
Research Papers



FILM ANALYSIS: A RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

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ABSTRACT

To analyze and interpret visual text like films materials, photos, and videos is difficult. The views of film maker and film observers may be different; in this position the interpretation of film content is more complex and difficult. The major objective of the paper is to discuss about film analysis. Here researcher has discussed the type of qualitative data, steps of film analysis, problems in analysis and limitations of film analysis. Also suggest using film analysis in combination with other instrument or as a part of other research method is meaningful.

KEY TERMS: Visual Data, Cinematography, Storyline

INTRODUCTION

Development of science and technology resulting in speedy life which affecting human relationship. So the human relationship & social relationship have attracted to social researchers. The researchers have traditionally apply deductive methodologies of research in which we generally start from research questions or hypotheses based on theoretical evidence. These hypotheses are tested against empirical evidences. These research methods are failing due to discrimination of objects. This deductive method cannot properly narrate the social relations (UWE Flick, 2010). The inductive methodology can properly & qualitatively describe the social relations. To formulate such subject and situation related statements, which are empirically well founded is a goal which can be attained with qualitative research (Bonb and Hartman, 1985).

TYPE OF QUALITATIVE DATA

There are two types of qualitative data verbal data and observational and mediated data. Interviews, narratives and group discussions are the different approaches of verbal data. While observational and ethnography, photography, films and videos are the approaches of observational and mediated data. In this paper I have discussed about film analysis which is a part of visual data.

VISUAL DATA

In some cases, direct observational data collecting is difficult or impossible; in this situation we use second hand observation through visual media. Photos, videos and films are sources of data and important instrument of research. In social science researches, photos, recordings, and video clips can

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provide a more comprehensive and holistic presentation of lifestyle and situation. During interviews, one can take help from photographer or videographer for photo and recording (Dabbs, 1982). Genuine analytical procedures that directly relate to image or photos still remain to be developed (Flick, 2009). We know about research instruments used in educational and behavioral researches. Researcher can collect information or data from sample through research instrument. Like that, the analysis of film can give proper data; some time other instruments also helpful with film analysis (Flik, 2010).

FILMANALYSIS:

T.V. programs and films impact on our daily life. Researches indicted that content displayed on T.V. screen affect on children age group 3 to 5 (World federation of Advertisers, 2010; Dodia, 2011). Such Films reflect on key moments of history, on social values and relations (Karma), on everyday life, on emotion and love(Roza), on corruption and politics, on children and their school life(Tare Zami Pe, Chillar Party). Films can be interpreted on different angles of meaning. If someone makes a film by using text (story in written form) & then other one make a text from this film, now the question aeries that the both text are same or different? Some films are based on real phenomenon, while some are based on ideas of script writer. So different kind of interpretations manipulate the analysis of film content, this indicate that the analysis of film material is difficult & highly intellectual work. Film analysis is also stepwise process like test standardization. If researcher think and follow the steps of analysis then the process of film analysis become easy and interpretation more interpretative.

STEPS OF FILMANALYSIS:

To analyze the film, the analyzer has to see the film more than once then he or she can follow the following five steps of film analysis for data collection.

(1)Consider the Effectiveness of the Dialogue and Storyline: although many professional screenwriters do not get the same attention as actors or directors, they are the true architectures of a film. Screenwriters may adapt a book into script form, or they may create their own original stories for the screen. Either way you should be able to sense an attention to detail in the dialogue and plotlines. During analyzing film, ask yourself if the dialogue felt honest and the scenes flowed in a logical progression. Did you see all of the scenes you needed to see in order to stay with the storyline? Did you have any moments where the dialogue took you out of the movie?

(2)Look at Cinematography: The job of a director or a photographer is to create the proper atmosphere for film. When you watch a film for analysis, pay attention on shape and color of scenery, set and costume. The use of light and darkness can be very important, as can other atmospheric effects such as shadow and vapor. The background information should enhance the effectiveness of scene, so at the time of film analysis ask yourself if the setting and background added more to the story or distracted you from it. Did you fell all the scenes are proper with background information or cinematography?

(3)Performance of Actors: it can be easy to look at a main actor's (Hero of the film) performance and fail to notice the supporting actors' performance. Analyzer must focus his or her attention on supportive actors' efforts. Supporting characters may not have much dialogue, but their presence can still be felt by the audience. When analyzing the performance of actors ask yourself if they successfully inhabited the character and provided something for other actors to work against.

(4)Editing of the Film: The film critics say the real movie or film begins in the editing room. Sometimes a potentially good film is less successful because of poor editing. To analyze the editing of film is difficult task. Scenes with dialogue should cut flawlessly between actors speaking the lines and others reacting to them. Action scenes should maintain a steady, exciting pace that builds to a climax. At the time of analysis analyzer should through light on flow of scene to scene going without denying the audience enough information to follow the arc of the story.

Analyzer must think about scrip writer's ideas, vision and reality reflect in whole film, also think about the message of writer and film reach to the people who see the film. The film has a huge and long materials and contents, so it is difficult for researcher to analyze it. Here some problems are discussed.

PROBLEMS IN FILMANALYSIS:

•There are many dialogues and scenes in a film. Now question aeries that which scenes or dialogue or scenes with dialogue select for analysis?

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- If the description made on the basis of film shots or scenes, then question is that the description made is proper or is exactly reflect the content of the scenes or shots?
- Interpretation is complex because it is carried out using sequential procedures.
- Research question help in such research, but research question formation is difficult.

Carefully construction of research questions and documentation of the film materials can make easy the analysis and interpretation. Film analysis is useful and effective method and tool for research, even though it has some limitations. Researcher has kept these limitations in his mind while analyzing the film.

LIMITATIONS OF FILM ANALYSIS:

Films are visual texts & there is no direct method of interpretation for visual data (Denzin). So film is transformed into text by transcription. Script writer's ideas and views and views of film observer are different, so it is difficult to find out about the message of writer is pass through the film observer. Therefore film analysis is rarely used as a genuine strategy but rather as an addition to or a part of other methods aimed at analyzing verbal data (Flick, 2010). So film analysis is best used in combination with other methods.

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