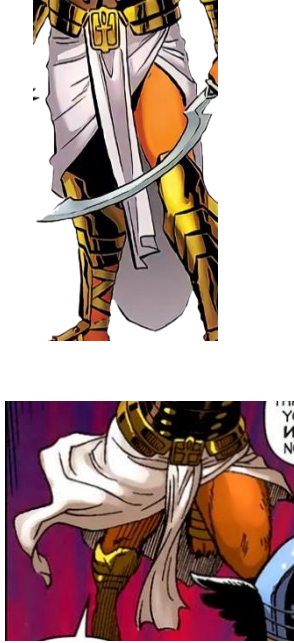

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Costume Matrix Dress-Up Type Bodywear

Tipe <i>Dress-up Bodywear</i>			
No	Nama	Visual	Refrensi pembeding
1	<i>White linen sheath dress</i>		



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2	<i>Schenti</i>		
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Explanation

1) White linen Sheath Dress

White linen Sheath Dress in the modern world is a dress made to fit the body's silhouette, with a seam below the chest. There are various types of sheath dresses, including one with a V-neckline. In ancient Egyptian mythology, it can be seen from the remains of ancient Egyptian artefacts that the Goddesses are often depicted wearing dresses that wrap the body with ties or bandages that reveal the body's silhouette. These dress styles are a type of sheath dress which in ancient Egyptian mythology was often made from decorative beads that had a seam under the chest and were made to follow the shape of the body and a deep neckline. Sekhmet's character is depicted in a sheath dress type made of white linen. In ancient Egyptian mythology, the use of white linen serves to provide a feeling of coolness due to hot weather. The illustrator who created the Sekhmet character uses a combination of the type of sheath dress and white linen material to provide a symbol of her connection with ancient Egyptian mythology and also facilitate her fast and agile movements.



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2) Schanti

Schanti or shenti is a traditional type of clothing worn by males in ancient Egypt. Especially noble Egyptian men or the upper class. Basically, a schenti is a rectangular piece of cloth, which is wrapped around the hips and held in place by tucking one end around a tightly wrapped waistband or by wearing a girded belt. Evidence of the schenti can be seen in the many hieroglyphic artefacts or drawings found in the well-preserved tombs of Egyptian royalty. Sekhmet is depicted with a Schenti on the lower half of her body. The use of this type of clothing, which in mythology is clothing specifically for men, gives Sekhmet a masculine characteristic.

CONCLUSION

The visualization of Sekhmet in one of Marvel comics titled "The Heroic Age: Prince of Power" issue 3 is depicted wearing the attributes of the Schenti clothing, a traditional Egyptian dress specifically for men. In addition, the use of leg and hand protectors, according to comparative references obtained from the results of personal communication with the illustrator who created the character Sekhmet in Marvel comics and literature studies, is an attribute of clothing specifically for male soldiers. This analysis result proves that the character of Sekhmet was adapted from ancient Egyptian mythology, which is strengthened by the attributes and costumes worn by Sekhmet in comics. However, Sekhmet characters depicted as female supervillains also wear clothes meant for men, giving Sekhmet masculine characteristics.

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