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A Genre Analysis: Fantasy Movies

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APB SEREMBAN

Fantasy Movies

The fantasy movies are one of many common genres found in the film industry. This genre typically depicts the supernatural, mythical and magical storyline. The stories are usually based on the folklore, legends, myths of a community. Magic, supernatural power, and fantasy worlds are the most common elements in fantasy movies.

i. Stereotypes

There are many fantasy movies that the storylines have been stereotyped, where most of them are predictable. Even though there are many sub-genres of fantasy movies out there but the core elements of this genre are still present in the storylines. The fantasy genre is not a fantasy genre if there are no supernatural, magic and myths elements in it. These are the most common elements that make a fantasy movie.

ii. Typical Storyline

In fantasy movies, the core elements of myth, magic, wonder, escapism, or exotic fantasy world are a must. The most typical storylines such as the good side loses at first but wins at the end of the story, evil or bad characters are vanished or killed at the end of the story, revenge, war or battle takes place, Hero has a mentor or a fairy-godmother who will help the hero or heroine along the journey to look for something – seeking for an object, a ring, a sword or an elixir that can save the world from a catastrophe. This can be seen in *Maleficent*, *Harry Potter*, *Peter Pan*, and *Warcraft*. In fact, the most typical storyline is when the evil or bad characters will finally be killed at the end of the story for the hero or heroine to have a happy ending.

The storyline from fantasy movies somehow will make the audience captivated with the stories because of the elements included in it. This is because most of the things that take place in the movies do not happen in reality. For example, a flying car, a broom which can make a person fly, and many more are things that could only exist in a person imaginary mind.

Another common storyline of this genre is that it is always about a child, a cursed child who is the hero of the story. This character is depicted as the chosen one with some kind of supernatural power, or inherit magic, or even have or own a birthmark or an object that has some kind of power that no one else has. For example, in *Harry Potter* series, Harry Potter, the main character was introduced as a child with a scar on his forehead and therefore, he owns some kind of supernatural magic that can kill the evil who killed both his parents.

iii. Characters

Unlike the hero who always seen having good appearance, the evil or bad characters usually have ugly faces. The appearance of the evil characters is always the opposite of good or hero characters. Voldemort, the evil character in *Harry Potter* series, has an unpleasant face and appearance. Besides that, the heroine in the fantasy genre movies is usually seen as having an independent, strong and wise role. For example, in *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice is seen as a teen that is brave and independent as she thinks before making a decision.

Another common character that exists in this genre is the hero must have a mentor, teacher or fairy-godmother that guides, encourages and helps the hero throughout the story. In *Lord of the Rings*, Gandalf is one of the protagonists in which he is the leader of the Fellowship of the Ring and the army of the West and always seen as the mentor or teacher that helps and guides the lead character.

On top of that, fantasy movies can never run away from the presence of mythical creatures or species. This is common too where there are always a group of rare species such as dwarves, elves, dragons, witches etc. These are all imaginary characters that do not exist in the real world. Also, it is very common for fantasy movies to depict the existence of bonds or relationships between human and the mythical creatures, animals or rare species. In *Fantastic Beast and Where to Find Them*, the lead character is a young boy who has a very close relationship with many types of animals.

Fantasy movies also depict the good and evil dynamic in the storyline. These two sides will fight for something, thus, there will always be a battle or war at the climax of the story. The most common foreground of the battle or war is when the hero or heroine is able to show their ultimate magic and power to defeat the evil.

iv. Settings

Commonly in fantasy movies, the story sets in a place that does not exist in the real world. It can vary from make-believe realms to the real world by combining bits of the two. For example, in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Lord of The Rings*, these stories are set in a medieval period of a century - monarchical setting. The presence of kings, queens, peasants, castles and swords are very common. Apart from that, fantasy movies also tend to use a lot of fairy tales elements and settings. These settings include the features of princes, princesses, magic forests and castles. For example, in *Shrek*, *Snow White* and *Cinderella*.

iv. Language

As for language, there are many fantasy movies that usually used words and languages that are purposely created just to fit the situations in the stories. According to Renfro (2016), he stated that in *Harry Potter's* cases, J. K. Rowling, the writer, reworked on the classical Latin language and created new words in order to give a fresh and unique profound in *Harry Potter* series. Spells such as "alohomora", "adava kedavra" and many more were created based on Latin language and some of them do not even bring any meaning in the real world. Besides, the words such as "alman takar", "kathal" and "goria" were used in *Warcraft* by Khadgar when he is fighting with the monsters. These words do not have any meaning in the dictionary and they are meaningless, yet they gave a powerful impact to depict the situation.

In conclusion, fantasy movies are undoubtedly fun to watch because of the amazing cinematic and over-the-top props, characters and settings which have made an innovative change throughout the years in the film industry. Thus, fantasy movies have been considered to be one of the most popular and significant genres chosen by most people despite their age and gender.