

## **Research Title or Question**

Cinematography and Emotion: Exploring the Relationship Between Lighting Techniques and Mood in Film

## **Draft Introduction**

Cinematography is the art and technique of motion picture technology. It involves such techniques as the general composition of a scene; the lighting of the set or location; the choice of cameras, lenses, filters, and film stock; the camera angle and movements; and the integration of any special effects. Emotions are physical and mental states brought on by neurophysiological changes, variously associated with thoughts, feelings, behavioral responses, and a degree of pleasure or displeasure. Emotions in the film are the deepest experience of the characters we watch and of ourselves as we watch them.

## **Keywords Searched**

Cinematography, Emotions, Lighting, Shots, Moods, Films

## **Research Design Methods**

This research methodology will focus on qualitative research based on peer-reviewed material searched on Google Scholar where some papers were found with detailed case studies from cinematographers, scholars and movie critics explaining their personal experiences and studies with the relationship between lighting techniques and mood in films.

## **Draft Literature Review**

According to Elen Lotman. *"Exploring the Ways Cinematography Affects Viewers' Perceived Empathy towards Onscreen Characters"*. *Baltic Screen Media Review* 4:88-105, the term cinematography refers to everything connected to camerawork(camera movement, lighting, lenses, etc.), not the wider use of the same term, which in theoretical literature, sometimes refers to the elements of film form more generally. In different theoretical works, the word 'cinematography' has often been given a far broader definition than the one used by filmmakers.

Ever since the introduction of moving pictures, cinematographers and directors have used several lighting techniques to evoke the emotions of the viewers of the film. Ideally, if a film makes is doing their job correctly, the audience should not be aware of all the techniques and skills the lighting designer uses to create a captivating experience. Nevertheless, filmmakers put a lot of effort into creating experiences that make audiences feel like they're "right there in the movie" (Lombard & Ditton, *At the Heart of It All: The Concept of Presence*, 1997). Their primary aim is to blend the viewer's sense of reality with what is shown on the screen, making them feel immersed in the movie's world.

According to Jennifer Lee Poland. *"Lights, Camera, Emotion! An Examination On Film Lighting And Its Impact On Audience's Emotional Response"*, one way film theorists and filmmakers achieve creating this media effect is by employing lighting theory. From the early days of cinema, lighting has been a fundamental element in creating the final picture. Just as in real life, light is everything for the moving image. Light is all the human eye sees. People do not see objects; they see light bouncing off objects at different color temperatures. The human eye observes light through the iris and the brain interprets the world as 3 dimensional. A camera, a model of the human eye able to record an image passing through the iris onto film, reproduces the image in only 2 dimensions. In order to produce images that appear 3 dimensional and help

the audience interpret the intended story or plotline, intense work on developing defined lighting theory and practice has been ongoing since the film's creation.

### **General Outline of Each Chapter**

1. Introduction
2. Literature Review
3. Methodology
4. What is Cinematography and Emotion?
5. What is the relationship between Lighting Techniques and Mood in Films?
6. What are the primary lighting techniques used to convey mood in cinematography?
7. How does lighting influence the emotional perception of a scene?
8. Can specific lighting styles be linked to particular genres or directorial signatures?
9. Conclusion

### **Draft Chapter**

### **Indicative Bibliography**

Elen Lotman. "Exploring the Ways Cinematography Affects Viewers' Perceived Empathy towards Onscreen Characters". *Baltic Screen Media Review* 4:88-105 , 2016 [Accesses 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]

Lombard & Ditton, "At the Heart of It All: The Concept of Presence", 1997 [Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]

Jennifer Lee Poland. "Lights, Camera, Emotion! An Examination On Film Lighting And Its Impact On Audience's Emotional Response", 2014 [Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Cinematography" Available at <https://www.britannica.com/topic/cinematography> [Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]

Katherine W. "Lighting Techniques: Creating Mood and Atmosphere in Films", 2024 [Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]

Ben Mills. "Capturing Emotions: The Power of Cinematography in Film and Television", 2023 [Accessed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024]