Analyse how the beginning AND ending of a text show an important change in a character or individual in a text (or texts) you have studied.

In the film The Bourne Identity the director, Doug Liman shows the viewer how the beginning and the ending of the text shows an important change in a character. This particular is the protagonists’ journey to self-discovery. Bourne moves from being in the figurative darkness as to who he is and what his role in society is to coming to terms with who his true self is and discovering love through his lover Marie. His conscience and moral values take control over the rigorous antagonist, in this case the CIA, training he has undergone and he then realises that he is capable of love and affection and incapable of cold-blooded murder. The director contrast the start and conclusion of the film by using the visual techniques of colour and lighting, camera shots and also the verbal technique of dialogue to illustrate the change Jason Bourne ( the main character) undergoes.

Jason Bourne is an amnesic who feels he is a good person but discovers that he is not as the film deepens. The protagonist is entrapped in an emotional “ice-box” that is almost like a side effect of his memory loss. This film is a metaphorical text of a person trying to find their way back home. Bourne’s voyage to self-discovery begins with the pursuit of the main antagonist, the CIA in Paris, France. As the film progresses Bourne gradually starts to regain his memory. As the relationship between Bourne and Marie strengthens, Bourne discovers he is capable of love and affection and incapable of cold-blooded murder, as his conscience and moral values unfold when he comes face-to-face with the man who wants him dead. Alexander Conklin. As the discussion between Bourne and Conklin intensifies, Bourne discover that he is a $30 million dollars weapon and why the antagonist wants him dead.

Doug Liman uses the visual technique of colour and light to show how Bourne discovers the gloominess and danger that represents the start of his journey. The lighting at the beginning of this text illustrates the emotions of fear and frustration Bourne feels as he discovers that he has no memory of who he is and what his role in society is. However at the end this film Doug (the director) uses bright and romantic colour as a symbol of the completion of Bourne’s remarkable journey to discovering his true self from who he was. An example of this technique is the romantic white colour of Mykonos, Greece when Bourne reunites with his love Marie.

Another visual technique the director uses are camera techniques, to help with contrasting of the start and the ending of this visual text. The first camera technique is the handheld camera. This particular technique emphasises the confusion, fear, frustration and disorientation that Bourne feels when he is discovered and hauled in the fishing vessel in the stormy Mediterranean Sea, by the Italian fishing crew. The second technique that Doug Liman used is the wide angle shot. The wide angle shot creates a romantic and tranquil atmosphere. These two camera techniques contrast with each other. The hand-held camera represents the emotional “ice box” Bourne is trapped in while he is in the figurative darkness, whilst the wide angle shot demonstrates the feeling of romance and tranquillity as he is reunited with the love of his life, Marie Kruetz.

The verbal technique Liman uses in this text is dialogue. The dialogue in this film has a tense and frustrated tone. At the beginning of this text Bourne’s tone is angry and uptight as he realised he has no memory of his life. As he comes face-to-face with Conklin his voice is more intense as he begins to discover more about himself. However towards the end of film the tone of his voice is more relaxed and flirtatious when he finds Marie in the romantic city of Mykonos in Greece. The different tones are effectively contrasted to show how Bourne discovers who he is, totally amnesiac till he reunites with Marie at the end. We as audience feel

In conclusion Doug Liman the director uses verbal and visual techniques to contrast the voyage Bourne undergoes to self-discovery. Bourne’s progression through this journey is a metaphorical story of someone trying to find their way home. The techniques the director uses to contrast Bourne’s journey emphasises the importance of knowing who you are and also what you are capable and incapable of. It also teaches us that we are capable of change no matter how much we try to deny it.

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