

'Hindi Madaling Matakot Si Arturo Abel III': How Inescapable Spaces Influence Behavior in the Movie Outside

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Abstract : Through the lens of intergenerational transmission of trauma and toxic masculinity, this study analyzes the Filipino movie *Outside*, highlighting how inescapable spaces influence the behavior of the main character, Francis Abel. By employing geosemiotics and cognitive film theory, the study explores the representation of space and its impact on the main character's behavior in the movie. As influenced by societal norms that justify violence and the transmission of trauma in Filipino families, the relationship between the main character and his father, Arturo Abel III, is portrayed in the film. Three spaces were identified by the analysis: the house, the room, and the cornfield. Along with the spaces are the signs: door, stairs, mattress, and drawings. These spaces transformed from perceived and conceived spaces into living spaces that imprisoned Francis in his unresolved traumas—these spaces elicit emotional imprisonment, underpinning behaviors that have been influenced by patriarchal ideologies and abuse in the household. The findings reveal that these spaces are no longer just perceived and conceived spaces but can also be active participants in shaping the main character's mental and emotional well-being. The house is a prison, the room has scars, and the cornfield is a reflection of power and pain. The movie will demonstrate how conventional perspectives and expectations about masculinity in the Philippine setting cause childhood trauma by transforming safe spaces into inescapable ones. In order to further understand Filipino cinema and its capacity to construct enduring problems related to masculinity and intergenerational trauma, this study highlights how the film's use of spatial symbolism may challenge societal ideologies.

Keywords : geosemiotics, signs, spaces, behavior, trauma

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