

# **THE LIBRARIAN**

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“The best movie is one that can be watched over and over again.”

Serkan Aktaş



## Contents

<b>Glossary</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Preface</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Purpose</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Methodology</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Scope</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## Chapter One

### The Importance of Character in Narrative Films

<b>1. Creating a Role</b> .....	<b>19</b>
1.1. Character and Psychology .....	22
1.2. The Importance of Character Creation .....	25
1.3. The Universality of The Script .....	27
1.4. The Modern Loneliness and Cinema .....	29
1.5. Movies on Loneliness .....	32
1.5.1. Movies On Loneliness in Turkish Cinema .....	33
1.5.1.1. The Motherland Hotel (1986) .....	33
1.5.1.2. Distant (2002) .....	35
1.5.1.3. Hair (2010) .....	37
1.5.1.4. Inside (2012) .....	39
1.5.2. Movies on Loneliness in World Cinema .....	40
1.5.2.1. Red Desert (1964) .....	41
1.5.2.2. Ali: Fear Eats the Soul (1974) .....	43
1.5.2.3. The Passenger (1974) .....	44
1.5.2.4. The Tenant (1976) .....	46
1.5.2.5. Taxi Driver (1976) .....	47

1.5.2.6. Paris, Texas (1984) .....	49
1.5.2.7. Three Colors: Blue (1993) .....	50
1.5.2.8. Naked (1993) .....	53
1.5.2.9. Chungking Express (1994).....	54
1.5.2.10. Eternity and a Day (1998) .....	56
1.5.2.11. Tony Takitani (2004) .....	57
1.5.2.12. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004).....	58
1.5.2.13. Lights in the Dusk (2006) .....	59
1.5.2.14. Into the Wild (2007) .....	60
1.5.2.15. Her (2014).....	62
1.5.2.16. Lars and the Real Girl (2007) .....	64
1.5.2.17. Melancholia (2011) .....	65

## **Chapter Two**

### **The Production Process**

#### **The Emergence of the Film**

<b>2. The Production .....</b>	<b>69</b>
2.1. General Information about the Film .....	69
2.1.1. The Characters .....	70
2.1.2. The Synopsis.....	72
2.1.3. The Treatman – The Extended Story .....	74
2.1.4. The Script.....	87
2.1.5. Location .....	117
2.1.6. Cast.....	121
2.2. Production Crew .....	126
2.3. The Equipment .....	127
2.4. The Budget .....	129

2.5. The Completion of the Shootings .....	131
2.6. The Shooting Script .....	133
2.7. Images from the Film Set.....	191
2.8. Post Production.....	194
2.8.1. Editing.....	194
2.8.2. The Color (The Color Correction) .....	195
2.8.3. The Split Screen Effect .....	195
2.8.4. The Music .....	196
2.8.5. The Sound Effects, t he Sound Design and The Final Mix .....	196
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Background .....</b>	<b>204</b>
<b>Filmography .....</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Awards of The Librarian Short Film .....</b>	<b>206</b>

## Pictures List

Image 1 Mazhar.....	121
Image 2 The twin.....	121
Image 3 The Mime Artist.....	122
Image 4 The second hand bookseller Hulki .....	123
Image 5 Ece.....	123
Image 6 Recep .....	124
Image 7 The Fisherman.....	125
Image 8 Socrates .....	125
Image 9 The living room scene .....	191
Image 10 The nightmare scene.....	191
Image 11 The scene of waking up .....	192
Image 12 The scene of Kumkapı .....	192
Image 13 The scene of the Galata Bridge.....	193
Image 14 The scene of the second hand bookstore bazaar .....	193
Image 15 The library scene.....	194



## GLOSSARY

**Christopher Vogler:** He is the most famous figure of our time when it comes to bringing together the words "writer", "script", and "character creation". He is an experienced story consultant who has worked for major Hollywood film studios such as the Twentieth Century Fox and Disney.

**Psychology:** It is a scientific discipline that aims to understand the nature of human behavior. Although psychology and cinema have different goals, they converge in examining complex human behavior from both scientific and artistic perspectives.

**Cinema:** It is an art form that reflects complex human behavior with its various features as emphasized by Lajos Egri. Although psychology and cinema have different goals, they come together in examining complex human behavior from both scientific and artistic perspectives.

**Alienation:** It is the state of being with people but feeling cut off, discarded, and unable to communicate fully with others. In abstraction, however, there is no one else to talk to except yourself.

**Konstantin Stanislavski:** He is a Russian theater theorist and practitioner. Not only in theater but also among the bedside books of screenplay, story, and novel wri-

ters for years, he is the author of the world-famous book "Creating a Role."

**Martin Scorsese:** An acclaimed film director and producer of our time, known for his film "Taxi Driver". The movie explores the theme of loneliness. He has received prestigious awards at major film festivals such as the Academy Awards, BAFTA, and Golden Globe.

**Federico Garcia Lorca:** A master of poetry, Spanish poet, playwright, as well as a painter, pianist, and composer.

## **PREFACE**

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to my advisor Prof. Dr. Oğuz Makal for his encouragement and support. Without him, this work would not have been completed. Their valuable comments and remarks are the rivers that make up this lake.

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Serkan Aktaş

## INTRODUCTION

### **"Talking all the time is not communicating."**

*(Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind)*

In a scene from the movie "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," there is a dialogue that says, "I think kids do not realize how lonely they are." Many films in recent years, such as "Anomalisa" (2015), depict characters who struggle to establish close relationships by feeling indifferent and uninspired. However, they find a connection to life again through a voice they hear in a hotel they stay in, or they break their loneliness by discovering who they are, as seen in such films as "Lost in Translation" (2003) or "25th Hour" (2002) directed by Spike Lee, where the characters need a 25th hour every day.

When the list goes on, all the movies such as "Magnolia" (1999), "Winter Sleep" (2014), "Disconnect" (2012), and "Julietta" (2016), are made to bring awareness, explore inner journeys, and reveal what we keep inside ourselves. While they may not form a specific "cinematographic" genre, they deserve the viewer's attention.

The film "The Librarian" is influenced by Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" (1976) regarding the theme of communication and loneliness. According to Iannucci (2005), Travis, the taxi driver who fails to reach his persona and returns as a non-hero from the Vietnam War, has remained vivid and hidden in memories. (p. 162)

In the movie Babel (2006) directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, there is a dialogue that says "When we talk about boundaries, we speak of places rather than conceptual terms. *The line in the abovementioned film "I believe that the real boundaries are within us," will guide the character in the film "The Librarian."*

To break his own inner boundaries, the character in "The Librarian" struggles to learn Spanish. He believes that the great master of poetry, Federico Garcia Lorca, can only be discovered when read in his own language. At the same time, he experiences the concern that his own language is under attack or will be attacked by other languages, which lead to his internal distress.

Language is considered one of the most significant gifts we can receive. When this vital bond between cultures and communities disappears, it cannot be replaced with anything of equal value. Perhaps this is the reason that causes the character in "The Librarian" to experience such anxiety and fear.

Certainly, there is no chance to regain an opportunity, like in the film "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," which emphasizes the intense pains that may arise from the relationships with the people around us. As remembered, Joel, the protagonist of the movie, who starts with anger, but as time goes by and the good things that have happened come to pass, eventually regrets the erasure process and tries to stop the intervention on himself. However, societies do not have such an opportunity, and the character in "The Librarian" quietly experiences this underlying anxiety.

While writing the story of "The Librarian," an attempt was made to remind the viewers of the importance of certain values by taking inspiration from these approaches.

It was preferred for the film to be about emotions that unite us rather than divide us, just like in a dialogue from the film "Babel." For this purpose, the narrative is divided into chapters like a novel, and occasionally the screen is split into two, confronting the "hero" with his reflection/image by creating two Mazhars in the story. But eventually, everything that is separated converges on the theme.

The study reveals this process of the film, "The Librarian".

With no doubt, in modern times, films are also made about the alienation of the modern individual who becomes isolated by using communication technologies and mediated forms of communication like the social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) instead of face-to-face communication such as in the film "Her." Although these films may not be the direct inspiration for "The Librarian," they are mentioned in the study for their relevance.

## **PURPOSE**

In this study (film), the protagonist (Mazhar), on one hand, strives to study Spanish, believing that the great master of poetry, Federico Garcia Lorca, can only be discovered if read in his own language. On the other hand, he worries that his own language has been or will be attacked by other languages. Thus, he experiences an increasing loneliness as the unemployment is added to this inner distress.

As a result, how the social environment affects the protagonist's consciousness/inner world, and how he tries to get out of the stuck situation he is in is intended to be explained in this fictional film.



## METHODOLOGY

Another issue related to the content is the "narration/language".

In terms of methodology, two distinct narrative techniques, namely "episodic storytelling" and "split screen" have been employed to intertwine with the content. This approach emphasizes the dilemma and the internal conflicts experienced by the protagonist as well as the conflict between the different aspects of his personality/identity.

In the creation process of the story, the thoughts, emotions, and the quests within the protagonist's world are portrayed within the framework of reality, while the viewers are not intended to fully identify themselves with the character. The ultimate goal is for the viewers to recognize the "situation" the character is in.

On the other hand, drawing inspiration from Brechtian aesthetics, the film incorporates an episodic narrative structure. Therefore, the scenes are divided accordingly.

## **SCOPE**

In terms of scope, the script of this film has been meticulously crafted to ensure originality by incorporating a pre-production phase such as the conceptualization and the thematic exploration as well as by paying careful attention to the location research and dialogue writing.

The film has been completed as a result of a professional approach in all stages, including casting decisions and collaborations with a music producer.

The movie is the result of professional work at every stage.

## CHAPTER ONE

# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER IN NARRATIVE FILMS

### 1. CREATING A ROLE

"As ideas clash with other minds, emerging from the writer's mind, trigger new waves that return to the writer. In this way, since new thoughts are formed and shaped, this process continues."

Christopher Vogler

The book "Creating a Role" by Konstantin Stanislavski, a Russian theater theorist and practitioner, has been a bedside companion not only for the theater enthusiasts but also for the script, story, and the novel writers for many years. In his book, Konstantin Stanislavski explains his approach, known as the "Stanislavski Method," which is fundamental in actor training, and delves into the art of acting as an art form. He describes his method in his book as follows: "It is not a ready-made costume that you can put on and step onto the stage or a recipe

book where all you have to do is find the relevant page and instructions. No, this system/method is a way of life in its entirety."

Lajos Egri, a Hungarian playwright who founded the "Egri Writing School" in New York City in the 1930s, wrote a book called "The Art of Dramatic Writing," which is widely used as a fundamental text in theater schools all around the world. Lajos Egri sees the writer, the story, and the viewers as the vivid parts of life, and he states that if a script can be summarized in three sentences (the three-sentence rule), it means the writer has done it correctly.

In his book "The Art of Dramatic Writing," Lajos Egri defines humans as a function with multiple unknowns. Until 1979, this book served as a source for writing "scripts" in many countries, primarily the United States. It argues that in storytelling, the most important aspect is not the plot but the character, specifically the character's psychological state (Field, 2006).

Psychology is a scientific discipline that seeks to understand the nature of human behavior, while cinema, as an art form, reflects the complex human behavior on the screen through various features as emphasized by Lajos Egri. Although psychology and cinema have different goals, they come together in examining complex human behavior from both scientific and artistic perspectives.