

CONCLUSION

This research has explored the concept of survival as portrayed in the Korean film "A Taxi Driver" (2017) through a descriptive qualitative approach, employing content analysis as the research method to examine the various survival strategies depicted in the narrative. By identifying 24 semiotic signs associated with seven key survival strategies—avoidance, resourcefulness, strategic deception, social adaptation, securing income, frugal living, and asset protection—this research has illuminated the complex ways in which the characters navigate the socio-political turmoil of the Gwangju Uprising. The film's survival strategies demonstrate the intricate intertwining of the characters' actions with the broader historical and cultural realities of South Korea during the 1980s.

Analyzing "A Taxi Driver" through Roland Barthes' semiotics theory provides significant advantages in understanding how survival depicted in the film. Barthes' framework allows for an examination of the signs and symbols within the narrative, revealing the deeper meanings behind the characters' actions and the film's visual elements. This approach highlights how specific gestures, dialogues, and visual cues contribute to the overarching theme of survival amidst oppression and chaos. For instance, the simple act of Man-seob tying his daughter's hair not only signifies his role as a caregiver but also reflects a broader theme of social adaptation in the face of adversity. Such semiotics analysis enriches our understanding of how survival strategies are not merely actions but are imbued with cultural and emotional significance.

The use of signs is particularly powerful in conveying messages in film, as they operate on both denotative and connotative levels. The denotative level refers to the literal meaning of a sign, while the connotative level encompasses the emotional and cultural associations that it evokes. In "A Taxi Driver," signs such as Man-seob's U-turn to protect his taxi serve as a clear representation of frugal living and economic survival, while also resonating with the audience's understanding of the precarious socio-economic conditions of the time. This duality allows the film to communicate complex ideas about survival effectively, engaging the audience on multiple levels.

Moreover, the visual nature of film amplifies the impact of semiotic signs. The interplay of images, colors, and compositions creates a rich tapestry of meaning that enhances the audience's emotional engagement with the characters' struggles for survival. By analyzing these semiotic signs, this research demonstrates how "A Taxi Driver" not only preserves the historical memory of the Gwangju Uprising but also inspires viewers to reflect on the resilience and resourcefulness of individuals in the face of systemic oppression. Ultimately, this research contributes to the broader discourse on survival strategies in film, offering a nuanced understanding of how individuals navigate the complexities of their environment while also engaging with the historical realities that shape their lives.