

A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MOVIE “ORION AND THE DARK”

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Abstract

This research is a semiotic analysis of the animated movie Orion and the Dark, where semiotics is the study of signs and symbols. Orion and the Dark is an animated film from 2024 that tells the story of child Orion, who overcomes his greatest fear, Dark. The film highlights Orion and Dark's friendship and effective interpersonal communication, as well as how Dark helps Orion overcome his fear. It also employs energetic animation to compare light and dark, symbolising the coexistence of fear and courage. The semiotics of the film show the transformation of fear into a real substance, inviting the viewer to rethink their perception of darkness and fear. This research uses the semiotic method to analyse the symbols, colours, signs, and meanings in the film. Using qualitative descriptive methodology, 25 scenes from this film are analysed to determine their meaning, myth, and denotation. The results show that visually, the film uses light and shadows to enhance storytelling, and with dark, friendly behaviour and character, it emphasises the misunderstood nature of fear. The interplay between visual and narrative elements shows the importance of facing and understanding one's fear. It also shows the importance of effective communication and the role of parenting-friendly behaviour towards children.

Keywords: Semiotic Analysis, Myth, Denotation, Connotation, Sign and Signifier, Roland Barthes

Introduction

Semiotics is the study of visual language and signs, but also of images, symbols, gestures, sounds, and design. In the semiotic sense, signs are in the form of words, images, sounds, movements, and objects (Chandler, 2022). One of the broad definitions is "semiotic, which deals with everything that is considered a sign" (Eco, 1986). In semiotics, we analyse signs in context. “Orion and the Dark” is a visually stunning film where reality blends with the fantastical. "Orion and the Dark" is a gripping fantasy adventure that transports audiences into a world where darkness threatens to consume everything. The journey of Orion, a young protagonist with a unique ability to manipulate light, begins as darkness encroaches upon his homeland. Orion embarks on a perilous quest to uncover the secrets of his past and confront the malevolent forces that seek to plunge the world into eternal night (Pamungkas & Prihandini, 2024). In this introduction, we will analyse “Orion and the Dark” using semiotic analysis, uncovering the hidden meanings and cultural influences that shape its storytelling.

Semiotic analysis deciphers signs and symbols in the light of cultural context. The key concepts on which semiotic analysis is based are signs, signifiers, denotation, and connotation (Berger, 2014). Signs are used to represent something; they can be visual, auditory, or even gestures. In semiotics, signifier and signified are the two main components, which means that one means what the sign refers to and the other means the concept it

represents (Jaworski & Thurlow, 2010). Denotation stands for literal meaning, and connotation implies cultural interpretations. Semiotics is a methodological approach that is used in textual, visual, and discursive analysis, and its goal is to expose the power dynamics and under-underlying beliefs that are part of communication (Noth, 1990).

Research Questions

1. How is the narrative of the movie explained by the use of semiotics?
2. Which signs or symbols are used to attract the audience?
3. How do gestures and non-verbal signals contribute to conveying the ideas of fear and courage?
4. Which semiotic techniques are used to address the questions of identity, belonging, and self-discovery in the movie "Orion and the Dark"?

Problem of the statement

In this research article, the movie portrays the concept of bullying and the subject of public speaking and anxiety and drives viewers into the imaginative world through the figure of darkness, making it a fascinating and realistic experience for the audience.

Significance

This study is a semiotic analysis of the movie "Orion and the Dark," in which it involves the audience in the world of the main character Orion by expressing his feelings and thoughts through colours and drawings. This article clarifies common misconceptions about darkness and highlights the importance of night and dark for living beings. As opposed to making people fear the dark, the article encourages them to embrace it. The intrapersonal skills are used by showing the struggle of Orion to face his fears and understand his fears. There are five characters in the movie who are represented using colours and symbols.

Literature Review

Vicky has researched the semiotic analysis of the 2019 film "Parasite," which explains the difference between social classes in society. For analysis, Roland Barthes' semiotic theory is used. By applying Barthes' (1972) concept of denotation and connotation, the analysis explains the film's signs that convey deeper ideological meanings. The contrast between the Kim family's basement apartment and the Park family's luxurious home functions as a signifier of social inequality. The staircases in "Parasite" symbolised the hierarchical nature of social class and the often-unconquerable challenges faced by the lower class. John Fiske's (1987) work on television culture supports the interpretation that "parasite" exposes the fallacy of social mobility in a structurally unequal society (Fiske, 1990). Through this semiotic lens, the movie becomes clear as a sophisticated critique of social stratification and the maintenance of class differences (Daniya, 2020).

One of the important pieces of research on "visual signification in thematic concerns" through semiotic analysis offers a thorough examination of the ways in which visual narratives express theme aspects. It highlights how visual information is superior in today's communication, especially on social media. Using the song video "Tasveer Bana Kay" by Sajjad Ali as a focal point, the study decodes and interprets the signs found in visual texts using Charles Peirce's (1867) semiotic model. Images and visuals have been studied by many scholars, like Kress and Van Leeuwen (1996), Thibault (2000), Lim (2007), and Matthiessen (2007), to explore their hidden meanings. This study illustrates how complex concepts and messages can be effectively communicated through images by examining elements such as camera shots, angles, settings, and colours (Danish & Batool, 2019). In order to understand

meaning, it is important to consider the contribution of additional semiotic resources to the overall meaning conveyed in the text (Fei, 2007).

Yulia Zaimar has researched the semiotic analysis of the 2016 film "The Conjuring 2," which explains the negative emotions such as horror, fear, suspense, and disgust that are often seen in horror films. The screenplay of this film is good, but the main focus of this film is on a family consisting of Roger (Ron Livingston), Carolyn (Lili Taylor), and their daughters. The other plot revolves around ED (Patrick Wilson) and Lorraine (Vera Farmiga), who play the paranormal investigators. The scenes analysed in this research using signifier and signified theory show the evilness of hanging bodies and scary music. Other than that, various semiotic signs and symbols are used in this film that have been elaborated through images and gestures. These semiotics of "Conjuring 2" also show that where we see a nun, we associate it with 'holy' or 'love', but in this film, Satan has worn the clothes of a nun to spread horror. However, the movie has also explained horrors and demons that awaken us, and sometimes they lead us in a very dark way. In fact, this research helps to understand the underlying concepts and themes behind this horror film, which will provide different interpretations (Zaimar, 2017).

Another study conducted on the semiotic analysis of the 2014 film The John Wick 1 narrates the signs and emotions of hate and revenge. For the analysis of this film, Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory is used. By applying Peirce's theory of semiotics, the analysis explains the icons, indexes, and symbols that exist in the film and also helps to understand the clear meaning of these terms. This film contains many shots full of thrills, actions, and blood. Peirce's theory of semiotics also explains how all the characters are important for the film icon, and the main character takes revenge and becomes a villain. Moreover, the writer has used the qualitative method to analyse the social phenomenon and describe signs and symbols. The writer has stated that there are only three kinds of signs that writer has analysed: icons, indexes, and symbols. The researcher has used a chart description to analyse scenes in this film. The results show that the triadic concept of place is best for focusing on signs and symbols that are used in the "John Wick 1" film (Pauzan, 2018).

Saussure (1915) classified signs into signifiers, which are images, sounds, and words. According to Bouzida, denotation is what we see, and connotation is related to society and culture (Bouzida, 2014). Another study has used the Barthes method of connotation and denotation and analysed the data from the Pakistani movie "The Donkey King (2018)." Semiotic images were first studied by Barthes in 1968. This article uses Roland Barthes semiotics theory (1957) to analyse movie symbols, pictures, gestures, posters, etc. The study revealed the socio-political messages and oppressive nature that have been portrayed in the movie. Roland Barthes (1957) concept of connotation and denotation is used to analyse animated movies in a better way (tuz Zahra, Hafeez, Ahmed, Afzaal, & Saleem, 2024).

Disney Films Raya and the Last Dragon represent women through the signs in the film. This study uses semiotic analysis to explain the characters of women through signs, pictures, and gestures. Semiotics is used to describe the relationship between signs, the science of signs, and the reality behind using signs as gestures. This film, Raya and the Last Dragon (2021), uses three levels of semiotic analysis. Connotation, Denotation, and Myth. The article uses denotation to show the direct meanings of objects. Connotative meanings are the development of denotation, which means how the movie is related to the cultural experience of the researcher. The third myth relates to the issues that have been agreed upon by society.

At first, there were only silent films, which means that even in the early stages of the Hollywood industry, they had used semiotic analysis of the signs and symbols to provide lessons and entertainment. In the late 1920s and 1930s, the film industry developed sound films (Wardah & Kusuma, 2022).

The research is about the semiotic analysis of the Turkish animated movie produced in 2017. The Ayla "The Daughter of War" movie was produced under the direction of "Can Ulkay." This movie was jointly produced by Korea and Turkey. In this movie, the representation of two countries, i.e., Korea and Turkey, is involved. This movie is based on real events from the Turkish perspective of the Korean War. The idea presented in the movie uses both visuals and storytelling methods. Also, the semiotic analysis method by Charles Sander Peirce revealed the structural cinematic signs in the film, which highlight the concepts of sacrifice, care, struggle, wiseness, and friendship. The theme of the movie focuses on social representation leading to social relations (Malawat, Mofu, & Mandowen, 2022).

Visual semiotics reveals the direct meanings of language that show words and interactions. The study of visual semiotic analysis focuses on analysing visual symbols and images to determine the political, social, and cultural messages they convey. These methodological techniques help researchers gain a thorough understanding of semiotic processes and how they affect human interactions and perspectives by helping them to reveal actual meaning, hidden concepts, and societal representation embedded with signals. This method describes scenes in the form of text and the real meanings behind expressions, pictures, and symbols in the form of text. This interpretative research requires each interpretation behind each sign, as it involves each person's expressions, emotions, experiences, and culture (O'Halloran, 2011).

Research Methodology

This research includes a qualitative-descriptive research method. Qualitative research methodologies seek to capture information that often can't be expressed numerically. These methodologies often include some level of interpretation from researchers as they collect information via observation, coded survey or interview responses, and so on. Researchers may use multiple qualitative methods in one study, as well as a theoretical or critical framework to help them interpret their data (Sagheer, Malik, & Rasool, 2023). To study signs and symbols in different contexts, semiotic analysis uses a variety of methodological techniques. Textual analysis looks at the ways in which written or visual texts use signs to express specific meanings and perspectives (Harrison, 2003). The goal of this approach is to understand the semiotic aspects that are present in language, images, and storytelling. This method is widened by discourse analysis, which examines how language and communication patterns shape social relationships and, in turn, social identities.

Theoretical Framework

Semiotics, known as the science of signs, is the study of the formation and transmission of meaning. As a science, it explores the fundamental ideas and frameworks that control how signals are used in different kinds of communication. In semiotics, the link between signifiers, or the actual appearance of signs, and the signified, or the concepts they represent, as well as how people interpret these relationships within particular cultural settings, is analysed using rigorous approaches. The scientific study of semiotics can be traced back to influential individuals like Roland Barthes, Charles Sanders Peirce, and Ferdinand de Saussure. "Every ideological sign is the result of two interconnected sign systems" (Barthes: 1957). Roland Barthes separated semiotics into two categories: connection and denotation. Denotation refers to the first-stage signifier and the use of words with meanings that are

consistent with what is said. Connotation is linked to cultural interpretation and ideological activities and refers to a second-order signifier. Barthes considered myth as a language. He sees myth as a form of evolution from a connotative meaning that has been a part of a civilisation for a long time. Explaining the myth can be seen as a communication system (Bouzida, 2014).

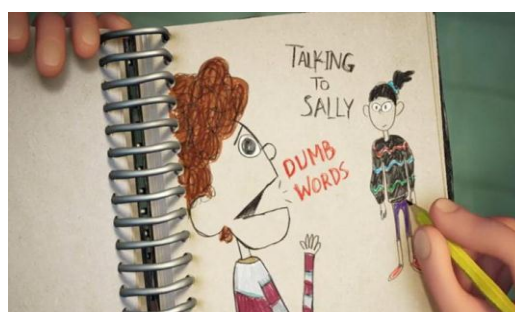
Another reason for using semiotic analysis is that this movie shows the 3D dynamic motion of objects that brings various elements to life. This film uses a colour-coded character identification system, symbolising the unique significance and value of each entity. It also highlights the diverse roles they play in life, making the scenes and visuals even more vivid and clear. The research includes semiotic analysis that focuses on three main points: denotation, connotation, and myth. These three methods are used in the analysis of "Orion and the Dark." It also focuses on analysing the psychological aspects of fear and bravery portrayed in the film, exploring how the characters' journeys reflect universal human experiences, and interpreting the symbolism of light and darkness as they relate to the narrative's themes. The qualitative-descriptive analysis of the movie "Orion and the Dark" would involve examining its themes, characters, symbolism, and storytelling techniques to gain a deeper understanding of its message and impact. Peter McCown's 2024 film "Orion and the Dark" provides the major data source for this study. Twenty-five scenes from this movie have been recorded and made available as a data source for analysis.

Data Analysis

Using a qualitative descriptive methodology, the researchers have used the semiotic method by Roland Barthes. They have picked and verbally explained sequences in the movie "Orion and the Dark" that depict interpersonal contact between the child Orion and the Dark. The chosen scenes are examined using the categories of myth, denotation, and connotation. Initially, the researchers have found 25 scenes in the movie "Orion and the Dark" that showed an interpersonal connection between a child and the dark. The movie "Orion and the Dark" typically signifies the absence of light, yet its connotations are full of fear, uncertainty, and mystery. These associations contribute to the belief, especially among children, that the dark contains danger and monsters. However, as Orion faces his fear of the dark, he discovers that its denotation as merely the absence of light doesn't fully capture its essence. Through his adventures, he comes to realise that the dark can also foster imagination, creativity, and opportunity. By challenging the myth surrounding the dark, the narrative urges readers to reconsider perceptions and approach the unknown with curiosity and bravery.

In the scene analysis of the film Orion and the Dark, three steps are included. The first step in the research process is to choose 25 sequences from the film Orion and the Dark that highlight the interpersonal interactions between Orion and Dark as well as how he overcame his fear. In the second step, scenes are chosen, and they are then analysed using the semiotic analysis by Roland Barthes to determine their meaning, myth, and denotation. The final step involves concluding the interpersonal communication of the child with his fear of darkness in the movie Orion and the Dark.

Image 1. Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:31)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is Orion writes all his fear on the dairy and thought that this is the way to manage his issues.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is the Orion have fear he writes all his fears on dairy and thoughts that due to this method he manages his all issues because he is an introvert personality and cannot face the situations and people so that's why he wrote his fear on dairy.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that during the childhood children have fear to face people and with the passage of time this fear built in his personality and in growing age the people become an introvert personality. But with the continuous support and motivation of parents this fear will be overcomes during his childhood age.

Image 2. Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:37)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is Orion tell about his fear and thought that if he clogs the toilet. And it floods the whole entire school.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is that Orion have so many fears during his childhood. Here one of his fears is that he thought the if he clogs the toilets the water comes out and become flood after that this flood destroyed the whole entire school.

Myth

The myth of this scene that the children have Many types of fear is his childhood period and Orion is also one of the children who have a lot of fear in his life but with the passage of time his parents motivated him to overcome his fear. And also do efforts to overcome his fear.

Image 3. Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (9:55)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that Orion parents tells him that they will always there for him so he doesn't need to afraid anything. And try to sleep alone.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene that Orion have many fears in his childhood period and one of his fears is from darkness one night Orion parents have told to sleep alone and also motivate him that you are grown now and try to overcome your fears. We are always with you so don't need to be panic and sleep well.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that during childhood period mostly children have fear from darkness and Orion is also one the child who have fear from darkness and his parents motivated him to overcome his darkness fear.

Image 4: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (11:20)



Denotation:

The denotation of this scene is that Orion is just scared about everything. However, his greatest and paralyzing fear.... is the Dark.

Connotation

The connotation of the scene is that Orion is scared of things like: getting stung by bees, killer clowns, his school bully, talking to his crush, etc. But his greatest fear is the Dark.

Myth

The Myth in the scene is that the dark- a physical manifestation of the absence of light comes to Orion's house in an attempt to show him that darkness is not bad all that. Orion is given a

choice: either live a life of constant fear, or find a beauty in the balance between light and Darkness.

Image 5: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (14:52)



Denotation

This scene illustrates the Orion's extreme fear of darkness and often disparaging remarks about it. Dark has now arrived to help him overcome his fear and is attempting to reassure him that darkness is neither frightening nor terrible.

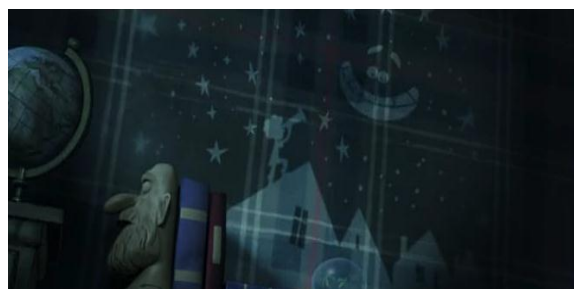
Connotation

The connotation of this scene is that Orion's dread is progressively fading as a result of his conversations with darkness, and he is now listening to it quietly. Even though creating darkness is part of darkness's role, darkness is attempting to tell Orion that it is not intrinsically evil. However, children tend to view darkness negatively and are afraid of it.

Myth

The Myth is that things are not as terrible as they seem, there are some things that are feared just because of how they seem on the outside. Although darkness is not intrinsically bad, Orion and other kids dread and detest it because it is black.

Image 6: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (15:57)



Denotation

This scene's meaning is that Dark asks Orion to go on a nighttime adventure with him. Dark desires for Orion to meet his other buddy and witness what he does. Orion initially declines his offer out of fear, but in the end, he chooses to follow the Dark.

Connotation

In order to help Orion enjoy the beauty of the night rather than make him afraid of it, Dark extends a cordial invitation to Orion to go on a nighttime tour. In order to learn how they all function, Dark want to meet Orion together with his other companions, which include silence, sleep, insomnia, and unusual noises. Dark warns Orion that if he doesn't face his fear of the

dark now, it will follow him for the rest of his life. After hearing what Dark has to say, Orion resolves to face his fear and accepts to go with him.

Myth

This scene's myth is that facing scary events is essential to conquering fear. Many grow up scared of the dark and other such things since their parents don't provide them with affectionate support; these fears last a lifetime. These kids frequently have to face their anxieties head-on. When Orion made the choice to go with Dark and face his fear, it also vanished.

Image 7: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (17:23)



Denotation

This moment implies that Orion's daughter shares her father's fear of the dark. Orion is telling her his own experience of facing darkness and overcoming it in order to help her get over her fear.

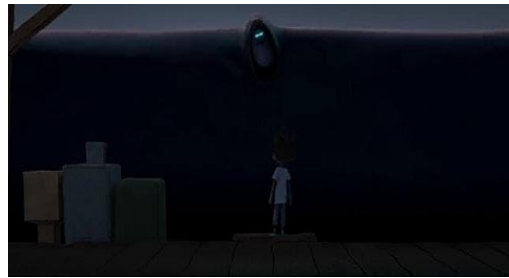
Connotation

The connotation of this moment is that Orion and his daughter have a close bond. He is attempting to reassure her through his story, of course that darkness is not to be dreaded and that one can overcome its terror. She does, however, think that a person's dread of the dark is innate and unavoidable.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that many kids grow up to be afraid of the dark and other scary things. Children's worries can be reduced by parents' friends' supportive and amiable behaviour. Orion and his daughter remained close, and he assisted her in overcoming her worries.

Image 8: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (26:31)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that the Dark keeps Orion from seeing the light as other characters go to perform their duties. The Dark does this so he can help Orion overcome his fear of dark in one night.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene suggests a feeling of overcoming fears. Since Dark helps Orion overcoming his fear of darkness, this might stand as a turning point in Orion's life which would change his perspective about life. This implies that in order to move forward in life we have to face our anxieties and realize our full potential

Myth

The myth about this scene is that some children consider dark as the symbol of fear. Dark is considered basically bad and negative, but actually it is only the absence of light. But we can only overcome our fears by facing them, so dark tries to make Orion overcome his fear by not letting him see the light. Orion thinks that dark is the cause of paranormal activities such as appearance of ghosts or other strange creatures. But there's no evidence that darkness causes these things. It is just how we imagine and feel in the dark. And dark tries to change his fearful thoughts about darkness.

Image 9: Scene from the film "Orion and the Dark" (27:13)



Denotation

The denotation in this scene is that the "sleep" has a magic sleeping pillow. he goes to the homes at night and performs his duty of sleeping people. "Dark" and "Orion" are watching this scene through the window.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that "sleep" is performing his duty and Orion is observing all



this from a distance. He is afraid of sleep and he wants to prevent "sleep" from doing this.



Orion is thinking that "Sleep" is using a Chloroform or hammer for sleeping people that is not much better for people.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that all children face nightmares and they don't know how to overcome it until they face reality. Orion is afraid of watching the reality of sleep. Orion came here with dark and by seeing this, he will be able to overcome his fears.

Image 10: Scene from the film "Orion and the Dark" (29:16)

Denotation

The denotation in this scene is that "Insomnia" goes to a girl and says in her ears "I am never going to meet my deadline". He is thinking that she is sleeping pretty soundly and he wants to intimidate her and disrupts her sleep.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that the girl is sleeping soundly and "Insomnia" is going to scare her from sleep by saying stupid things in her thoughts. The girl is afraid and she thinks that she has missed something or something bad is about to happen. Insomnia is happy to succeed in his mission.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that fear resides within us, which, when released, further terrifies us. The girl has fear in her mind and "insomnia" scares her by disturbing her thoughts. She fails to overcome her fear and continues to be intimidated by insomnia.

Image 11: Scene from the film "Orion and the Dark" (31:05)

Denotation

The denotation in this scene is that Orion and Dark are in a ground and there is deep silence there. Orion is saying "Ah! It's too quiet" and "Dark" is standing beside him.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that "Quiet" has spread silence all around and everything is silent. Orion says that it's too quiet. He is suffocated by this silence and he wants to go away from here.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that sometimes "the excess of everything is bad". Everything is good to some extent. There is too much science in this scene that Orion feels afraid of this silence and he says to Dark that it's too quiet. Go away from here

Image 12. Scene from the film "Orion and the Dark" (41:56)



Denotation

The denotation in this scene is Orion and the dark are flying and as they pass through the water Orion turns his head inside the water and so does the dark.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that Orion has the fear of going near water but as he overcomes his fear, he first puts his hand inside the water and then his head too and he is able to do this by the efforts of Dark, who helps him to get over his fears and then he realized that defeating his fear had unlocked a whole new world of enjoyment and enthusiasm.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that many children have different phobias which also includes the phobia of water and those phobias can be conquered if we push ourselves to leave out comfort zone and appreciate the unknown by fighting them. Orion suffers from the phobia of water he was really scared to go near water at first but Dark helped him to get over his phobia by taking him near water and then after defeating his fear he stepped inside water with no fear.

Image 13: Scene from the film "Orion and the Dark" (44:17)



Denotation

The denotation in this scene is that a child was scared of dark and when dark comes to know about it, he becomes depressed and then Orion tried to make him understand his importance in the world.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that Orion and other children are afraid of dark and when Dark sees a child who hates dark and was afraid to sleep because of dark while he was flying Orion with him, he becomes disheartened. Orion tries to persuade him that the child is not aware about the importance of dark and he reminds him about the: time he was unaware of dark and was frightened by him but as he came to know about dark deeply, he was not frightened by him anymore.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that darkness is a basic instinct implanted in human psyche from the childhood that makes them feel uneasy. Darkness did not become darkness by its choice, it is natural and children should not hate dark without knowing it's importance. But Orion overcomes his fear of dark when he comes to know about that how important darkness is for life to exist on planet.

Image 14 Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (46:32)



Denotation

The denotation in this scene is that Orion, Dark, Insomnia, Quiet, Unexplained noises, Sleep, Sweet dreams are standing and watching as the light comes into the world and Orion is fascinated to see as light comes and everything blooms, according to Orion light brings brightness and hope into the world but Dark hates the light.

Connotation

The connotation in this scene is that dark and light both are significant elements of nature and life is not possible even in the absence of any one of them. As Orion and the other characters watch light coming into the world, Dark expresses his hate for light but Orion gives his opinion about how he feels safe in light and how everything feels refreshing when light comes.

Myth

The myth about this scene is that children who are afraid of dark and love light do not want darkness to exist in this world but without darkness the world would be devastated. As nighttime is the time to take a break from the busy routine of life, it is the time for peace. While darkness is scary, it also gives us time to think and ease off.

Image 15: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (48:06)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that Orion tells his daughter to go to sleep as they listen to the narrative, but Hypatia begs to go for a walk at midnight before the story concludes, so they do.

Connotation

The connotation is that Orion and his daughter Hypatia are seen to be quite close. They make the decision to stroll through a park; however, as soon as they step foot inside, the park's lights go out, frightening them both. Hypatia notices that Orion's dread hasn't quite subsided at this point, and they have a conversation about it.

Myth

The myth in this scene is that Orion, being a friend, helps his daughter get over her dread of the dark by offering her friendly assistance. Orion overcame his anxiety on his own, unlike many parents who are able to totally eradicate their kids' fears at a young age, but he still harbours a deep-seated fear of the dark.

Image: 16: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (48:28)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that in this scene, Orion and Hypatia go for a nighttime walk and talk deeply. Hypatia asks Orion about his fear of the dark, and he starts to share his real feelings. They have a sincere and open conversation, which brings them closer as father and daughter.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene shows a special moment during a calm nighttime walk, where Orion and Hypatia share secrets and become more open with each other. Hypatia's gentle

questions encourage Orion to face his fears and be true to himself. Their talk reminds us how being honest and connecting with others can help us grow as individuals.

Myth

The myth of this scene embodies the timeless wisdom that only true stories have the power to heal and uplift. Hypatia's insight, "the only stories that only help are the true ones," encapsulates the profound impact of honesty and authenticity in storytelling and personal growth. As Orion acknowledges the truth in her words, he takes a significant step towards self-acceptance and emotional liberation

Image 17: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (50:43)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that Orion expresses fear and hesitation about entering a house, feeling safer in the daytime. He describes the experience of daytime, describing how everything is brightly lit and colourful, creating a sense of connection between sound and colour. He contrasts this with his perception of darkness and expresses a preference for light, associating it with safety and warmth.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is that Orion's fear shows how people often avoid what they don't understand and seek safety. When he calls daytime "psychedelic," it means he finds it amazing and full of energy. His choice of light over darkness is because people generally feel safer in light and scared in darkness.

Myth

The myth of this scene explores the symbolic clash between light and dark, with Orion's fear reveals how people usually feel more secure in the light. It also touches on the idea of thresholds, both literal and metaphorical, as Orion struggles to enter the unknown darkness of the house from the familiar daylight outside. Orion's words unintentionally emphasize the age-old battle between light, symbolizing goodness and safety, and darkness, representing fear and uncertainty.

Image: 18 Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (57:10)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene feels upset and unappreciated when Orion says he prefers day light. Even though Orion tries to make Dark feel better, their conversation makes things worse among the night creatures. Dark asks Orion to take back what he said, but it doesn't work, and the other creatures stop doing their nighttime jobs.

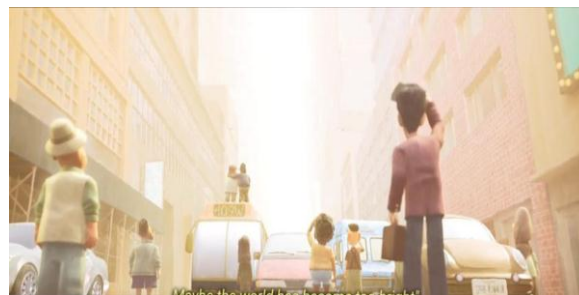
Connotation

The connotation of this scene portrays the breakdown of communication and understanding between Orion and Dark, highlighting the consequences of miscommunication and the importance of clarity in relationships. Dark's reaction reflects feelings of rejection and inadequacy, while Orion experiences guilt and regret for his unintentional role in causing discord among the night entities.

Myth

The myth of this scene talks about how misunderstandings can cause big problems in relationships. When Dark stops doing his job, it messes up the balance between light and darkness, which could be really bad for everyone. Orion tries to fix things, but it doesn't work, showing that sometimes you can't fix mistakes. The scene also shows Orion dealing with the consequences of his choices alone, like in a classic hero's story.

Image 19: Scene from the movie “Orion and the Dark” (1:03:19)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is that the world has become excessively bright as there is no trace of darkness anywhere. People can be seen really annoyed by this.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene suggests a feeling of discomfort which is caused by the brightness. This scene gives a hint of natural imbalance caused by the light as there is no sign of darkness. There is frustration among people.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that light and darkness are equally important for maintaining balance of life on the planet. The scene in the image reflects the lifestyle of people without darkness. The concept of life without darkness is intriguing.

Image 20: Scene from the movie “Orion and the Dark” (1:10:23)



Denotation

In this scene the Dark and Orion can be seen together. The dark saves Orion from falling. He could die if he falls.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene suggests a feeling of protection and trust among the Dark and Orion. Orion jumps to save the Dark from dying but instead he falls. Then the dark comes up to hold onto Orion and helps him from falling where he could possibly die.

Myth

The myth of this scene honours the deep bond that forms between the Dark and Orion in spite of the differences between them and the fear that Orion possess. Both the characters help each other and stand by each other's side.

Image 21: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:11:33)



Denotation

The denotation of the scene is that Orion wakes up from his sleep and darkness can be seen spreading everywhere in the world again. The sleep, the dream, the Insomnia and other characters are by his side.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene portrays that Orion realizes the importance of night and dark. He wakes up enlightened. The spreading of darkness represents the idea that Orion has overcome his fear and has accepted the reality that darkness is necessary for crucial development of life.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that Orion used to hate darkness until he saw how important it was. Every child grows up with a fear of darkness. Orion overcomes his fear of darkness and starts to accept the reality.

Image 22. Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:11:19)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is Orion has been sleeping, sleep, quiet unexplained noises, insomnia. All these characters try to wake him up, but he does not awake up. After that, quite dissolve all noises inside and then say to him in his ear. “Orion if you don't wake up, you are going to miss your field trip.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is the Orion have different fair and he has also fear of losing field trip so by using his fear quiet wake him up. Because of his he wakes up from is dream.

Myth

The myth of this scene is Sometimes, our dreams Peace and people cannot motivate us, but a thing can motivate us and change ourselves is fear of something. Sometimes our fear is using a motivation and help us to achieve a goal.

Image 23: Scene of the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:11:45)



Denotation

The Denotation of this scene is Orion and other five characters’ sleep, dream, unexplained noises, Insomnia and quiet all of them seeing the beauty of night with peaceful smiles.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is Orion realize the beauty of night. Orion and the sleep, dream, unexplained noises, Insomnia and Quiet all of them see that ladybug spark in the night and the shining of stars in the sky and He did not know the importance of night before but now he see the beauty of night.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that after experiencing night dream he gets to know the importance of night. That night is important for human as well as for night animals it's not that much scary that he think before. Now it's become his unforgettable journey.

Image 24. Scene of the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:14:03)



Denotation

The denotation of this scene is Orion and Hypatia hug the dark and show their love to them .and say bye to him before go back to his home.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is during this journey because of dark the Orion fear is ended and due to Orion, his daughter fear gone. They both Orion and Hypatia become a friend of dark. They hug dark and shoe their emotions.

Myth

The Myth of this scene is as Orion fight against is fear and become successful in this journey. This is important in our life to fight against our fear as Orion did. If you did not face your fear your weakness you will never succeed. We have to become a friend of our weakness in life.

Image 25: Scene from the film “Orion and the Dark” (1:15:02)



Denotation

The denotation of the scene is that the Dark was trying to understand the Orion about the night. He wanted to show him that darkness in not bad all that and tells him ‘One night can change everything’.

Connotation

The connotation of this scene is that the dark decides the best approach to stop Orion's fear by trying to show him sweets dreams, sleep, unexplained noises, and quiet in the Night.

Myth

The myth of this scene is that Orion tries to face his fear, but he cannot seem to come up with a plan that works for him. It only happens when the dark takes physical form and visits him, and only then is Orion able to see that the dark is not really scary after all.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In this study, the researchers have conducted a qualitative-descriptive analysis of the movie "Orion and the Dark" through the use of semiotics. The analysis reveals that there is interpersonal communication between 11-year-old Orion and the Dark. Darkness was Orion's greatest dread. To help Orion get over his phobia, one night the Dark arrives and takes him on a night tour. In the end, Orion successfully overcomes his fear with the assistance of Dark, and they become great friends. To convey a message to the audience, numerous symbols and signs are used, such as dark, light, insomnia, etc. The denotation represents childhood anxiety, while the dark personified as a friendly character signifies the misunderstood nature of fear. Symbolically, it reverses traditional associations by showing that understanding and comforting fears can transform into a manageable aspect of life. The connotation revolves around the misunderstood nature of fear and anxiety. It also describes that dark and light are both essential. Through Orion's journey, the story suggests that facing and understanding fears can transform into a source of strength. Myth shows the journey from ignorance to knowledge to overcome fears and personal growth. The main lesson of this study is "Everything has a purpose; nothing is meaningless." In childhood, children's intense fears and anxieties, such as those related to darkness, are portrayed in this film, along with an 11-year-old child's strategy for overcoming those fears.

However, the researchers recommend that the film industry, especially DreamWorks animation, produce more films in the future that address the theme of friendship between Orion and the Dark and emphasise the communication aspect between them. Particularly in the DreamWorks animation film industry, their unique stories captivate viewers of all ages by utilising humorous characters, real emotion, and adventurous new places.

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