

## The Role of Mise En Scene in Visualizing Discrimination Scenes in Miracle in Cell Numb. 7



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**ABSTRACT:** A movie's visual aspect plays a significant role in conveying messages to the audience and building emotional realizations. Mise en scene is one such visual aspect. Based on this explanation, this study aims to find out how mise en scene helps visualize discrimination scenes in the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7*. In 2013, *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* was released as one of the most heartbreaking dramas in South Korea. The selection focuses on the theory of mise en scene by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompsons as the main theory, the theory of discrimination by Jimly Asshiddiqe and ableism by Fiona K Campbell as supporting theories to discuss discrimination, and the theory of the dramatic structure of the Freytag pyramid as a supporting theory to classify scenes of discrimination. The type of research undertaken is qualitative research using descriptive writing techniques. According to this research, aspects of mise en scene in *Miracle in Cell Numb. 7* can visualize a discrimination scene by relating aspects of mise en scene to disparities

**KEYWORDS:** Mise en scene; dramatic structure; discrimination scenes.

### INTRODUCTION

Mise en scene is one of the elements of film used to build visualization in film, this can be seen from how all aspects of mise en scene can create one dramatic scene and how the dramatic scene is visualized and creates tension that increases and decreases. In *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* the dominant mise en scene elements are the players and movements, this supports how the tension from the beginning of the film begins to rise slowly until it reaches a climax when the role of the father receives his death sentence execution and decreases to the end, thus creating a clear stage of dramatic structure.

*Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* was released in 2013 and directed by Lee Hwan-Kyung is one of the South Korean drama films based on a true story. *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* tells the story of a mentally retarded father who receives the death penalty for murder and rape he did not commit. The character Yeong-Goo (Father) receives discrimination treatment, the discriminatory behavior received by the character Yeong-Goo (Father) is not only in the form of legal discrimination but also gets discrimination socially by the surrounding community.

Discrimination is the unfair treatment of people or things by applying different standards to the same subject or object or applying the same standards to different subjects or objects (Asshidqie, 2018). Dramatization in film is also important, that is, an event that presents real life as its object, in dramatic form (Zoebazary, 2018, p. 113). The use of mise en scene in film is important because it is used to plan everything that will appear in a scene so that a narrative or script can be visualized properly, which is also in accordance with Bordwell's opinion (Bordwell & Thompson, 1997) That said, a filmmaker can use mise en scene to achieve realization, give an authentic look to the setting or let actors act naturally.

Based on the background above, researchers are interested in examining how the role of mise en scene in supporting the visualization of discrimination in the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7*. Researchers focused their research on mise en scene because the setting, costumes and makeup, lighting, as well as the cast and movement are elements of mise en scene that are easily recognizable in film. Researchers also use the theory of the dramatic structure of Freytag's pyramid which includes exposition, complication (rising action), climax, reversal (falling action) and denouement to see how the stages of dramatic structure in the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* so as to support the formation of mood or atmosphere in the film.

### THEORY

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### **RESEARCH METHODS**

The type of research used is a type of qualitative research using descriptive writing techniques, used to see and express circumstances or objects, find meaning or deep understanding of problems faced with the form of qualitative data, such as images, words, and events in a "natural setting" (Yusuf, 2014, p. 43). This research report will contain excerpts of data used to provide an overview of the presentation and then will be analyzed using the theories that have been obtained. The form of analysis in this study is mise en scene analysis and dramatic structure in visualizing discrimination in Miracle In Cell Numb. 7

Researchers will conduct research in the area of Jember University and where researchers live because researchers will make repeated observations through laptops and mobile phones. This research was conducted from June 2022 to April 2023 for the final project exam stage.

There are two kinds of data sources used in this study, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data of this study came from the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* by Lee Hwan-Kyung with a duration of 127 minutes. Secondary data of this research is obtained through books, journals, theses, and scientific articles about mise en scene and dramatic elements that have relevance to the research to be carried out.

Researchers use non-participant observer observation techniques which means the presence of the researcher is not known to the observed subject, the researcher only becomes an observer and does not affect what happens to the target. Observation was made by watching and observing the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* repeatedly. Researchers make observations in order to understand all scenes of the film and find scenes of discrimination and adapted to a series of dramatic structures, then researchers do screen capture to observe the role of mise en scene in these scenes. This observation is carried out repeatedly until the researcher gets valid data results. Researchers will display documentation in the form of trailers and posters from the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7*. The literature study conducted in this study is by reading and understanding books, journals, literature, scientific articles or scientific writings originating from the internet related to films, mise en scene, and dramatic structures.

The data that will be reduced by the researcher is the film file *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* by recording scenes that contain elements of discrimination, then the researcher will record aspects of mise en scene in scenes that have been reduced. The reduced data is in the form of screenshots of scenes from the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* which contain dramatic elements. Researchers carry out the process of presenting data by presenting data that has been reduced in the form of pieces of images and tables, the elements of mise en scene contained in the scene will be presented in the form of tables and then the researcher will describe how the relevance between the elements of mise en scene with the dramatic structure in each scene. When the research process is complete, researchers proceed to the next stage, namely drawing conclusions about the research carried out.

### **DISCUSSION**

The data used by the researchers was primary data in the form of the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* by Lee Hwan-Kyung with a duration of 127 minutes accessed online. Data analysis in this study is the result of data reduction in the form of screenshots representing scenes of discrimination. The researcher reduced some of the discrimination scenes in the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7* according to the stages of the dramatic structure of Freytag's pyramid, researchers also used the mise en scene theory to analyze the visual aspects that visualize the discrimination scene. Researchers use Jimly Asshiddiqe's discrimination theory reinforced by the statement of ableism by Fiona K Campbell to analyze discrimination (Campbell, 2009).

Twelve scenes of discrimination were found in the entire film, the researchers adjusted the discrimination scenes with five stages of Freytag's dramatic structure so that one scene was found at the exposition stage, five scenes at the rising action stage, three scenes at the climax stage, two scenes at the falling action stage, and one scene at the denouement stage. The twelve scenes are described through the following timecode:

1. Unsur mise en scene exposition (00:08:45 - 00:09:22)
2. Unsur mise en scene rising action (a) (00:12:55 - 00:13:30)
3. Unsur mise en scene rising action (b) (00:14:00 - 00:16:50)
4. Unsur mise en scene rising action (c) (00:17:45 - 00:18:40)
5. Unsur mise en scene rising action (d) (00:19:17 - 00:22:47)
6. Unsur mise en scene rising action (e) (00:45:33 - 00:46:30)
7. Unsur mise en scene climax (a) (01:24:11 - 01:24:45)
8. Unsur mise en scene climax (b) (01:26:40 - 01:28:20)
9. Unsur mise en scene climax (c) (01:30:27 - 01:32:30)
10. Unsur mise en scene falling action (a) (01:36:50 - 01:37:18)
11. Unsur mise en scene falling action (b) (01:53:54 - 01:58:35)
12. Unsur mise en scene denouement (02:00:05 - 02:01:55)

In this discussion, the researcher describes how the role of mise en scene can visualize discrimination scenes in the film *Miracle In Cell Numb. 7*. Here's an example of a discrimination scene that researchers examined:



**Figure 1. Yeong-Goo does a re-enactment of the incident**  
(Screenshot: Nydya Pavita Wijaya, 6 November 2022)

In picture 1 Yeong-Goo is at the scene where he will recreate the incident, the location is already crowded with residents and journalists. The scene in picture 1 shows the setting of the market in the afternoon towards evening with rainy conditions, which further adds to the intense atmosphere of the scene. The players use natural makeup, the costumes used by the dominant players use dark colors so that it adds to the intense and tense impression. The lighting is also made predominantly dark to adjust to the rainy atmosphere and tense tension.

The scene in picture 1 includes the stages of the dramatic structure of rising action because in picture 1 it begins to look more intense the problems experienced by Yeong-Goo. The element of discrimination is seen when Yeong-Goo is forcibly pulled to the location and forced to recreate a scene which is fabricated by the police, the police do not want to hear the truth from Yeong-Goo because the police feel that what Yeong-Goo said does not make sense, again the police use their power to coerce Yeong-Goo.



**Figure 2. The lawyer threatens Yeong-Goo**  
(Screenshot: Nydya Pavita Wijaya, 9 November 2022)

In picture 2, Yeong-Goo and his lawyer are consulting on his case. The scene in figure 2 shows the living room setting for prisoners to usually receive guests or consult with their legal representatives. The makeup used by the cast is natural, Yeong-Goo still wears his resistant uniform and the lawyer wears a neat suit in the form of a suit and shirt, based on the costume worn also shows the strata difference between Yeong-Goo and the lawyer. The lighting in figure 2 is made natural to adjust the background time.

The element of discrimination that arises because the lawyer's position is higher and has power, so the lawyer asks Yeong-Goo to confess that he is the culprit when the verdict trial is carried out, the lawyer also threatens that if Yeong-Goo does not confess his daughter (Ye-Seung) will be in danger. Yeong-Goo, who has mental retardation and limitations in thinking, can only do what is

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asked, especially if it is related to his daughter (Ye-Seung). If Yeong-Goo has a stable economy then he will hire a competent lawyer to win his case, since he has special needs and is poor hence he can only get a public lawyer from the district court.

### CONCLUSION

The entire discussion related to the visualization of discrimination scenes in the film Miracle In Cell Numb. 7 consists of twelve scenes spread over five stages of the dramatic structure of the pyramid of Freytag. The stages found are as follows, (1) the exposition stage found one scene of discrimination; (2) the rising action stage found five scenes of discrimination; (3) the climax stage found three scenes of discrimination; (4) the falling action stage found two scenes of discrimination; (5) The denouement stage found one scene of discrimination. The visualization of discrimination is conveyed through the role of mise en scene in twelve scenes very clearly. The four main elements of mise en scene in the film seem to be used as a medium for conveying good form and visualization, which is realized, makes an authentic look in the setting, and gives the actor space to act naturally. The elements of mise en scene that are quite dominant in visualizing discrimination are makeup and wardrobe as well as players and movements. Elements of mise en scene makeup and wardrobe play a role in distinguishing types of professions, positions and social strata between the players. Through the elements of mise en scene of the player and his movements, the acting of the players deliberately built scenes to corner Yeong-Goo such as harsh treatment, harsh words, forced will to testimony before the law and death penalty verdicts. Researchers found that discrimination scenes in the film Miracle In Cell Numb. 7 were placed at each stage of the dramatic structure and visualized through mise en scene so that the tension and message in the film were conveyed well.

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