

Master's Thesis:

SHAPING A NATION: Representation of National Cinema in Taiwanese Cinema

Author of thesis: Lung-Yin Lin

Assessment of the opponent Karla Stojáková

First of all, I am very glad to get to read this Master's Thesis about Taiwanese Cinema, which I personally find as an area that has not been explored enough.

Overall, this Master's Thesis has interesting and promising premise, "whether films produced in Taiwan island can be regarded as part of a national cinema". That being written, I have two main remarks.

From the beginning, we are exploring specific cinema of a country which has its interesting history. If we are focusing on the national identities, we need more background about the history from the beginning of the thesis. It is noted that the author explores the history more deeply in the section where we are informed about history of Taiwanese Cinema, but the author shouldn't forget to establish the historical grounds for his thesis from the beginning, so the reader can focus on this thesis with more knowledge and be equipped to analyse theoretical concept of National Cinema of Taiwan with a point of view from the author with all its reasons why three described films have been chosen, to have better understanding about it all in general.

With the second remark I would like to address the conclusion. Even though the author established his thesis as a question with suitable yes or no answer, the article is based on the grounds of ever-moving history and it would be good to open it for the future, what are the possibilities of other movements in the Taiwanese National Cinema? The author himself mentions in conclusion the continued discussion on how to conceive Taiwan as a nation, he should then consider that the identity of the Taiwanese Cinema can be altered in the future. As the identity of each nation can never stop changing, nor can't the identity of the National Cinema and that's a general fascination we can all think about after reading this Master's Thesis.