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ENGL 1302

December 3, 2010

Sound, Color and Lighting Speak Louder Than Words

Life is full of happiness and sorrow all at the same time. It is exciting and it is boring. Life encompasses so much and although we cannot usually experience these emotions at the same time, they do happen at the same time but for separate individuals. While it is not common for an individual to go through life thinking about what occurrences others are experiencing, director Ahmed Imamovic presents in his short film, "10 *Minuta*" this idea. Although the film is European and in another language, Imamovic does a fantastic job in telling the mood of his scenes through sound, color and lighting.

Early in the film, there is a scene where a young man walks down the streets of a tourist city asking directions to a store to have his film developed. Imamovic opens the scene with non-diegetic sound and transitions to diegetic sound. The non-diegetic sound used in the beginning of this scene is fun, exciting and happy music; one that would even bring a smile to one's face. This music indicates that this is a pleasant place. Diegetic sounds are used following the non-diegetic sounds with the sounds of cars passing by and people having conversations in the background. Even when the sounds used go from non-diegetic to diegetic, the viewers can still feel this scene to be a pleasant experience because these sounds are calm, common and somewhat distant from the main character. Both diegetic and non-diegetic sounds in this scene give viewers a calm sense that indeed can be enjoyed.

In this same scene, the color that Imamovic chooses is very rich. These colors are bright and vivid. From the buildings' orange color tone to the green plants and blue car on the street. All these colors give a sense of life. Parallel with the color is the lighting. Imamovic uses high-key lighting in this scene. Everything is bright and there are no obvious shadows or darkness portrayed anywhere. The choices Imamovic made of high-key lighting and vivid colors in this scene expresses to viewers that this scene continues to be a pleasant place. One that can be carefree and entertaining.

The film transitions abruptly from one scene to the next. This scene opens with a woman carrying her crying baby with one hand and around her hip working diligently in her kitchen while her older son sits on a chair on the kitchen table reading a book. While viewers were enjoying both diegetic and non-diegetic sounds in the previous scene with the cheerful music and calm diegetic sound, suddenly this next scene begins with a contrast from the first because immediately the cheerful music stops. To replace this cheerful non-diegetic sound is diegetic sounds of the crying baby, sounds of pans being used and the woman's voice trying to calm her baby down and at the same time instructing her older son to go get some water and bread for the family. Immediately the diegetic sounds change the viewer's mood from calm and pleasant to tense and apprehensive.

Another contrast made in this scene compared to the previous pleasant one is the use of color and lighting. No longer does Imamovic use vivid colors to represent this scene. This scene is instead almost entirely in black and white with very little color. The only color seen is the color on the baby's clothes and a small hint on the apron of the woman. The lack of color in this scene indicates that this is a depressing place to be. The lighting is also quite opposite from the previous scene. The lighting used here is low-key lighting. Everything is so dark, it is hard to

notice the smaller objects in the room. In fact, the only lighting comes from the kitchen window. With this technique, viewers have forgotten completely about the enjoyable scene of the tourist seeking to develop his film and are now in a place they do not want to be with all this darkness. The low-key lighting gives a feeling of sadness, depression and even a feeling of being trapped.

The use of these three techniques, sound, color and lighting, are good instruments used to portray what the director wants. Imamovic used these three in his film very well implemented to make his point across of different events that can be occurring in two very different parts of the world at the same time. While one person may be enjoying life and feeling happy and relaxed, there is another person somewhere going through an unpleasant moment in their lives where sadness may be present.

Work Cited

Imamovic, Ahmed. "10 Minuta." *You Tube*. 9 April 2006. <https://youtu.be/Za8-THNtk-M>.