The Research on the Narrative Structure and Film Style of Director Hirokazu Kore-eda

Nanqiu Wu and Chalongrat Chermanchonlamark
Rangsit University, Thailand
Corresponding Author, E-mail: nanqiu.w65@rsu.ac.th

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Abstract

This research provides an overview of the evolution and influence of Japanese cinema, with a specific focus on the works of Hirokazu Kore-eda. Cinema was introduced to Japan in 1896, marking the beginning of a rich cinematic history that has evolved through various cultural and political epochs. These periods were characterized by significant transformations, influenced by key events such as the Great Kantō earthquake and the shifting policies of wartime Japan. Against this backdrop, independent filmmaking emerged in the 1980s and 1990s, setting the stage for filmmakers like Kore-eda.

This research aims to thoroughly examine the narrative structure and film style within the cinema of Hirokazu Kore-eda, a pivotal figure in both Japanese and global filmmaking scenes. Our specific objectives were: 1) to investigate the narrative structure of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films, and 2) to explore the film style employed in his cinema. The films selected for this study cover the period from 2016 to 2020, representing a significant phase in Kore-eda's career marked by a deep exploration of societal issues through complex emotional narratives and detailed character portrayal.

Qualitative methods and extensive literature reviews were utilized as the main research tools for data collection. The analysis of the data was supported by various statistical methods to interpret the cinematic techniques and narrative strategies employed by Kore-eda.

The results of the research reveal that Kore-eda's meticulous attention to character development and narrative complexity, along with his stylistic precision in cinematography, editing, and sound design, significantly enhance the emotional and psychological depth of his films. These elements affirm his status as a major influencer in the contemporary cinema landscape. Recommendations for future research include a comparative study of Kore-eda's techniques with other contemporary filmmakers to further understand the uniqueness and impact of his style on modern cinema..

Keywords: Japanese Cinema; Hirokazu Kore-eda; Narrative Structure; Film Style

Introduction

Cinema technology was introduced to Japan in 1896, initially focusing on recording Kabuki performances. The year 1898 marked an early development of Japanese cinema with Shirō Asano's "Jizō" and "The Resurrection of a Corpse." The establishment of Nikkatsu in 1912 marked the inception of Japan's film industry, which by 1928 controlled over 30 cinemas. The Great Kantō earthquake in 1923 saw a dramatic decline in film production, resulting in the influx of Hollywood and European films that fostered the development of the silent film era and Japan's first cinematic golden age. Post-1931, the industry became entangled with nationalistic and militaristic policies, tightening film censorship. By 1939, the film business

was directly controlled by the government, reducing it to a few major companies. During this era, filmmakers were polarized between supporting the government and maintaining artistic independence. After WWII, Japanese cinema underwent significant transformation, reaching new peaks during the 1950s under American occupation. However, as television became widespread, movie audiences dwindled, affecting the industry in the '70s and '80s. Post-'80s, independent filmmaking became mainstream. The '90s, against a backdrop of economic slump, heralded a boom in "independent cinema," producing numerous works with artistic and commercial value. Major events of the decade, like the Kobe earthquake and the Aum Shinrikyo incident, profoundly impacted Japanese society and its film industry. These events influenced film themes and styles, prompting creators to explore new forms of expression, signifying a shift from traditional commercial models to independent production (Gerow, 2011). Kore-eda's films are exemplary of this transition. The historical context profoundly influenced his subsequent creative themes and tones.

Born on June 6, 1962, in Tokyo, and graduating from Waseda University's Faculty of Letters in 1987, Hirokazu Kore-eda stands as one of Japan's most significant mid-generation directors, initiating the "New Wave of Japanese Cinema" alongside Naomi Kawase and Shinji Aoyama. Kore-eda's films focus on contemporary Japanese families, frequently employing documentary-like long takes to observe the lives within, a creative hallmark that earned his directorial debut based on Teru Miyamoto's novel "Maborosi" the cinematography award at the Venice Film Festival and a Golden Lion nomination. This high starting point smoothed the path for his subsequent works, eventually becoming a regular at European film festivals. In 2018, after three nominations, Kore-eda clinched the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival with "Shoplifters," a win that ended Japan's 21-year hiatus from the award, catapulting Kore-eda into global cinematic prominence(Mark & Bo,2012).

From his debut "Maborosi" in 1994 to his latest theatrical releases up to 2020, Kore-eda's films increasingly probe into the roots of societal issues, delving beyond mere surface-level problems to explore the flaws within social groups and systems. His detached perspective, poignantly depicting the tribulations of marginalized and vulnerable communities, has established a stark narrative style. Furthermore, he intricately blends elements of Japanese aesthetic realism with sharp social critique, marrying Eastern poetic romanticism with the harsh objectivity of reality criticism. His family-oriented films interlace an Eastern cultural aesthetic appreciation for death, kinship, memory, and love while also calmly constructing rational contemplations on life(Zhao & Xia,2020). These films outline Japanese society's visage, expressing universal dilemmas faced by families worldwide on a national scale.

Studying Kore-eda's narrative structure and film style is of paramount scholarly and cultural significance. As a leading contemporary Japanese director, his oeuvre has deeply influenced the art of modern filmmaking and storytelling methods. A thorough analysis of Kore-eda's cinematic narratives and styles offers insights into how he fuses traditional Japanese aesthetics with contemporary cinematic techniques, crafting works with a potent personal signature and cultural profundity. His films are not mere storytelling; they probe deeper social and cultural issues.

Kore-eda's works also mirror the societal shifts and era-specific traits of Japan, especially in the post-economic bubble era. His films act as windows into the multifaceted effects on Japanese society, encompassing economic, political, and sociopsychological aspects. This profound socio-cultural analysis renders Kore-eda's cinema as crucial texts for exploring the transformations within modern Japanese society. Examining his body of work enhances the

comprehensive grasp of Japanese cinema and its representation and influence on the international stage. Therefore, a systematic study of Kore-eda's filmic narrative structure and stylistic elements promises to enrich and broaden existing cinematic theories while providing fresh perspectives and depth to Japanese film studies..

Research Objectives
    1. To investigate the narrative structure of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films.
    2. To explore the film style of Hirokazu Kore-eda's cinema..

Literature Review
    Jiao (2023) in "A Study of Hirokazu Kore-eda's Family Films from the Perspective of Cultural Anthropology" explores the deep cultural and social significance of Koreeda's family films from a cultural anthropological view. The article emphasizes Koreeda's influence in the realm of family cinema and analyzes how his films reflect and interpret Japanese cultural traits and values. The study delves into the depiction of family relationships, parent-child relations, and the institution of marriage within his films, employing cultural anthropological methods to decode symbols, symbols, and rituals, thus dissecting the cultural concepts and social structures they represent. Moreover, Jiao conducts a cross-cultural comparison, exploring the evolution and commonalities of family across different cultures, concluding that a cultural anthropological perspective can deepen our understanding of family and social relations.

    Zhang (2023) uses a childhood perspective to explore themes of childhood in Koreeda's films. Zhang analyzes Koreeda's reconstruction of childhood memories, the portrayal of children's inner worlds, and the influence of family and society on child development. Through studies of childhood and film theory, she deeply examines symbols, symbols, and narratives in the films, discussing the representation and universality of childhood themes across different cultural backgrounds. Zhang suggests that studying films from a childhood perspective helps to deepen understanding of children's inner worlds and life experiences, offering insights into the advancement of child psychological health and the development of cinematic art.

    Wang (2023) discusses the reconstitution of nationality in contemporary Japanese visual art, using Koreeda's film creations as a case study in "National Reconstruction of Contemporary Japanese Imaging Art - Taking Hirokazu Koreeda's Film Creation as an Example." Wang analyzes how Koreeda reconstructs and reinterprets features of Japanese society and culture, particularly family relations and traditional culture. Through theories of visual art and cultural studies, Wang dissects how Koreeda's films reconstruct Japanese nationality, arguing that Koreeda's works offer insights into the development of Japanese visual art through their interpretation of traditional culture.

    Chen (2022) in "Eastern Poetic Expression - The ethereal world of Hirokazu Koreeda" explores the expression of Eastern poetics in Koreeda's films. Chen delves deeply into how Koreeda displays features of Eastern culture in his films, especially in the depiction of natural environments and the portrayal of character emotions. Using theories of drama and visual art, she examines the commonalities in poetic expression between Koreeda and other Eastern directors, positing that Koreeda's films provide audiences with an artistic experience that transcends reality, significantly contributing to the development and heritage of Eastern visual art.

Research Methodology

The methodology section is structured as follows:

1. Qualitative Research:

To gain an in-depth understanding of the narrative structures and expressive styles in Kore-eda's films. This includes detailed content analysis of selected films, observational techniques, and interpretive analysis of filmic elements such as dialogue, cinematography, and editing. Each film is analyzed to uncover how Kore-eda builds stories, develops characters, and utilizes visual expression.

2. Source of Data:

Direct analysis of the films "After the Storm" (2016), "The Third Murder" (2017), "Shoplifters" (2018), and "The Truth" (2019). For reviews, scholarly articles, interviews with the filmmaker, and critical analyses from established film critics and academics.

3. Population and Sampling:

Population: The corpus of films directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda over his career, with a focus on the most recent complete works available for analysis.

Sample: A purposive sample of four films released between 2016 and 2020, chosen based on their relevance to current cinematic themes and Kore-eda's evolution as a filmmaker.

4. Data Collecting:

Viewing and reviewing each selected film multiple times to ensure thorough understanding and interpretation. Collecting secondary data from film archives, online databases, and film journals that provide insights into Kore-eda's directorial intentions and audience reception.

5. Analysis of Data:

Analytical Techniques: Employing thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and motifs. Structural analysis to examine narrative architecture and character development. Stylistic analysis to explore the use of cinematography, sound, and editing techniques.

Tools: Utilization of qualitative data analysis software to organize, code, and interpret data.

6. Conceptual Framework

This paper concentrates on the practical application of film theory, selecting four films by Hirokazu Kore-eda from the period of 2016-2020. The works from this era show significant evolution and transformation in terms of narrative and style, and also exhibit diversity in style and themes. Based on this, the study examines how Kore-eda reflects societal issues through the details and emotions of personal stories and analyzes his slow-paced filmic language to distill Kore-eda's unique film style.

The films are as follows as Table 1.

Table 1 Four films by Hirokazu Kore-eda from the period of 2016-2020.

Years	Film Title	Film Poster	Award Record
2016	"After The Storm"(2016)		Cannes Film Festival: A focus on the Grand Prize; Online Film Critics Association Award for Best Film released outside North America
2017	"The Third Murder"(2017)		Venice Film Festival: Golden Lion; Japanese Film Awards: Best Film, Best Director; Asian Film Awards: Best Film.
2018	"Shoplifters"(2018)		Academy Awards: Best Foreign Language Film; Cannes Film Festival: Palme d 'Or; Golden Globes: Best Foreign Language Film, Motion Picture; Bafta: Film Award for Best non-English Language Film; Japanese Film Awards: Best Film, Best Director; The Cesar Award for Best Foreign Language Film; Asian Film Awards: Best Film, Best Director.
2019	"The Truth"(2019)		Venice Film Festival: Golden Lion.

Research Results

1. Narrative structure of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films

The narrative structure of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films encompasses the internal struggle and growth of characters, multi-layered presentation of conflict, and central themes explored within the films. Through these aspects, we gain a deep understanding of how Kore-eda, through delicate character depiction and complex plot design, reflects on a wide array of family and societal issues. Additionally, we focus on the settings and narrative styles of these films, assessing how they collectively impact storytelling and the emotional experience of the audience, further revealing the director's unique techniques and artistic choices in filmmaking.

1.1 Characters

All the main characters in these films undergo internal struggles and growth. Whether it's the protagonist Ryota in "After The Storm" dealing with failure and familial disintegration, or Misumi in "The Third Murder" searching for identity and the meaning of life, the themes of growth and inner turmoil are prevalent. The family plays a pivotal role, whether it's the tense relationship between Ryota and his family in "After The Storm" or the emotional bonds among the Shibata family in "Shoplifters". These films depict the complex family relationships of the characters, as well as their roles and responsibilities within the family. The characters, mostly from the lower strata of Japanese society, face various economic, social, and family pressures. Their rich inner worlds and emotional experiences are portrayed, displaying complexity in their emotions and thoughts, which makes the characters more authentic and relatable, engaging the audience in their stories.

1.2 Conflict

Conflict is an essential element in Kore-eda's "After The Storm," "The Third Murder," "Shoplifters," and "The Truth," permeating the narrative development. These films depict various conflicts, from internal struggles to external pressures, personal choices to societal expectations, driving the narrative forward and deepening character relationships and development. The primary characters experience internal psychological conflicts, with internal battles shaping their complexity and eliciting a deeper understanding and empathy from the audience. External factors such as societal pressures, moral dilemmas, and familial expectations significantly impact the characters' actions and decisions. Additionally, interpersonal conflicts and relational tensions among the characters are depicted, serving as catalysts for story development and character growth, and vividly portraying the complexity of human nature and societal structures.

1.3 Themes

Despite differing narrative backdrops and plotlines, these films share important common themes, notably family relationships. They explore the complexity and warmth of family relations, showcasing interactions and conflicts within the familial unit. Another shared theme is the struggle and survival of society's marginalized individuals, with the films delving into the characters' positioning and pursuit of identity in a complex society.

1.4 Setting

The films all emphasize the centrality of family life and interpersonal relationships, whether set against the backdrop of modern Japanese urbanity in "After The Storm," the stark reality of lower-class society in "Shoplifters," or the familial drama in France in "The Third Murder." The daily challenges and conflicts of ordinary families are showcased, reflecting many problems modern families might face.

1.5 Narrative Style

The narrative structure of "After The Storm," "The Third Murder," "Shoplifters," and "The Truth" showcases a variety of methods, each contributing uniquely to the overall storytelling and thematic exploration. "After The Storm" employs a linear narrative, allowing audiences to follow the protagonist's journey without the complexities of time manipulation. In contrast, "The Third Murder" presents a non-linear narrative, adding layers of intrigue and depth, while "Shoplifters" uses a deconstructive narrative style, breaking traditional linear storytelling and focusing on complex everyday life and familial relationships. "The Truth" also adopts a non-linear narrative, deepening audience understanding of the characters' motivations and emotions, resulting in a rich and thought-provoking storytelling experience.

These films narrate captivating stories, exploring complex social and family issues with the language of cinema, displaying the multifaceted nature of modern Japanese society. Each dimension within these films reflects Kore-eda's unique insights and skills as a director.

2. Film style of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films

This section delves into the distinctive style of Hirokazu Kore-eda's films, focusing on the portrayal of cinematography, color, sound, editing, and the overall stylistic expressions within his movies. These elements together shape the compelling visual and auditory style present in Kore-eda's films, deepening the emotional layers of the story and directly impacting the audience's viewing experience.

2.1 Cinematography

The cinematography of a film is essential, as it significantly influences how the story is presented and the viewer's experience.

In "After The Storm," Kore-eda adopts a traditional shooting style, portraying the narrative straightforwardly and concisely. With stable camera work and classic filming techniques, the audience is immersed in the protagonist Ryota's daily life. Limited camera movements focus attention on the emotional interplay and relationships between characters, as well as their environment. This method fosters an intimacy with the characters, sharing in their struggles and growth, and emphasizes the use of natural light and real settings to enhance the realism and emotional depth of the film.

In "Shoplifters," Kore-eda draws inspiration from real-life interviews at a children's shelter before shooting. The characters and scenes are affected by these experiences, using meticulously crafted cinematographic techniques to evoke a sense of navigating a vast and harsh ocean, signified by a blue color tone, representing the journey of self-discovery and consciousness. Particularly, scenes like the characters looking up at fireworks, captured from a high angle, intensify the audience's visual engagement and emotional resonance.

"The Third Murder" employs varied camera angles and lighting effects to accentuate different scenes and emotions. Utilizing close-ups, medium shots, and wide lenses, the film creates a visually rich experience, immersing the audience deeper into the emotional and dramatic aspects of the story. The film fully exploits the variations in lighting and color to establish different moods and atmospheres through these cinematographic techniques, successfully portraying the story's complexity and depth, immersing the audience in the narrative to experience the characters' inner world and emotional changes.

In "The Truth," the director uses carefully selected angles and lens applications to seamlessly merge scenes from the past and present, allowing the audience to better understand the characters' growth and changes. The film utilizes refined lighting to enhance the expression of emotions and atmosphere. With strategic lighting use, contrast between light and dark

scenes, and color treatment, the film displays a rich visual layering, further immersing the audience in the story. The film also uses specific cinematographic techniques like fast and slow-motion, close-ups, etc., to emphasize critical emotional moments and character expressions.

2.2 Color

In "After The Storm," the color palette mirrors the protagonist's everyday life, filled with mundane yet emotionally charged moments. Soft and natural tones dominate the film's cinematography, underscoring the routine nature of Ryota's existence, subtly signaling the emotional complexity beneath the family dynamics. "Shoplifters" uses a blue color scheme, evoking melancholy and introspection. The cool palette reflects the struggle against societal constraints and the pursuit of connection amidst adversity, deepening the film's emotional resonance. "The Third Murder" employs varied color palettes to convey the narrative's multifaceted nature. The warm hues coexist with stark contrasts, highlighting moral ambiguities and the complexity of the characters' actions and motivations, adding visual richness to the film's quest for truth and justice. In "The Truth," the color composition reflects the dichotomy of reality versus illusion within the narrative. Soft, subdued tones juxtaposed with vivid accents mirror the characters' external façades and internal conflicts. The use of color deepens the story's emotional impact, prompting viewers to ponder the blurred lines between reality and perception.

2.3 Sound

In "After The Storm," sound design emphasizes capturing the ambient sounds of everyday life, from the rustling of leaves to the patter of raindrops. These subtle auditory cues heighten the film's realism, drawing viewers into the protagonist's world, emphasizing moments of reflection and connection amid tumultuous family dynamics. "Shoplifters" uses sound to convey the depth of emotion and intimacy within the characters' relationships. The score, characterized by gentle melodies and ambient sounds, accentuates tender and vulnerable moments, inviting viewers to sympathize with the characters' plights and desires. "The Third Murder" uses sound to escalate the narrative's tension and suspense. Eerie effects and atmospheric music set the film's noir tone, emphasizing moral ambiguity and the psychological complexity of the characters' predicaments. In "The Truth," sound evokes the emotional subtleties of character interactions and conflicts. Subtle sound cues and atmospheric music underscore moments of revelation and introspection, adding depth and texture to the film's exploration of truth and perception.

2.4 Editing

In "After The Storm," the editing style is characterized by a deliberate pacing and minimalist approach, organically unfolding the narrative. Seamless transitions and restrained cuts enhance the film's contemplative tone, prompting reflection on the complexities of family relationships and personal growth. "Shoplifters" features smooth and detailed editing, seamlessly interweaving multiple plot lines and character arcs. The pacing is meticulously adjusted to maintain tension and suspense, while smart use of flashbacks deepens the narrative's backdrop and context. "The Third Murder" employs editing techniques to create a narrative tension and ambiguity. Rapid cuts and dynamic transitions reflect the fractured reality of the protagonist, while a judicious pacing immerses viewers in anticipation until the final revelations. In "The Truth," editing is characterized by a subtle rhythm and thematic resonance. Intuitive cuts and juxtapositions amplify the film's exploration of truth and perception, while

strategic pacing builds suspense and emotional depth, inviting viewers to question their assumptions and biases.

2.5 Film Style

"After The Storm" features a minimalist and observational style, prioritizing character development and emotional resonance over ostentatious visuals or dramatic flourish. The film stresses authenticity and intimacy, inviting viewers to connect with the characters on a personal level and to reflect on the intricacies of human relationships. "Shoplifters" exhibits a naturalistic and immersive style, capturing the raw beauty and internal contradictions of daily life. The narrative unfolds with an organic sense of fluidity, inviting viewers to delve into the characters' struggles and triumphs, challenging preconceived notions of family and morality. "The Third Murder" showcases a stylized and atmospheric style, blending psychological thriller and courtroom drama elements to craft a riveting, reflective narrative. The film's noir visuals and complex plot twists engage viewers with its moral complexity and philosophical themes, while dynamic pacing and a suspenseful atmosphere keep audiences on the edge of their seats. "The Truth" presents a complex and nuanced style, balancing quiet introspective moments with bold visual statements. The film's graceful compositions and subdued performances draw viewers into contemplating the nature of truth and memory, while fluid editing and a rich color palette add depth and texture to the narrative, sparking varied interpretations and reflections.

From the above analysis, it is evident how Kore-eda meticulously constructs the unique style of each film. These technical elements not only enhance the narrative momentum and emotional expression but also provide the audience with a profound visual and auditory experience. Kore-eda's film style showcases his artistic sensitivity as a director and a deep understanding of the film medium, securing his works a place in the realm of global cinematic art.

Discussion

Hirokazu Kore-eda, a distinguished contemporary Japanese filmmaker, has won extensive acclaim in the film industry for his profound humanitarian concern and unique artistic perspective. His works have not only had a significant impact in Japan but have also showcased the allure of Asian cinema on the international stage. This paper aims to review recent literature on Hirokazu Kore-eda's films, exploring the artistic features, cultural implications, and international influence of his filmmaking. Li & Song (2024) analyze how Kore-eda's works have reached the international stage from a cultural representation perspective. They point out that "Shoplifters," as one of his representative works, has successfully integrated Asian cultural elements into the film through unique narrative techniques and profound social insights, gaining wide recognition in the international market. Lei (2023) focuses on the "generative" model of Kore-eda's filmmaking practice and its implications. She argues that Kore-eda's creation process involves a unique generative model by meticulously observing and exploring everyday life to uncover its profound meanings and humanistic glories. This model not only offers new ideas for filmmaking but also brings a fresh aesthetic experience to the audience.

Kore-eda's films are distinguished by their artistic characteristics, cultural content, and international impact. By delving into the depth of characters and complex emotions, Kore-eda's films deepen viewers' understanding of the psychological and social backgrounds of the characters. He uses delicate camera work to capture the details of daily life, revealing deep

social issues such as alienation, loneliness, and detachment through the interactions between characters. Moreover, Kore-eda utilizes unique narrative structures and temporal flow techniques to enhance the story's depth and the viewer's immersion. In terms of film style, Kore-eda enhances the emotional expression and visual impact of his films through carefully designed cinematography and color use. His films often convey the inner worlds of the characters and the thematic emotions of the film through sensitive handling of light and color. Kore-eda's meticulous attention to sound and editing also forms an essential part of his film style. He uses ambient sounds to enhance the sense of presence, making the audience feel as if they are within the movie's environment. His editing aims for fluidity and naturalness, avoiding over-dramatization to maintain the authenticity and simplicity of the story.

Based on the content above, this study concludes the following:

1. Narrative Structure Exploration

Kore-eda's films explore the social relationships of families and individuals through complex narrative structures. Typically centering on family, his films use detailed character portrayal and emotional nuances to display the dynamics within family members and individuals' inner worlds. This narrative approach deepens viewers' understanding of the characters and reflects changes in family structures and their impact on personal identity within Japanese society. By depicting internal family conflicts and individual psychological exploration, Kore-eda's films reveal common challenges and pressures in modern society, demonstrating his keen observation and critical thinking about social changes.

2. Film Style Analysis

Kore-eda's distinct film style, through his unique techniques in cinematography, color use, and editing, successfully conveys the themes and emotions of his films. His cinematographic style often emphasizes the use of natural light and long takes, enhancing the realism and immersive experience of his films. Color choices often reflect the emotional tone of the film, with contrasts between warm and cool hues deepening the emotional layers. Additionally, his editing style favors fluidity and naturalness, avoiding over-dramatization to maintain the story's authenticity and simplicity. The combination of these stylistic elements not only strengthens the narrative impact but also makes Kore-eda's films visually and audibly distinctive, providing a profound artistic experience for global audiences.

The research findings highlight Hirokazu Kore-eda's distinct narrative and filmic style, which deeply explores family dynamics and societal issues. Kore-eda's films, such as "After The Storm," "The Third Murder," "Shoplifters," and "The Truth," employ complex character development, multi-layered conflicts, and poignant settings to enhance storytelling and emotional engagement. His meticulous use of cinematography, color, sound, and editing not only enriches the narrative but also significantly impacts the viewer's experience, affirming his status as a pivotal figure in contemporary cinema. These elements collectively showcase Kore-eda's ability to weave deep social commentary into compelling cinematic narratives.

Suggestions

1. Theoretical suggestions

Cross-cultural and Cross-media Comparative Studies: Research should consider extending to cross-cultural and cross-media comparative analyses to explore the application of narrative and style under different cultural backgrounds and their impacts. For instance, analyzing the differences and similarities between Kore-eda's narrative structures and those of independent filmmakers from other countries can reveal how different cultural factors influence the choice and development of narrative styles. Additionally, studying the relationship and interactions between films and other media works, such as television dramas and web series, can help understand the evolution and diversity of modern narrative techniques.

In-depth Analysis of Social Impact of Films: Kore-eda's films often revolve around families, showcasing the emotional bonds and conflicts between characters, allowing audiences to feel the complexity and authenticity of human nature. His works not only display the unique charm of Japanese culture but also profoundly reflect contemporary social realities. Research should be strengthened on how films influence social values, behavioral patterns, and cultural identities, deeply appreciating the humanistic care and emotional depth in the works. By analyzing in detail how Kore-eda's works touch on and discuss sensitive social topics, such as family disintegration and the issues of lonely elderly, understand the role of films in shaping public discourse and social movements.

2. Policy suggestions

Film Industry Support Policies: It is recommended that governments or related cultural institutions formulate policies to support independent filmmaking and its innovative practices. This includes providing financial support, tax relief, technical support, and international cooperation opportunities for film productions, especially those exploring deep social and cultural issues.

Promotion of Cultural Diversity and Film Education: Policymakers should promote the widespread inclusion of film education in a broader educational system, emphasizing film as a vital tool for understanding human diversity and complexity. Research could delve deeper into the cross-cultural elements in Kore-eda's works, especially under the context of globalization, to enhance their appeal and influence on the international stage. For example, by organizing international film festivals and cultural exchange programs, enhance the understanding and respect between different cultures.

3. Practical suggestions

Film Festivals and Public Seminars: It is suggested that film schools, cultural centers, and other institutions regularly organize film festivals and public seminars, inviting filmmakers, scholars, and audiences to participate. These events not only promote the display and discussion of works by Kore-eda and other influential filmmakers but also provide a platform for the public to engage directly with filmmakers, enhancing the interactivity and educational nature of film culture.

Practical Teaching of Techniques and Innovative Methods: Film schools should use Kore-eda's films as teaching cases, allowing students to learn and practice his film techniques and styles through practical analysis and project production. This practice can help students grasp how to integrate complex social themes into film narratives and how to express personal views through the art of film.

Encouragement of Interdisciplinary Research Approaches: Combine theories from sociology, psychology, cultural studies, and other disciplines to comprehensively interpret the rich content of Kore-eda's films. By exploring these research directions in depth, we can not only better understand and appreciate Kore-eda's film art but also provide new ideas and inspiration for film creation and research.

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