

Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the essence of American culture through the study of life and death which are used in movies. This is because, it was not only based on Christianity but also the American social conditions, and the American Founding Ideals. They have been studied as a single research topic on how they are represented in individual scenes of the film. I thought it would be possible to analyze American culture from a more multifaceted perspective by using the view of life and death that unites these. For these reasons, I thought that the study of life and death using movies was meaningful in analyzing the components of America mentioned above. Therefore, I decided to analyze this view of life and death from three perspectives: American religious views, social situations, and Founding Ideals.

As a way to clarify the relationship between life and death and the values and events that make up American society, I categorized several American movies into important aspects that dominate the movie.

First, Chapter 1 analyzed the movie's view of life and death based on a Christian worldview. In this chapter, disaster movies depict Christian end-of-life. In this kind of movie, the protagonist is portrayed as being almost immortal, often surviving in a situation where death is considered inevitable. In addition, since the description of characters is clearly different between those who die and those who avoid death, I analyzed the regular view of life and death from a Christian worldview. As a result, it was revealed that the Christian view of life and death was adopted in many disaster movies, and it was confirmed that not only the Bible and Jesus Christ, but also the way of seeing time axis in Christianity accounted for a large proportion of the Christian view of life and death. In the United States, where many people believe in Christianity, it is presumed that these are designed to gain the sympathy of the audience.

In Chapter 2, I analyzed the outlook on life and death in American movies from the perspective of American social conditions. American films assume that Americans, the most important consumers, are the top priority audiences. Therefore, I thought that the social situation in America, which the majority of Americans were very interested in at the time of production, is likely to have influenced the view of life and death in the movie. In this chapter, I divided the American scene right after 9/11 and the movie set in the Iraq War into a description of the inevitability of death

and a dwarfed description of the inevitability or existence of death. This showed that the complex social situation in the United States, where feelings about 9/11 and the Iraq war vary depending on how they are perceived, was reflected. Although there are differences in the context of portraying the inevitability and avoidability of death, it has also been revealed that both adopt a common view of life and death that enhances anti-Islamic sentiment.

In Chapter 3, I looked at how the American Founding Ideals which Americans view as supreme is reflected in the portrayal of life and death in the film. These ideals were seen as a component of the movie's view of life and death. This chapter aimed at works in which the ideals of America can be clearly read behind the view of life and death. The results revealed that the American film view of life and death positively used American philosophy, each explaining the validity of death.

The above analysis revealed that the cultural background of Americans could be read from their outlook on life and death in terms of Christianity, American social conditions, and American Founding Ideals. This means that American movies reflect the essence of American society and culture.