

Chapter 11

Meaning of Space in Cinema: An Analysis on Dogtooth

Eda Arısoy

Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Turkey

Esma Gökmen

Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey

ABSTRACT

Spaces are the basic components of communal and cultural life. Beyond its sheer physicality, a space finds its existence in the communal living space through the meaning universe it creates. The conceptual framework of space and place, therefore, feature lexical distinctions; what distinguishes space or perhaps makes it superior is the fact that humans can interact with it. A place gains spacious characteristic via relations and meanings attributed to it. While the physical presence of a space is interpreted merely at the geometrical level, the meaning created in the space can be best revealed by scrutinizing individuals and relations which gain existence there. This is what depicts and personalizes the space. In this context, this study aims to examine how space relates with the cognitive aspect of cinema and in what way it contributes to the meaning creation in cinema as well as to reveal its connection with the ideology of the film.

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between cinema and space constitutes one of the most essential components of meaning creation in film. Spaces are of great importance for the establishment of meaning in films. These spaces add value to the film in terms of their emotional bonds with the audience. Cinema creates the meaning by featuring spaces and molding them within the context of economic, political and communal aspects. One needs to scrutinize this relation in order to interpret the film. In the director's mise-en-scene, the human-space relationship constitutes the basis of the plot while the meaning created through the characters' relationship with the space makes up the film's cinematic universe. Space is undoubtedly one of the main means of the art of cinema. Spaces are the fields of reality created in cinema and this reality

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-4655-0.ch011

Meaning of Space in Cinema

gains its meaning through spaces. It should be noted one would overlook living spaces if they perceive space merely as a place. In this respect, beyond identifying the space merely as a vacuum, relationships created within the space are undeniably what makes it as a field of meaning creation.

Spaces are fields in which occurs a two-sided interaction between the individual and objects (Çevik&Erdoğan, 2014: p.124). Spaces and individuals jointly reveal a biography. The comprehension of the diversity of this biography is of great significance for the identification of the diversity of everyday life. (Çevik&Erdoğan, 2014: p.128). To perceive the space entails understanding of a rather complex web of relationships and certain mechanisms that lead to these relationships. (Berber, 2011: p. 144). Each document, trace or story is attached to the space. This is because experiences do not take place in the vacuum, they correspond to a space. Space precedes our existence in the world; it is social, cultural and historical as well as physical. (Altinoğlu, 2011: p. 5).

The meaning of each space is distinctive mainly due to the relationships created in the space. Apart from its physical existence, the nature of space which comprises humans and their relationships enabled humans to use it as a meaning-laden object through each epoch of history. Cinema uses space within the context of this assumption and creates predetermined meanings through it. Cinema establishes and develops its relationship upon space-human interaction. The preliminary relationship is the one established with the director's milieu. The director develops a framework to show the audience the deep bond between the fictional characters and spaces s/he creates. The audience may create new meanings in their world by attaching secondary meanings to the director's fictional spaces because visual perceptions are bound to audience experience and expectations. Therefore, spaces of the play an important role in interpreting the plot.

One needs to mention the term of "place" in order to explain the concept of space. A "place" can only turn into a space by means of humans and their communication. According to Ozturk (2012: pp.13-14), the concept of space ought to be perceived anthropologically in order to comprehend its communicational factors. Based on this perspective, the concepts of "place" and "space" show some distinctions. A "place" can be defined as a "space" when there is communication in it. A space becomes one only if it has a bond with communication which essences human experience, other than that, it remains only as a "place". A "place" may transform into a "space" when humans use it for communication purposes. "Place" is not essentially a communication space, though, the individual possesses this potential upon his/her existence in the world: "These potential, behaviors and conscious actions begin to develop and put into actual use" (Ozturk, 2012: pp.17-18). The individual with his/her communication power possesses the initiative to turn various places, fields into communication spaces in the aforementioned process. (Ozturk, 2012: pp.18).

Panofsky stresses that there is a close relationship between the individual's body and spaces. The author elaborates how the body and space constitute a cohesion and pose an interaction as follows:

(...) there is a constant flow of interaction between our world of bodies and the world of our spaces. We create living spaces which are outbursts of the experiences obtained through sensory body functions particularly if these experiences are produced by living experiences we create. "Whether consciously or unconsciously, our bodies and experiences are in constant dialogue with the buildings we live in. (ch. Adiloglu, 2005: p.18).

According to Ozturk (2012: p.19), an analysis based on communicational aspects of space cannot be actualized dismissing the factors such as "space, potency, struggle and resistance." This is because the

21 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:

www.igi-global.com/chapter/meaning-of-space-in-cinema/264692

Related Content

Cultural Mediation in Translation Through Theoretical Frameworks and AI-Assisted Mediatory Strategies From Translators' Perspectives

Malini Ganapathy, Samah Yaslam Baagbahand Men Dongmei (2026). *Dynamics of Cultural Mediation in Translation* (pp. 333-372).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/cultural-mediation-in-translation-through-theoretical-frameworks-and-ai-assisted-mediatory-strategies-from-translators-perspectives/401845

Teaching Project Management Principles by Proverbs in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Environments: Ten Years of Experience With International Students

Cezar Scarlat (2022). *Handbook of Research on Teaching Strategies for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse International Students* (pp. 118-146).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/teaching-project-management-principles-by-proverbs-in-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-environments/303740

An Explorative Study of Coping Mechanisms Towards Vulnerability and Victimization Within Commercial Sexual Exploitation in India

Vipin Vijay Nair, Sanjeev P. Sahniand Dick D. T. Andzenge (2021). *International Journal of Public Sociology and Sociotherapy* (pp. 51-61).

www.irma-international.org/article/an-explorative-study-of-coping-mechanisms-towards-vulnerability-and-victimization-within-commercial-sexual-exploitation-in-india/280480

Integrated Model of Affordable Housing Delivery for the City of Windhoek

Isaac Okoth Randa (2016). *International Journal of Civic Engagement and Social Change* (pp. 1-15).

www.irma-international.org/article/integrated-model-of-affordable-housing-delivery-for-the-city-of-windhoek/175635

Gender Equality as a Cultural Requisite for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

Hope Imuetinyan Iguodala-Coleand Mageed Oshogwe Haruna (2023). *Handbook of Research on Deconstructing Culture and Communication in the Global South* (pp. 187-206).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/gender-equality-as-a-cultural-requisite-for-sustainable-development-in-nigeria/326263