

Analysis of the Interaction Between the Theme of Film and Television Series and Social Background: Taking Korean Crime Genre Films and TV Shows as an Example

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Abstract: As the entertainment market grows, the film and television industry is gaining more and much power in spreading a nation's unique culture and guiding society's values. This research is based on the linkage and interaction of society and TV series and films, the author analyzed the factors of how TV series and films are influenced by social background and how society can be changed through the TV series and films industry. This research finds that TV series and films, and society, have a bidirectional linkage. Also, the broadcast and popularity of the film and television series play a role in revealing, amplifying, and ultimately driving the resolution of social issues. These two factors are tightly linked together. Based on the research above, this essay points out that with proper guidance and intervention, the two factors above can form a virtuous cycle of mutual promotion.

1 INTRODUCTION

With the development of the internet, the reach and influence of television series and films are continuously rising, deeply embedded in daily life. Looking through all kinds, the crime genre films and TV series cannot be ignored as they possess a huge market and influence. It is important due to its commercial success and how it leads to extensive consideration of the current social situation. In which the crime genre TV series and films from South Korea are playing a role, particularly because of their unique topic choice and main critical idea, and are gaining popularity on an international scale. This leads to many relevant research studies, which contain opinions as follows: Korean crime genre films not only have artistic attempts at dramatic tension, but also concentrate on society itself. What's more, film creators will illustrate their social perspectives through telling stories based on and royal in true stories themselves, which gives films the ability to discuss real human nature (Zhang, 2014). Korean crime genre movies and TV series are rooted in the Korean ethnic group's unique "Hate Culture," which has the characteristic of caring for society. They express the criticism and reflection on human nature,

leading films from just reciting true stories to digging out the facts of reality (Jiang, 2020). Based on the research on Korea films' history of development, it's easy to find that Korean films form a special kind of film type that is deeply related to the country's history and politics as long as people matched the social changes with film industry's history together (Duan & Hou, 2024). Due to this, this research hopes to discuss and find out how social background impacts films and TV series in their main topics' choosing, and how society will be influenced by the popularity of this type of work. This research will discuss the ideas above based on the study of historical policies, taking the development and characteristics of Korean crime genre films and television series as an example. To analyse the interaction of TV series and films' progression and social background, and the inspiration for their further development.

2 KOREAN CRIME GENRE FILMS AND TV SERIES' DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS

Korea's crime genre films and TV series' development has experienced many changes. After World War 2, the Korean film and TV series industry gradually recovered. In the 60-80s in the 20th century, under the protection of "Screen Quota System" and "Film Promotion Law", which are strategies like requiring Korean cinemas to screen a certain number of domestic films every year, provide policy support, funding guarantee, and institutional framework for the Korean film industry. Since then, the industry has stepped into the initial development stage (Kim, 2007). But due to the limitations of social and political background, a strict review system, it was not many crime genre films and television series than life dramas with the theme of daily life. Till the generation of the 90s 20th century, the Korean government set up the Film Promotion Fund and the Fundamental Act for the Revitalization of the Cultural Industry for Small and medium budget films and new directors. Under the social background of the accelerating democratization process and policy support in society, the censorship system has been relaxed. The film and television series industry in Korea is beginning to open up, and creators are exploring more diverse themes (Milim, 2011). Beyond daily life drama and love story, creators began to adapt scripts from real historical events, which include adaptations from historical cases. This was when crime genre films and television series in Korea began to develop fast. Stepping into the 21st century, Korea's crime genre films and television series have entered a mature stage. To encourage the progression of the cultural content industry and to support Korean films to enter international film festivals, the Korean government established the Korean Content Revitalization Institute and Support policies for the internationalization of Korean films. These policies allow Korea's crime-themed films and television to gain much improvement in topic choosing, style changing, and technique progressing (Song, 2006). During this time, due to the unique topic selection, Korea's crime-themed films and television have distinct characteristics. For example, the amplification, criticality, and impact on social issues, as well as the significant enlightenment and influence on the audience. This type of creation uses exaggerated artistic expressions in narration, magnifying the main conflict of social issues as a focused contradiction

point in front of society, and the creators usually use metaphorical imagery to imply contradictory points (Zhang, 2019). This allows the works to enrich the artistic quality while providing the audience with the possibility of interpretation from multiple perspectives, which better leads the audience to discuss the topic and further into personal thoughts.

3 INTERACTION ANALYSIS

3.1 The Impact of Society on the Development of Film and Television Series

3.1.1 The Impact of Historical Issues in the Social Context on Film and Television

The history of Korea has been through many twists and turns, and the development of the Korean film and television industry was deeply impacted by the country's history. The dissatisfaction and despair of society, the sorrow and tragedy of personal life, released from Korea's crime genre films and television series originated from the culture of "hatred" of the Korean nation over the years due to its historical factors (Jiang, 2020). Centered around the highly focused, exaggerated, and artistic imagery of 'hate', these are the characteristics that crime genre films and television series, induced by the culture of "hatred", have. It showcases the care of society, criticism of human nature, and the reflection on reality. Despite both individuals and society being powerless to resist the tide of the times generated by the collision of social background and democratization wave, creators, however, conduct their profound thinking about humanity, society, and cinematographic art through logical composition and work creation (Chen, 2020). Setting the story in a turbulent era, hoping to showcase society's issues and criticize negative social problems at that time through the film, the creators guide the audience to learn from the past, the present, and draw experiences for the development of the modern era from the scroll of history.

3.1.2 The Influence of Disciplinary Culture in Social Context on the Development of Film and Television Series

Korea, as a member of the East Asian Confucian Cultural Circle, it was since the third century BC the

Confucian culture entered with the introduction of Chinese characters. Korea is deeply impacted by the "discipline" consciousness inside Confucian culture (Cao & Wang, 2019). It was widely promoted and disseminated by the ruling class because of its efficient usage in stabilizing the rule. Till the time of the Goryeo era, Korea's absorption of Confucianism was mainly Zhu Xi's "Neo Confucianism" theory. Although it did play a positive role in the feudal rule period, it also led to the issue of the theory's rigidity, decay, and strictness. Among all the theories, the "Three Obediences and Five Constants" ideology proposed by the Zhu Xi school of thought has been playing an important living rules since the Three Kingdoms period in Korea. The violence and revenge scenes shown by crime-themed films and TV shows can be seen as a violation of norms and regulations, which provide audiences with emotional outlets under heavy social pressure. Audiences, as the general public who grew up in an era with the background of rapid urbanization and highly socialized humans, are constrained by social norms and seek release and relaxation in regulations. The emergence of films and the television industry provides them with a low threshold for personal ability requirements for release and relaxation, thus creating the worldwide popularity of this type of work in the market (Yang, 2024).

In conclusion, social background has a profound influence on film and TV series. The unique historical and cultural factors have a significant impact on the creation of artistic works like films and television dramas, as they are closely linked to the creators' emotions and topic choice, as well as the audiences' acceptance and emotional resonance. Therefore, the problems in society from the past to current present can be reflected by films and television series, and finally achieve a reflection on social reality.

3.2 The Role of Film and Television Series in Promoting Social Development

Firstly, film and TV dramas can provide audiences with emotional release through showcasing social issues, which play an important role in venting their emotions. According to the 'cathartic theory', it is believed that tragedy can help the audience purify their emotions by triggering fear and compassion. This theory has been deeper developed in Freud's psychoanalytic school, which thinks that individuals can reach psychological balance by expressing their

pressure. Crime genre films and TV series, due to the profound linkage and interaction with social background, can easily evoke emotional resonance, release stress, and ultimately achieve personal healing among audiences.

Secondly, films and TV dramas can provide channels for the nation's culture. Take crime genre films as an example, due to the criticism and resistance towards reality, they are highly welcomed in the film market. They also successfully drove consumption and facilitated cultural circulation and dissemination. Especially in the post-pandemic era, with the characteristics of generally high psychological pressure, globalization adjustments, and the coexistence of national cooperation and competition. As the requirements for maintaining society's stability and promoting the nation's culture are becoming increasingly strict, using these requirements through films and television series is undoubtedly a very wise choice to make (Kamon, 2022).

Thirdly, the films and TV dramas can have a wide spread social impact and ultimately guide the progression and innovation of social policy. The writer will still take crime genre films as an example, it will be greatly helpful for the audiences to find social issues and for the attention of the public to the re-discussion of marginalized and grassroots issues, if they have a strong influence due to their critical portrayal of reality. They may even have the potential to impact social legislation. Take the movie *Silenced* as an example. It attracted widespread attention from society towards sexual assault cases after its release. It has provided strong impetus for further improvements in relevant policies of the government. Take the movie *Memories of Murder* as another example, due to the widespread discussion about the real case in history in society, it led to the restarted of the investigation. The truth of the cases was finally revealed decades later. The director, Bong Joon-ho, stated that he has no intention to create a traditional crime-themed film, but hopes to explore more possibilities through the film *Memories of Murder*. He combines crime films with social criticism to discuss human nature, giving the film a deeper meaning than just a creation of art. This kind of innovation in social consciousness and films and television genres is conducive to the maintenance of the morality and dignity that humans should have, and has a profound impact on social realism.

In summary, films and television series have a positive impact on social development. It can not only play an important role in the reflection in the psychological healing of individuals in society, but

also provide direction for the required social governance under appropriate guidance for its social and discursive nature.

4 DISCUSSION

Crime genre films and TV series can have a profound impact on society, but considering the agglomeration, artistic, exaggerated characteristics it has, they may lead the social discussion away from the actual theme and actual response to an exaggerated result. What's more, the traffic-oriented and topicalization included in the dissemination process make its audience's perception more conflicting and stimulating. Therefore, it may lead to negative feedback where public discussion leans towards social panic rather than social resolution.

So, how to guide the discussion generated from films and TV dramas to the positive solutions provided side and maximize the positive impact on society? From the perspective of what society should do, the government should guide the social discussion's main point on solving the problem itself, rather than focusing on what damage it has caused to society. Stabilize social attention on caring for marginalized groups and focus on humanized policy improvements that can be made in society. The government can update domestic film and television policies based on the Regionalization Theory and Localization Theory, using a graded guidance system to ensure a more open range of topics allowed, to promote the production of more excellent works. Through the strategies above, they can reduce the panic that may be led by the social discussion to the maximum extent possible, maximizing the efficiency of the positive influence of the public discussion while guiding it towards a positive direction.

From the perspective of what film and television producers should do: the film and television industry should maintain the profound criticality and realism of this type of film and TV series while expressing them locally, seeking truth from facts, and guiding positive discussions in society. What's more, creators should try to balance reality and assumptions while expressing reality rationally. They should also retain the beautiful theme of praising human nature while respecting and being close to reality. It should be not only expressing concerns for society but also prompting audiences to deeply reflect on human survival and liberation.

5 CONCLUSION

This research is taking the linkage between Korean crime genre films and television series, and social background as an example. This research discovered that not only can the success of this kind of film and TV dramas not be achieved without the sampling and criticism of social background, but the social background also plays a decisive role in films and TV series topic choosing. The author thinks that there's a strong bidirectional correlation between films and television dramas and social background. The interaction of these two factors can provide ideas and directions for social reform, it can improve the positive cycle efficiency of the film and television industry and society, while guiding discussions towards positivity as long as joined with proper intervention. Further research can focus on how the film and television industry can efficiently provide social context with both efficient positive impact and ideas for the positive cycle between the industry and society. Expands the range of comparison involved in the research instead of limiting the focus to just Korean crime film and television series; Using big data models to analyze the interaction between the film and television industry and social policies, as well as the relationship between social policies and audience feedback scientifically.

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