

Abstract

This research is focused on how von Trier uses visual narrative in his film to provoke critical thinking evolving on the subject of “suppression of humanity”. Ricoeur’s Hermeneutics is used as a methodology in this study to discuss the visual presentation in von Trier’s films and the theme of humanity. It begins with introducing the basic concepts of how the viewer grasp the face of humanity from viewing a film, especially in which humanity is portrayed as ambiguous, twisted, unjust, selfish, or even wicked and violent, so called “the suppression of humanity”. Further more, the research concentrates on the detailed presentation of visual elements in von Trier’s film which depicts the subjects and related issues in a profound point of view including settings, characters, symbols, metaphors, and dialogues. They are not only von Trier’s idiosyncrasies, but also his unique artistic film style that provides nutrition for provocative thoughts and controversial debates. As a result, the study comes out with a suggestion that in film making visual language should be developed for the purpose of provoking critical thinking besides its artistic expression.

Keywords Lars von Trier, Visual Narrative, Suppression of Humanity