

THE ANALYSIS OF FILM EDITING TECHNIQUES IN THAI BEST EDITING FEATURE FILM “BAD GENIUS”

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Abstract - The objective of this research was to analyse the film editing techniques that used in Thai best editing feature film called “Bad Genius” (2017). This research is a qualitative research that studies about the theory, principle and concept of film editing and used it to analyse the latest film that won the best film editing from Thailand’s “Suphannahong National Film Awards”. This research contains the study from the documents, the film and analysing film editing techniques that were used in Bad Genius. The result indicates that in Bad Genius, film editing technique is a concept-based edition. The film editing techniques were not only used to link the every elements of the story together but also create emotion and understanding of the story. For example, match cut was used to link the subject together. Parallel editing, cross cutting, montage and fast pacing were used to create the tension and excitement for the audience that conform with the genre of this film, Thriller. Ultimately, the goal of the film editing techniques that were used in this film is to create empathy, affinity and emotional engagement from the audience to this film.

Index Terms - Film Editing Techniques, Best Film Editing, Bad Genius

I. INTRODUCTION

Film is one of the seven branches of art including painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, music, dance and film that is the latest art in the group. But film was seen as the most powerful medium of all. With filmmaking, it is possible to combine the features and power of all six media to fuse and convey the story of life and society effectively. (Serisamran, T, 2017: 126)

As with most other film techniques, editing has evolved over time as the technology and audience expectations change. The very earliest filmmakers were afraid to edit film shots together because they assumed that splicing together different shots of different things from different positions would simply confuse audiences.

However, filmmakers quickly discovered that editing shots into a sequence not only contributed to the audience's sense of tale, but also enabled them to tell more complex stories as a result that we can see from Edwin S. Porter's primitive instances of editing in films like *The Great Train Robbery* (1903) and *Rescued by Rover* (1904). After that D. W. Griffith, one of the most important filmmaker in history, is the one who influence to editing. He did not invent any of the editing techniques he used but he made them emotionally and thematically significant.

So that he influenced the art of editing worldwide. And another filmmaker who influence to editing is one of the most notable of the Soviet directors of this era, Sergei Eisenstein, who transformed the principles of classical editing into something more consciously intellectualized he called montage. Montage was a way to put together a number of shots, more or less quickly, in a manner that pointed out a moral or an idea.

The film editor works with the raw footage, selecting

shots and combines them into sequences which create a finished motion picture. Film editing is described as an art or skill, the only art that is unique to cinema, separating filmmaking from other art forms that preceded it, although there are close parallels to the editing process in other art forms such as poetry and novel writing. Film editing is often referred to as the "invisible art" because when it is well-practiced, the viewer can become so engaged that he or she is not aware of the editor's work.

In 1934 the Academy Awards introduced a new category: Film Editing, awarding an Oscar to Conrad A. Nervig for his work on the movie *Eskimo*. Often called “the invisible art,” editing has made movies possible since they first began, but the field still struggles to gain the appreciation from the general public that it deserves.

Bad Genius, known in Thai as *Chalard Games Goeng* is a 2017 Thai heist drama thriller film produced by Jor Kwang Films and distributed by GDH 559. It was directed by Nattawut Poonpiriya, and stars Chutimon Chuengcharoensukying in her feature film debut as Lynn, a straight-A student who devises an exams-cheating scheme which eventually rises to international levels. *Bad Genius* was released on 3 May 2017, placing first at the Thai box office for two weeks and earning over 100 million baht (US\$3 million), becoming the highest-grossing Thai film of 2017.

The film performed successfully overseas. It broke Thai film earning records in several Asian countries, including China, where it earned over \$30 million, making it the most internationally successful Thai film ever.

Bad Genius dominated the 27th Suphannahong National Film Awards, held for Thai films released in 2017. The film won a record-breaking twelve categories including Best Picture, Best Director Best

Screenplay and Best Film Editing, as well as Best Actor and Best Actress.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study about the concept of Film editing.
2. To find knowledge about the elements that made one film to be “best editing film”.
3. To analyse film editing techniques that used in the best editing film “Bad Genius”
4. To apply the concept of Film editing techniques in filmmaking process.

III. TERMINOLOGY

Film Editing means a technical part of the post-production process of filmmaking. The term is derived from the traditional process of working with film which increasingly involves the use of digital technology.

Best Film Editing means the film that won the Suphannahong National Film Awards in Best Film Editing category.

Montage means technique in film editing in which a series of short shots are edited into a sequence to condense space, time, and information. The term has been used in various contexts. It was introduced to cinema primarily by Sergei Eisenstein, and early Soviet directors used it as a synonym for creative editing.

IV. CONCEPT, THEORY AND RELATED RESEARCHES

From the study about concept and theory in film editing, the researcher can summarize the framework in this study that film editing normally connected with these 4 main principles ;

1. Film editing and Continuity , there are 3 types are as follows ;
 - 1.1) Continuity of Content , there are 2 types are Continuity of Time and Continuity of Space.
 - 1.2) Continuity of Visual , there are 2 types are Continuity of Performance and Continuity of Direction.
 - 1.3) Continuity of Sound , there are 2 types are Continuity of Ambience and Continuity of Music.
2. Film editing and Genre, there are 5 types are as follows ;
 - 2.1) Transition
 - 2.2) Shot duration
 - 2.3) Rhythm
 - 2.4) Pace
 - 2.5) Time and space
3. Film editing and Narrative , there are 6 types are as follows ;
 - 3.1) Parallel editing
 - 3.2) Cross cutting
 - 3.3) Flashback
 - 3.4) Flashforward

3.5) Montage

3.6) Dynamic cutting

4. Film editing and Relation, there are 2 types are as follows ;

4.1) Match Cut

- The relation of direction (setting and performance)
- The relation of camera (shot size , camera angle, camera movement)
- The relation of light and color
- The relation of meaning

There are a number of studies that have investigated the related issues that can be applied to this research, a study of research that related to film editing techniques, the most interesting one is as follows.

Asst.Prof.Dr.Khae Mungkornwong, “The Study of Editing Styles in Feature film : A Case Study of the best Editing Awards Films by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science (AMPAS) in 1999-2008”. Research findings were that film editing nowadays is a concept-based edition, regardless of continuity and linkage between space and time with complexity of various stories, as well as focusing on editing to create emotion, meaning and sense rather than to link the content together. In addition, dynamic and match cut are used to link the subject together and hitting, attack, conflict, jumping and wrong direction type of editing are created to conform to the whole concept of the film with the only one goal. That is to create peak inner feeling of the audiences.

V. SCOPE OF RESEARCH

The objective of this research was to analyse the film editing techniques that used in Thai best editing feature film called “Bad Genius” (2017). This research is a qualitative research that studies about the theory, principle and concept of film editing and used it to analyse the latest film that won the best film editing from Thailand’s “Suphannahong National Film Awards”. This research contains the study from the documents, the film and analysing film editing techniques that were used in Bad Genius.

VI. EXPECTED BENEFITS

1. To gain knowledge about the concept of Film editing.
2. To gain knowledge about the elements that made one film to be “best editing film”.
3. To gain knowledge about film editing techniques that used in the best editing film “Bad Genius”
4. To apply the knowledge for editing the film.

VII. RESEARCH RESULT

This study is content analysis that used concept and theory about film editing to analyse the best film editing Bad Genius and create the framework that

include the important elements of editing in films that affect the films to success in giving the right emotion for the audiences and in keeping with the objectives of this research. In conclusion, we can divided concepts and styles of film editing in two categories ; Realist and Formalist.

Realist film editing style usually found in Drama , Documentary , War film genres.

Formalist film editing style usually found in Sci-Fi , Epic , Action and Drama (both Realist and Formalist) The film editing style in Bad Genius is Realist.

Continuity of Time and Space ; Bad Genius has continuity in time and space. The story was mainly told in chronological order. The time and space in this film is similar to real life. It didn't emphasize in manipulating the film.

Continuity of Performance and Direction ; It highly emphasized in the performance and direction continuity and didn't make the audiences confuse.

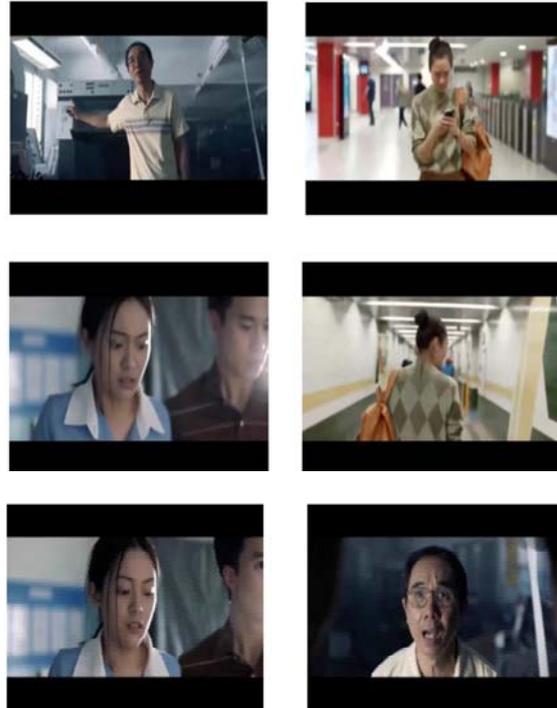
Continuity of Ambience and Music ; It used the sound that create reality but music is used for stimulating audiences' emotion for example in the scene that want to make audiences feel excited.

For transition, Bad Genius mainly used cut to cut style for making reality and didn't use transitions by adding transition effects. Pacing of shots depended on the scenes .if they are the normal scene , pacing will be in the middle pace but it they are exciting scenes , pacing will be in the fast pace. Because of Bad Genius is Drama-Thriller genre, rhythm is one of the most important element for this film and film editing techniques using in this film created the perfect rhythm. Montage is the good technique for creating good rhythm and emotion for audiences.

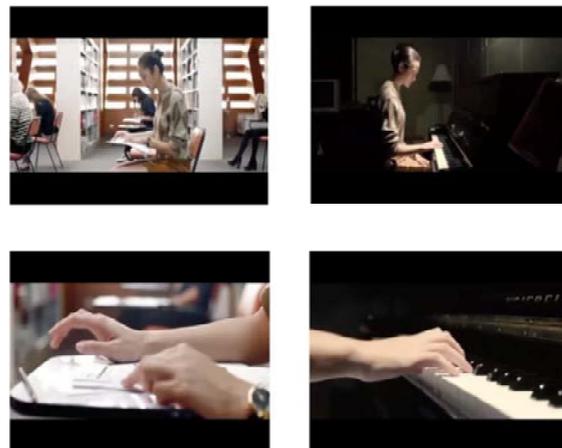
Film editing techniques is proper with it's narrative style. Sometimes it used parallel editing or cross cutting to tell the story from two or more difference spaces or time but they are connected with the emotion ,situation and content. This techniques not only link every elements together but also stimulate the emotion like tension , exciting or anxiety. These techniques took this film to reach the ultimate goal of the film creating empathy , affinity and emotional engagement from the audience to this film.



Picture 1 : Cross Cutting technique using for connecting the content from difference time and space.



Picture 2: Parallel Editing using for connecting the parallel situations from difference space but the same time creating an excitement for audiences.



Picture 3 : Match Cut using for connecting the linkage content by matching similar action.

VIII. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

The result indicates that in Bad Genius , film editing technique is a concept-based edition. The film editing techniques were not only used to link the every elements of the story together but also create emotion and understanding of the story.

For example, match cut was used to link the subject together. Parallel editing , cross cutting , montage and fast pacing were used to create the tension and excitement for the audience that conform with the genre of this film ,Thriller. Ultimately, the goal of the film editing techniques that were used in this film is to create empathy , affinity and emotional engagement from the audience to this film.

Table 1 : Summary of film editing techniques in Bad Genius

Film	Film editing and Continuity	Film Editing and Genre	Film editing and Narrative	Film editing and Relation	Film editing types
Bad Genius	-Bad Genius has continuity in time and space. -The story was mainly told in chronological order. - It highly emphasized in the performance and direction continuity and didn't make the audiences confuse. - It used the sound that create reality but music is used for stimulating audiences' emotion	-Drama, Thriller -Bad Genius mainly used cut to cut style. - Pacing of shots depended on the scenes - Montage is the good technique for creating good rhythm and emotion for audiences.	- it used parallel editing or cross cutting to tell the story from two or more difference spaces or time but they are connected with the emotion ,situation and content. This techniques not only link every elements together but also stimulate the emotion like tension , exciting or anxiety.	Film Editing techniques of Bad Genius took this film to reach the ultimate goal of the film creating empathy , affinity and emotional engagement from the audience to this film.	Realist

In conclusion , film editors should give precedence in these 4 main principles ; Film editing and Continuity , Film Editing and Genre, Film editing and Narrative , Film editing and Relation. Film editing is both art and science so it is important to learn more , practice and experiment for creating the right emotion and effect for pleasurableness of audiences.

RECOMMENDATION

Researchers can make this research further by using this model to analyse other films both researchers's countries and international.

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