

Homework 2

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Movie Review: Gattaca

March 13, 2019

Gattaca is a movie that is meant to awake in every spectator's mind a series of questions. Questions about fate, morality, sacrifice, and ambition build with high artistry the personality of our main character, Vincent Freeman.

At the beginning of Gattaca, the audience gets to know the firstborn son of the Freeman family. He is conceived without any genetic alterations, and, because of this, he has to live with a series of severe flaws - his life expectancy is around 30 years old and his chances of dying of a heart attack are over 90%. Given Vincent condition, the second born son (Anton, having the same name as his father) of the Freeman family has the privilege (or, on the contrary, the disadvantage) of being genetically selected. This scene is probably the first one which raises a moral conflict in each spectator's mind. The Freeman family, happily by the fact that they can choose if they'd like a daughter or a son, are convinced by their doctor to use genetic selection for making the best gene combination that they could have ever achieved.

From my perspective, having the opportunity to choose the best genes that your child could have is an advantage, because, in this scenario, where everyone is at his or her maximum potential when it comes to physical characteristics, then we will take into account each individual's personality. The movie itself somehow demonstrates that Vincent's ambition and eagerness to fulfill his childhood dream can outreach, with extreme efforts, a perfect combination of genes. The most representative scene is Vincent and Anton's confrontation at the end of the movie. When Anton, the policeman who followed Vincent during the

whole investigation reveals himself and tries to pursue Vincent into quitting his up-coming journey to Titan, he also challenges one more time Vincent's genetic limitations. During this very last competition between the two brothers, after they've swum an impressive distance from the shore, Anton stops and asks Vincent how did he manage to come so far given his fragile condition. In that scene, Vincent's reply supports my idea that one's character is not something that you can genetically select: "I've never saved anything for the swim back". Another scene which is meant to emphasize how one's personality cannot be chosen is when Director Josef firmly encourages the investigators to check that he has no violence gene in his DNA and, afterward, it is revealed that he was the one who killed Gattaca's former mission director.

On the other hand, one aspect that I don't agree with is the differential behaviour that people with selected genes get from the ones naturally conceived. During the entire movie, one category is referred to as the 'valid' ones, while the other one consists of 'invalid' individuals. In the Gattaca Aerospace Corporation, only valid individuals pass the interview phase and later on may be able to go through one of the space missions meant for exploring the Solar System. All in all, life opportunities are much more limited for the invalids and this is what drives Vincent into trying to find a somehow doppelganger valid version of himself.

As a conclusion, Gattaca tries to illustrate a controversial future world, where only the superior class of human beings, the ones with selected genes before they were born, are able to achieve their most ambitious dreams. Anyway, Vincent is the living proof (not so living by the end of the movie) that each one of us can outreach his or her condition with enough passion. Therefore, I believe that a world where everyone has selected genes so that they are the best version of themselves would create a better scenario that Gattaca did. If each one of us would have assigned the best physical features combination then the most important trait would become our personality.