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Babadook Film Analysis

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The film industry has progressed immensely for the past years. The stories are changing to adapt to the audience's needs hence advancing the genre. As the world changes and becomes diversified, so does the movie's production to fit the new generation. People always have different tastes and preferences on the film genre they love watching because some individuals love horror, other fiction, romance while others would love documentaries. This makes it challenging because all genres cannot be incorporated into one film. However, with many horror films produced, most of them riffles feature such as violence that makes individuals scared. Therefore, those who love films with the horror genre always wait for the film to be produced and share it widely with their friends; this is evident in the Babadook film. Babadook film has maintained the features of a horror movie with significant evocative feeling, which makes the audience in a terrifying environment. This paper will focus on explaining and examining the Babadook film, differentiate the story and plot in the film, and explain the appealing selections and effects on society.

Film Selection

The film selected is the Babadook movie. The film was written and directed by Jennifer Kent and was released in 2014. Furthermore, Babadook was designed on its appearance by Radoslaw Ladcuk, who was the cinematographer. Van Kets & Feinstein (2019), stated that cinematographer plays a critical role in the film production because they control the camera and lights in the movie. Besides, they are included in the whole movie production, such as from the storyboards to post-production. The movie genres include horror, thriller and drama (Balanzategui, 2017). The film features Amelia and her son Samuel and thus, the two characters are anguished in the movie.

Summary of Film

The film begins with Amelia in a dream which she has been facing for the past six years. The dream has tormented Amelia since her husband's death. Despite Amelia facing these challenges, she also has a son, Samuel, to take care of. One night, Amelia reads to Samuel a bedtime story, and Samuel finds a book on the shelf entitled the Babadook. They all do not know where the storybook came from, and the book had pop-ups on the pages. Amelia starts to read; however, Samuel becomes scared concerning the frightening monster in the words and images present in the book. Also, this scares Amelia, and she stops reading aloud, which makes her even more frightened but maintains to be cynical. After the story, Samuel is persuaded that the giant he dreams about is the Babadook and this makes him start viewing it, even more, making him change his behavior and become more ferocious. Besides, this makes Samuel go to the extent of pushing her cousin from the treehouse. Amelia is then sent away by her sister and informs her to take care of her son and take him for medication.

Moreover, Amelia realizes the disturbing monster in her home. Therefore, she has torn the book and burnt it. After some time, Babadook came again and returned the book with the new message. This made Amelia distressed and she went to burn it again, which makes him get a frightening phone call immediately. Amelia goes to the police station to report on a stalker, but the officers do not believe her because she does not have the book and is seen with the chalk and dirt in her hand. Amelia is haunted by Babadook, which makes her kill her dog and hunts her son in the house, intending to kill him but manages to escape. Samuel informs her mother Amelia to fight with the monster inside her, where she vomits a black ooze signifying that the Babadook has come out of her. The Babadook tries to take Samuel, but Amelia shouts and defeats the

monster. Samuel and Amelia are seen being happy and playing in the backyard with her mother feeding the Babadook.

A story and a plot are two different things and this makes most people to be confused. Block (2020) stated the difference between them and emphasized that a plot usually offers the reason for the order of activities in the story; therefore, it will explain how things happen while the story focuses on the narrative that takes the activities in a sequential order thus explaining what happens. In the Babadook film, the story explains Amelia, a single mother that husband died six years ago. She is suffering from anguish and finds it challenging to associate with Samuel, resulting in her family members' exclusion. This makes them face troubles and a monster haunts them that the sone can perceive and her mother cannot.

On the other hand, the plot contains components such as the setup, provocative event, increasing action and resolution (Block, 2020). Therefore, based on the film, Amelia continues to be anguished despite the death of her husband six years ago. This makes her feel the weight of raising Samuel alone. Samuel portrays spartan behavioral challenges and hence Amelia brawls to preserve a good bond with him. Samuel complains of the monster disturbing him while asleep and utters that the monster is there to finish them all and Amelia is pessimistic about the situation. Nevertheless, the behaviors deteriorated until Samuel is detached from school and the mother decides to take the son for medication.

Auteur Theory

The theory that is based on described Babadook film is the Auteur theory. Menne (2019) stated that auteur film theory was introduced by Andre Bazin, a prominent and persuasive French film critic. Therefore, Bazin held and preferred movies that have montage and pragmatism. The

auteur theory stated that the directors are the film's authors and should develop their signature style and not be inclined by the scripts provided (Menne, 2019). Therefore, based on Babadook's film, the author of the film script is the same as that produced the movie. Therefore, this film followed the auteur theory as it mirrors the personal perception and of the director because they are the one that authored the work. The author and director of Babadook movie are Jennifer Kent, who is an Australian actress and director. Kent produced Babadook as her first film.

Evaluation of Techniques and Design Elements

The three techniques and design elements used in Babadook film comprise sounds, lights and editing features such as filters and cut transitions. The audience can hear varying sounds and music in every film that developed a confident atmosphere permitting them to experience the film intensely and emotionally (Briefel, 2017). The Babadook movie has used different sounds to bring the feeling of loss, fear and hopelessness. Music has not been used throughout the movie, but most parts are used instrumentally to create suspense. Also, the movie used dialogue between Amelia and Samuel. This communication was facilitated by Amelia speaking to her son and when performing other activities such as handling the monster. Another sound present is when Babadook wants to indicate its presence stating "Baba dook, dook, dook" and other sounds such as crawling, and tapping which aim to scare the audience.

Lights are essential in the movie as it develops a visual mood, sense of meaning and atmosphere to viewers. Balanzategui (2017) stated that lighting is needed in every aspect of the movie because it informs the viewers where to look. Based on Babadook's movie, lighting is altered only in two ways because, in daytime, high three-point lighting is used. Few shadows are required during the daytime because the cinematographer wanted to prompt the regularity of Amelia in their daily events. However, at night the light was altered from high light to low

because the Babadook was coming. The key light was required to create a moonlight emanating from the window, generating a scary feeling because of the shadows developed.

Babadook film is created with design components that make it look as real to the audience. One of the vital elements used is filters that have dull colors. Also, the filters have a blue-tinged description. Similarly, the Babadook book is presented with a feeling of a professional touch. It indicates its shaded palette of greys and blacks and improves them with icy blue and blood-red inflections. Mitchell (2019) emphasized that the scene makes the film be viewed as a thriller. Moreover, the only transitions used in the film are the cutaway shots because the flashy effects would alter the important scenes in the movie. Similarly, special effects were also used in the Babadook part only, especially at night, for instance, when observed crawling on the ceiling.

Connection to Society

Although the film was indie, it has gained tremendous awareness in the United States society. This is because of the Babadook book's presence and the internet that allows people to share and get the film. Furthermore, the movie has won several awards. The audience watches Babadook movies for entertainment and enjoyment of the genre; nevertheless, it substantially impacts society. It is connected with society because of some of the real scenes presented, for instance, the benefits of socialization with family members and teaching people to protect themselves. Nevertheless, the positive impact of Babadook is to help individuals face their fears and can result in psychological issues, especially to people suffering from mental and health challenges such as anxiety.

In summation, movies play a critical role in individuals' life because they act as a source of entertainment and education. Therefore, the Babadook movie was released in 2014 has significant features and design used to ensure that the audience enjoys every scene. Also, auteur theory describes the movie best because the producer was the author of the script and presented the film in the best way they know and wanted to present their art. Society is connected with the film because of the scenes that cover the everyday events in an individual's life, such as grief due to the husband's death and as struggles of a single parent.

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