

Orlando Tovar

Professor Wood

English 1302

May 1, 2012

The Effects of Sound in *a Good Shot*

It is evident that diegetic sounds are essential to a film, but non-diegetic sounds can also greatly contribute by creating the atmosphere and mood within the film. Viewers can frequently determine the genre of a film simply by listening to it. This action is accomplished mainly because viewers can hear and recognize non-diegetic sounds and relate them to a specific genre. *A Good Shot* is no exception to that statement the director uses suspenseful and chaotic music to help establish the movie as a suspense/action film. With the use of mostly non-diegetic sounds the director of *A Good Shot* is able to establish various moods throughout the short film.

In *A Good Shot* non-diegetic sound is played through most of the film. The director starts the film with the combination of both non-diegetic sound and a voice over. The music starts off slow, and as the character begins his narrative the sounds become high pitched and louder leading to a complete stop when the character wakes up. The music creates a feeling of suspense and makes viewers want to learn more about the character. After the beginning scene the music is almost replicated but instead of leading to a complete stop it leads to a more exiting rhythm which is done by the use of drums beating at a fast pace. At that point of the film viewers can start to determine it's going to be a suspense and action film. As the character completes his last hit, the music shifts again to a slow and dramatic melody. The music slows down to the point where the viewers can almost no longer hear it. By doing this, the director wants to stress the importance of the conversation and give it a dramatic feel. As the film goes on viewers get

shown a scene where the main character reunites with his family the music slightly changes giving hope and the feeling that it's all over for the main character. This moment is short lived because the music shifts back to the way it was before the scene. Which in turn feeds the suspense of the film and lets the viewers know that something bad is about to happen. By the use of non-diegetic and some diegetic sounds in the first couple of scenes the director makes the viewers experience many types of feelings and emotions.

In the final scenes the director uses non-diegetic sounds and a final rhythm to help end the film. The music after the car explosion creates a sad feeling and helps connect the viewers to the main character; therefore, viewers sympathize for the main character's loss. Viewers can notice what was shown previously, that is the music slowing down and emphasizing the importance of the main character's voice over. The voice over ends drums and other musical instruments start creating the final rhythm for the final scene. The director begins with only drums as the final scene starts. Suspense for what is about to happen is created by the beat of the drums. As the non-diegetic beats of the drums increase in sound and frequency, it signals two major events that are about to happen. One being the pulling of the trigger and finally killing the man who murdered his family. The other event is when the target's bodyguards find out that their boss has been killed and start the chaos that follows. The director does a great job by the use of various cameras techniques of creating the chaotic feel. Of the whole film this scene is the only one where if the director would have left out the non-diegetic sounds it wouldn't have made a difference in mood or feeling perceived by the viewers. Yet he used the music and created a perfect scene in all aspects that gave a memorable finale to his film.

All through the film there were various moods established by the use of sounds. There were scenes in which the director almost stopped the music which helped in emphasizing the

importance of the given conversations. The music helps the viewers connect to the main character and experience the feelings the character experiences in certain scenes of the film. The director of *A Good Shot* heavily relied on non-diegetic sounds and some diegetic to establish the overall mood of the film.

Work Cited

A Good Shot. You Tube. 25 Nov. 2007, <https://youtu.be/zCRAvUm5QOY>.