

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Full name (Researcher): **Ngo Dang Tra My**

Dissertation title: ***Changes in Character Development in Post-1975 Vietnamese and American Films on the Vietnam War***

Specialization: **Theory, history and criticism of film and television**

Code: **9.21.02.31**

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Training institution: **Hanoi Academy of Theater and Cinema**

ABSTRACT

Research purpose and research object:

This dissertation aims to identify and analyze the changes in character development in Vietnamese and American feature films produced after 1975 on the topic of the Vietnam War in the following aspects: characters as objects, main characters, focused features of depiction and the art of character building.

The dissertation makes an attempt to initially generalize and explain the causes of the changes in character development observed in post-1975 Vietnamese and American films on the Vietnam War. Understanding the characters in films on the Vietnam War is expected to facilitate the making of more profound films on this topic in the current period.

Regarding the research object, based on the theory of character development, the dissertation focuses on studying the changes of characters in post-1975 Vietnamese and American films on the Vietnam War, on changes shown through the choice of characters, on the portrayal of main characters and the method of character development. The research, at the same time, reveals some differences and commonalities between the two countries' cinema.

Research methods used:

- An interdisciplinary approach is used thoroughly as cinema, the seventh art, has inherited the quintessence of art and theory of other art forms (literature, painting, etc.). In addition, all forms of art have some common issues: reality, the function of art, the relationship between reality and art.

- Methods of selecting and analyzing works. Within the framework of a dissertation, it is not possible to study all films about the Vietnam War, leading to the need to select films suitable for the research purposes. This can also be said to be judgment-based sample selection. There are several ways to conduct research on characters and the researcher often pay attention to the concept, the choice of the character and the connection of the character with the reality of the war as a resistance to save the country and against aggression for the Vietnamese and a senseless war for the American.

- In particular, the researcher uses the comparison method: comparing the time axis, the development within each cinema, the levels based on the main character classification according to positive - negative relationship between character and ideal (with protagonist and villain). This helps classify characters according to their roles in the structure of the work (with focus on the system of key characters), which is suitable for study war films... For this study, the comparison method is of primary importance, showing the differences and the changes of the character system of the same type.

- Systematic and synthetic methods through the process of development and through the changes are used to identify the differences and commonalities in character development in Vietnamese and American war films.

Main findings and conclusions:

The dissertation presents relatively detailed, scientific, and systematic research on the changes in character development in post-1975 Vietnamese and American films on the Vietnam War in various aspects: characters, main characters, focused features of depiction, method of character development...

The comparison is made on two basic levels: in each country's cinema and between the two countries.

The dissertation attempts to explain the causes of the changes and the differences in many aspects: historical background, culture and ideology of each country; changes of historical-cultural contexts; the internal transformation of each country's cinema. Apart from differences, a number of similarities can be seen in successful war films of both countries.

The dissertation with in-depth research on films, with orientation and focus, with the combination of general theory and specific works presents an accurate, convincing and interesting view that is both detailed and comprehensive.

The dissertation makes certain contributions to the theory of cinematic characters and the theory of character change - which are the theoretical foundations that cinema simply inherited from literary theories, including drama theory. The dissertation thoroughly combines theory and practice and makes significant contributions to a harmonious and humane view after the war between Vietnam and the USA.

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