Creating Meaning with Mis-En-Scene: An Analysis of Mis-En-Scene in Pisaasu Movie

J. Jovin

M.Sc. Student, Department of Visual Communication, Loyola College, Chennai, India

Abstract: Cinema is a mass medium that inspires experience in the search for ideas and perceptions. The aim of this study is to analyze the staged elements of the Tamil film Pisaasu. In this study, mainly four staged elements are analyzed. The four main elements analyzed are lighting, color, costumes & make-up, settings & props and camera angles & shots. The movie Pisaasu was released in 2014 and is a drama / thriller genre movie. In the movies of director Mysskin, he mainly uses combat sequences with an elaborate storyboard.

Keywords: Horror movies, scene analysis, content analysis.

1. Introduction

Mise-en-scene: Mise-en-Scene is a French term that loosely translates to arranging the scene. The purpose of mise en scene is to basically set up the scene of a shot, and everything from the character's clothing to design of the location to what props are being used are part of the frame arrangement. Mise-en-scene will provide information about the location, time and character without words ever needing to be spoken.

Most of the movies we see usually have many themes. The narrative and themes usually change depending on how the audience sees and interprets the film. Although some movies are intended for entertainment purposes, the audience must also understand the moral of the plot, and there is usually no absolute or false right. There are only times when one thought seems more reasonable than another. In terms of film, the mise-en-scene refers to all the elements of a film that we see in front of the camera and in their layout. The aesthetics and psychology of horror movies explain that "fear" can be a pleasant experience. Also discuss what has led filmmakers, directors, sound engineers, and film crews to deliberately design a scene and develop certain techniques. Every element of the scene makes sense. Anxiety is one of the most basic and important human emotions. Within the film genre, horror films differ widely from each other based on their time period, sub-genre, and regional differences including religious and cultural motifs. This thesis explores all the scenes in the tamil movie "Pisaasu" movie with colors, lighting, costumes & make-up, settings and props and camera angles & shots. The set and its design play a crucial role in the creation of an atmosphere, the interpretation of visual elements and the aesthetic appeal to the scenes.

2. Review of literature

- Analyzing Imatiaz Ali as an Auteur - Amity Journal of Media and Communication studies.
- An application of the auteur theory of filmmaking - Amity Journal of Media and Communication studies.
- Anurag Kashyap Films - A Case Study - Philos Multi-Disciplinary Journal ISSN
- Contemporary Hollywood Crime Film and the New Individualism
- Analysis of Camera Work in Horror Movies - SIGRAD 2016 - Tokyo University of Technology, Japan
- Monstrously Barren: The Horror of the Childless Mother in Peruvian Thriller - El vientre Andrea Meador Smith- Shenandoah University
- TANYA KRZYWINSKA - Hands-On Horror
- Horror Effect Technique Through the Application of 'Film Language' on four selected horror films - University Malaysia Sabah.
- Horror Movie Aesthetics: How color, time, space and sound elicit fear in an audience.
- The Aesthetics and Psychology Behind Horror Films - Long Island University.

3. Objectives

- The objective if this research is to analyze all scenes with five mis-en-scene elements in the tamil movie " Pisaasu ".
- The five mis-en-scene elements are Lighting, colors, costume & make up, setting & props and camera angles & shots.

4. Methodology used

In this research qualitative analysis is done for all the scenes.

1) Lighting

Without good lighting even the best camera in the world cannot capture a perfect image. High key lighting is used to mainly show happiness, beauty etc. And low-key lighting is used to highlight sadness, horror etc.

2) Colors

Color makes the viewers to feel and also expresses the character's journey. Each color has got its own meaning.

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3) Costume & make up

It tells us immediately if the film plays is in present and what society and culture does it will be centered around. There may also be also a clue that it will provide which center around. One of the most useful tools to communicate the thoughts and the journey of a character is the costume and a make-up. Maybe because unlike the locations used, the actor can change mood or endure hours of prosthetic makeup to create a meaning. What the character is wearing and how it is arranged can say a lot about it or little all that is equally important.

B. Setting & props

As with many aspects of setting & props, it often lacks meaning much more than you imagine. In most romantic comedies or action movies the parameters are created or presented to be easily recognizable by the public. They will suit you but they have nothing to really say. Although, in the case of some authors, their directors a particular vision of history can be seen in something as banal as the decor. Setting contains an important visual element of the film all that the spectator sees, which informs time and place are separated from the costume. This aspect of staging plays a very active role. This setting & props play an important role in the film and at regular intervals that is so important throughout the film as the plot, or events.

C. Camera angles & shots

The angle of the camera marks the specific location of the camera is placed to take a shot. A scene can be recorded from multiple camera angles simultaneously. This will give a different experience and sometimes emotions. Including a variety of different camera angles, you can make your images visually more interesting. There are many ways in which you can frame your subject, from viewing the whole body to only their eyes. In general, we can divide this into three main categories they are middle, close up and long shots (also known as wide-angle shots). Long shots (also commonly called Wide shots) show the subject from a distance, emphasizing place and location, while close shots shows the details of the subject and highlight's the emotions of a character. Medium shots fall somewhere in between, putting emphasis on the subject while still shows some of the surrounding.

5. Data Interpretation

A. Lighting - Scene 1

Camera zooming out from a girl eyes filled with tears and a smiling face lying in pool of blood.

Interpretation: High key lighting is used here, which portrays the beauty of the character. A high key look gives you fewer shadows and makes your talent look flawless and elegant. It produces an even amount of light that spreads across an entire scene.

B. Color - Scene 12:

Inside shot of swimming pool where the hero with his wide eyes open is shown and in next shot he lies his head down in

the floor but his body is inside the swimming pool. In next shot a ladder inside the swimming pool is shown.

Interpretation: Sky blue color - The color of water inside the swimming pool matches with the dead girl's dress, which tells us that the hero's thought is filled with that incident.

C. Scene 16

Hero buying beer, by giving the money to the shopkeeper's hand.

Interpretation: Green color is used because green is considered the color of life. It has a calming and harmonizing effect, which conveys us that the hero needs to calm himself.

D. Costume & Make up - Scene 25

The hero climbs the staircase of the flat with a handkerchief in his face, which conveys that he is too confused and feared because of the all the incidents happening around him. And in the staircase he sees the fight between the husband and wife. The angry husband sees the hero and says " go man you don't have anything to do here " and the hero goes near his flat and sees a ball running through the floor. The boy Magesh is playing with the ball but someone else is playing with him since the ball went to the other and returned to Magesh. The hero doubts something abnormal. And Magesh mother call him and says how long are you playing alone and takes into the flat. The hero opens his flat door, goes inside the flat and turns on the light, keeps the key in the sofa table and puts the violin in the sofa. The hero then waters the plant on the wall and keeps the new bottle opener in the table and other bottle opener he puts in the wall hanger. Then he takes two beer bottle and keeps in the table and then he starts to removes his shirt button. In the next shot he changes his clothes. Again after changing the dress when he comes and when he sees he gets shocked since the opener is again missing. So he became violent and takes a knife and goes near the beer bottle check whether anyone has entered in his home. He goes to the bedroom and checks in all the rooms with anxiety. So in the next shot, the hero goes to Magesh home and ask for the bottle opener and when he returns & looks at the beer bottle he sees that the beer bottle is broken and the beer was flowing from the seating stool. He becomes very fearful and closes his mouth is his two hands.

E. Interpretation

Hero wearing blue, yellow, white, red checkered shirt and blue pant, which represents his youth hood. Casual dressing by the man, who is beating his wife & his wife wearing red saree and black blouse and her hair style is not proper which conveys she was suffering from her husband's beatings. Magesh wearing sleeveless T-shirt and his mother wearing a green saree which represents like she is a homemaker who takes care of his child. Hero after changing the clothes he wears a white vest white represents his good character.

F. Setting & Props - Scene 6

One slipper lying alone in the sand with blurred green leaf in

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the background.

Interpretation: A single slipper with the wordings "princess" which conveys us that the girl has a luxury life like a princess.

G. Camera angles & shots - Scene 5

The hero, auto driver and the man is looking at the wounded girl lying in pool of blood and a biker is standing in the side wearing red shirt. The women is bleeding heavily so the auto driver goes to take his auto to take the lady to the hospital. The hero and another man takes the women in hand and gets in the auto but the biker is standing still.

Interpretation: Camera: Low angle is used which makes the hero subject look powerful & close up shot is used to show the tension in the face of the characters.

6. Conclusion and Findings

In this research I have discovered the mis-en-scene elements of the Tamil movie "Pisaasu" with lighting, color, costume & makeup, setting & props and camera angles & shots. Director Mysskin tried a new kind of style for this movie, which varies from other horror movies.

Normally horror movie tends to be like the ghost taking revenge of the people or like the ghost making the characters frightened to take over a place or house which belongs to the ghost but in this movie Mysskin has made it like a novel style movie with a caring and protecting ghost character. Thus characterization and his style of making have given a new perspective to audience in horror genre in this movie.

In this movie red, green, white, blue & yellow color are used prominently.

Red Color: Aggression, danger, blood, violence, passion, love and sincerity.

Green Color: Good luck, fertility, cleanliness, envy, misfortune, healthy, sympathy.

White Color: Purity, cleanliness, truth, good, simplicity, birth, peace.

Blue Color: Water, peace, tranquility, cold, harmony, trust, loyalty, depression.

Yellow Color: Imagination, hope, fear, uncertainty, satisfaction., dishonesty,

- Costume and Make up is simple and normal which coveys each character's identity and nature easily.
- Setting & Props was also done in very simple manner.
- Low angle shots are used in many scenes.
- Low-key type lighting is widely than any other lighting types to give a horror feel.
- Tracking camera movements is kept between characters to create a feel of unnatural things present between people.
- Wide-angle shots are used maximum than another type of shots.

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