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FILM THEORY – FILM STUDENTS AND FILM MAKERS UNDERSTANDING THEIR MEDIUM

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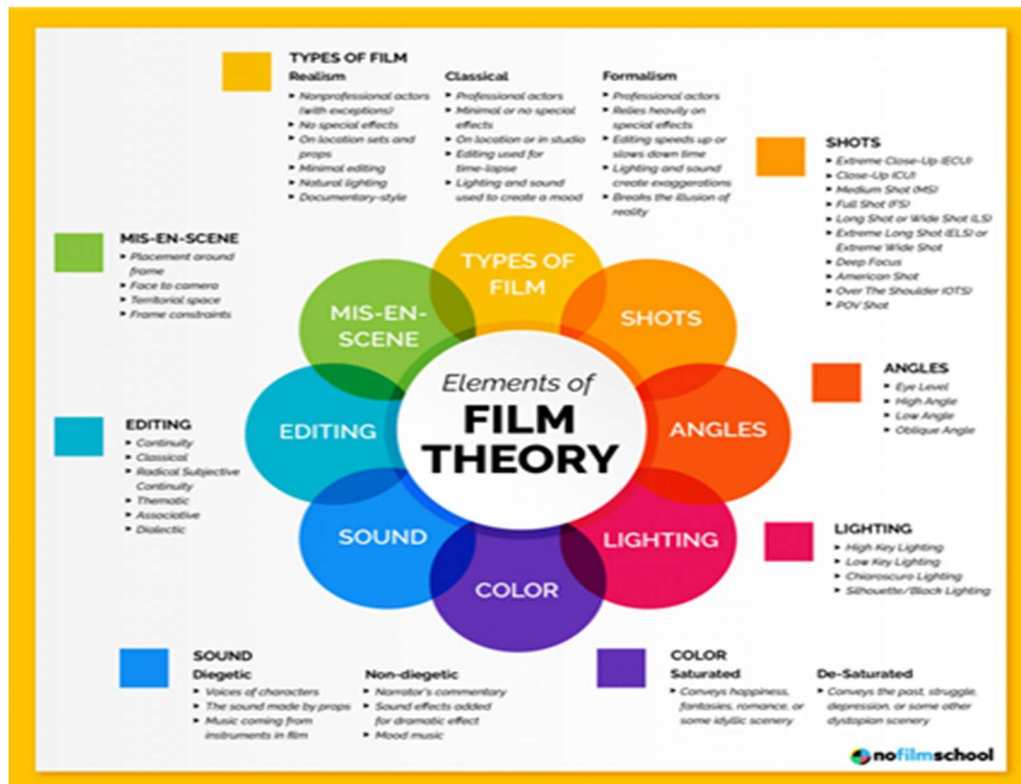
Abstract

This paper provides an introduction to fundamental concepts in film theory. Film theory has a long and complex history and is a framework to appreciate to understand how films relate to life and lifestyles. Film students and Film makers, understanding film theory allows viewers to find new levels of meaning and to create dramatic and emotional impact on audiences. The objective of this paper to appreciate the theoretical aspects of auteur theory, semiotics, apparatus, feminist, genre theory and discussions in the field of film theory. Film Theorists have studied the nature, expression, artistic and political aspects and its effectiveness on audience. This paper aimed to Film Students and Film Makers understanding the medium of comprehensive and systematic introduction to film theories.

Key Words: Film Theories, Film Makers, Film Students, Film Medium, Film Theorists

Introduction

Film theory is defined broadly as reflection on the nature and functions of cinema. Film theory should not have confused with film criticism or film history and has significant overlap with the philosophy of film. Film theories reflected the filmmaking movements to which they belonged. Cinema has the capacity to be an art, film theorist often contrasted cinema to other art forms. Film theory largely evolved from the works of great Directors like Sergei Eisenstein, Germaine Dulac, Louis Delluc, Jean Epstein, Lev Kuleshov, Rudolf Arnheim, Béla Balázs and Siegfried Kracauer and Dziga Vertov. Digital revolution in image technologies has influenced theory in different ways.





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Objectives

Film theories are understood by framing fundamental questions about how film works to reach audiences in viewing and reading the film and to explore filmic epistemologies. Film theories and theoretical concepts developed by filmmakers and Critics establishing creative expression and practice of creative forms.

Notables of Film Theories

Films are considered as the Art Form of twentieth century. Theoretical attempts are made continuously to define its nature and functions. Film theory gives conceptual framework for understanding films relationship with reality, viewers and society. The following are some of the notable Film Theories:

1. APPARATUS THEORY
2. AUTEUR THEORY
3. COGNITIVE FILM THEORY
4. FEMINIST THEORY
5. GENRE STUDIES
6. LINGUISTIC FILM THEORY
7. MARXIST FILM THEORY
8. PSYCHOANALYTIC FILM THEORY
9. QUEER THEORY
10. SCHREIBER THEORY
11. SCREEN THEORY
12. STRUCTURALIST FILM THEORY

1. APPARATUS THEORY

Apparatus theory leads to the study of “machineries” of the seventh art. The content of a film illustrates idea and ideological because of it represents the reality include the camera and editing, what is shot and what is cut.

2.AUTEUR THEORY

American Film Theory was coined by American Film Critic Andrew Sarris.

Auteur theory is basic stamp of identity of his work on film oversee all Literary, Visual, Sound elements of the film. In other words, the film director considered as “author” of the movie.

3.COGNITIVE FILM THEORY

Cognitive film theorists emphasize ways in which cinematic images and cinematic narratives resembles the viewers in reality. Cognitive theory focuses on fiction film narrative structures and emotions communicated to the world.

4.FEMINIST FILM THEORY

Feminist film theory is coined from film criticism derived from feminist politics. Cinema as a whole made by the men and created through the lens of the ‘male gaze’ and showing roles of women negatively which affect life of women and their social standing. The development of feminist theory was influenced as second wave.

5.GENRE STUDIES

Genre studies is probably one of the most practiced film theories in the world. Theory break down films into respective genres. Genre theory classify the films into categories that films that have similar aspects covering narratives, characters, filming techniques and other features.



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6.LINGUISTIC FILM THEORY

The Language of films establishes creating blocks and explains how films communicates to its audience. Fundamental film theories and concepts with good understanding of how film language works and create the cinematic image.

7.MARXIST FILM THEORY

Marxist Film Theory is the popular and oldest form of film theory. Film Makers applied the Marxism ideas through their films

The intellectual techniques of using capitalism’s own structures against itself has risen the consciousness and promote Marxist ideas.

8.PSYCHOANALYTIC FILM THEORY

French Psychoanalyst and writer Jacques Lacan developed the concept of psychoanalysis applied to films to the experience of watching a film. The film becomes the subjects centered “Constructed and Gaze” by film itself.

9.QUEER THEORY

Teresa De Lauretis, a feminist and film theorist coined the term Queer Theory.

The theory breaks films down from the straight perspective expands its focus to encompass any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into deviant and normative categories.

10.SCHREIBER THEORY

David Morris Kipen was coined Schreiber Theory. It is based on writer centered approach to film criticism, where the author is generally the screenwriter rather than the director.

11.SCREEN THEORY

Screen Theory is a Marxist-Psychoanalytic Film Theory related to a British Journal called ‘Screen’ considered as trademark of publication in the early 1970s.

12.STRUCTURALIST FILM THEORY

Structuralist Theory construct the meaning of communication with codes and conventions. It is differing from linguistic theory in its codifications include temporal aspect.

Notable Film Theorists

Sergei Eisenstein

A Soviet Filmmaker and theorist concerned with Montage. He examined the believed that editing is essential aspect and examined the power of placing juxtaposing shots to create a great Idea.

Lev Kuleshov

A Soviet Filmmaker and theorist. He was instrumental to use the power of Montage to create the emotional impact. His theory ‘The Kuleshov Effect’ is still referred in film editing.

Laura Mulvey

A British Film Theorist and Filmmaker. Her work focuses on feminism and psychoanalysis film theories. She brought the concept of ‘Male Gaze’ to the feminist theory.

Germaine Dulac

An early French filmmaker and film theorist. Her film La Coquille et le clergyman has been regarded as the first Surrealist film and practiced non-narrative movement known a Cinema Pur.



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Francois Truffaut

A French critic, theorist and popular Filmmaker practicing the Auteur Theory. Truffaut is known as one of the founder of the French New Wave Movement.

Dziga Vertov

A Soviet theorist, have been influential with the Cinema Verite Movement. He argued that the camera as second eye, through editing the actual footage of real life unlock hidden truths about society.

Bracha Ettinger

Bracha Ettinger, an Israeli born and contemporary film theorist. She introduced the concept of 'The Matriaxial Gaze' a revolutionized feminist theory.

Andre Bazin

Andre Bazin was a French Film Critic and theorist argued that what made in cinema its own art was its ability to capture reality with ability to show objective using long takes, deep focus and mise-en-scene.

Conclusion

Film theories address history and spectatorship of kind theoretical and experimental approximation to film with a method of thinking through visuals. Film theory became heavily influenced by semiotics, psychoanalysis, Marxism, Feminist Film Theory, Queer Theory, and many other roots of film theories. These theories grow out of some particular historical movements to embrace an ideological transformation of the film. Theories engaged various aspects of film from identification dream and fantasy and projection. Marxist critiques at a particular historical juncture various theories of realism in film, in conjunction with ontological arguments. Digital technologies demand of film theories began exploring the differences between the representation of digital technologies with the visual images of analogue celluloid.

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