

1 a), b) and c)

Media Content in Context.

In this essay I will be looking at the 1999 film 'The Matrix' directed by the Wachowski brothers. I will be looking at how narrative, language and representations have been constructed within the film. I will be looking at the 'Classic Hollywood Narrative' theorised by Todorov. This narrative structure consists of five stages: Normality, Disruption, recognition of disruption, attempts to resolve disruption and new normality. I will talk about language through camera shots and mise en scene and I will look at representations of

this film, along with females.

The first stage of Todorov's narrative theory is Normality.

Normality is when a state of equilibrium and normality is established. In the Matrix we see the normal life of a main character Trinity. We see Trinity fight members of the police and run away from Agents which is normal for her and the rebels.

Language is created through mise en scene as we see Trinity in tight, black leather. This creates meaning as it shows Trinity as strong as she is not wearing average girl clothes. We see long shots and close ups of Trinity using martial

arts to defeat the police. ~~the~~
The male audience may enjoy watching Trinity as she is attractive and may find her 'sexy' in the tight, black leather. Trinity is also represented as a strong independent female as we see her fight off the police and run against the villains - Mr Smith and the agents. We see differential coding here as non-feminist audience such as feminists may enjoy this as Trinity is strong independent and can stick up for herself. We as the audience take a liking to Trinity as she is defending herself ~~on~~ and is by herself which also makes us dislike Agent Smith as he is attacking and chasing

one girl herself. We establish Agent Smith as a villain when we see a close up of his face and his glasses where evil sounding music is played in the background. Agent Smith is also robot like. We ~~see~~ as the audience take a dislike to Agent Smith. Differential coding may also be seen here as some audience members may think Agent Smith is cool from his black sunglasses, black suit and tall posture. We also see Normal life for main character Neo as we see him working in a normal dead end job in a normal American city. ^{The Audience} ~~American~~ may enjoy this and can relate to

Neo's life. We also ~~z~~ find out that Neo is not only an average guy like the majority of the audience but he ~~is~~ leads a double life as he is represented as a hacker. We know this from 'The White Rabbit' scene where we see Neo deal illegal computer software.

The next stage in the Classic Hollywood Narrative is Disruption. Disruption is when something occurs that disrupts the normality. In the Matrix we see Neo ~~is~~ at his dead end job where he is receiving a row from his boss. We as the audience sympathise for Neo here. Neo then receives a

phone call from Morpheus, who tells him he has to go and where to go as Agents are coming to arrest him. We see a mid shot of Neo in his suit on the phone where he is hiding, Neo is scared and confused by the phone call. An Enigma is created here as we wonder 'who is Morpheus?' Neo does not escape and is captured by the agents. We as the audience are annoyed as we like Neo and dislike the agents. We see a mid shot of the Agents inserting a bug into Neo's stomach, which shows the agents as even more evil and we ~~feel~~ as the audience are anxious as we don't know/

What is happening to Neo. Neo then goes home and when he wakes up he thinks it is all a dream as it is all so strange. Neo then meets Trinity in a nightclub where he is wearing average clothes which again just shows him as an average, normal guy. Trinity tells Neo about Morpheus. Which answers Neo's questions as he has been wondering his whole life searching about Morpheus and the Matrix. The target audience may also be white Americans as the majority of the cast are white American actors so the audience can relate. The audience may also be fans of Keanu Reeves

as he was a big star at the time so will enjoy watching him in The Matrix.

The next stage of the narrative structure is the recognition of the disruption. This is when the cast release something has happened. This is when Trinity picks up Neo and leads him to Morpheus and also removes the bug from Neo. So Neo now knows it wasn't a dream. Neo meets Morpheus ~~and~~ who explains what is happening to Neo and what the Matrix is. We see a close up of a bright red and bright blue pill, ~~in~~ which ~~create~~ emphasises the life decisions taking one of the pills make.

Neo chooses the red pill and to know the truth. Another enigma is created as we want to know 'What is the truth?'. The audience are entertained and are excited to see what happens next. We see Neo in the real world. We see lots of big black machines with lots of tubes stuck into Neo. Neo is taken through a training scheme where he learns martial arts and about the Matrix. We see Neo fight Morpheus in the dojo and see various mid shots and long shots of kung fu fighting. This may attract an audience who have a special interest in martial arts, as they will enjoy seeing all the choreographed, fast