

Review of thesis "USE OF SLOW MOTION IN FICTION FILMS "

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This thesis tempts to give an in-depth insight of the filming technique "slow motion". Origin, history and technology lead into examples of practical use. Sourabh considers action, romance and comedy films as main genres and describes some scenes which use slow motion, both the making of and the emotional impact.

Maybe the introduction is the most interesting part of this thesis. Unfortunately it just touches the "thought behind" slow motion, it's physiological principle, it's "precursor" in theatre, it's use as a dramaturgical story telling element, it's psychological impact.

In the starting chapter history, Sourabh presents a shortly overview of few examples from the last century and then just quickly mentions technologic progress from film cameras up to latest digital devices.

The next section briefly covers the two main methods of achieving slow motion: over cranking and interpolation.

In the technology chapter shutter types and angles, lighting problematics shooting slow motion, framerate, resolution and data management are explained. Ramping, time slicing effect and specially designed robots for ultra fast movements are closing the technology part.

It seems a bit awkward that the movies "Bonnie and Clyde" and "the Untouchables" serve alongside "X-men" as examples of action movies. The scenes are presented with their storyline and then try to describe the technology of shooting and editing. The exploration of the emotional impact and the psychological effect, if the use of slow motion creates tension, adds drama and expands storytelling methods, or makes a movie kind of cheesy, unwanted kitschy or unrealistic comes quite too short.

The following examples of movies and choices of genres continue to suggest that this thesis is not really thought-out.

In the conclusion Sourabh tries to summarise and come up with some general statements.

Generally speaking, this thesis unfortunately doesn't stay away of some generalisations and sometimes misses the real point. Some argumentation suggests incorrect conclusions or stays on a superficial level. The basic principle of shooting speed in relation to projection speed and it's perception of the human eye and the brain's processing could have had more space. Hand cranked cameras or Charlie Chaplin are not even mentioned.

The text is sometimes confusing, and explains more complex contexts in an incomprehensible way. Weak english, grammar mistakes and typing errors could have certainly been corrected.

Reading this thesis I had the feeling quite a few times that it was written in a last-minute style and not researched and discussed profoundly.

I would suggest to grade this thesis with grade "D".

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13.9. 2016

