

**The Analysis of Film Compositions & Techniques**  
**in *Venom: The Last Dance* (2024)**

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## Introduction

Imagine a world without movies - without the stories that entertain, heal, and inspire us. Such questions can pop into our minds as movies or films are the major leisure activities that people often take to do. Basically, movies that are in various forms of stories are interacting with people as they go and resonate with the story. In the movie, there are various genres that we get to choose from. Genres like romance, drama, Horror, and action are the most popular ones in the world.<sup>1</sup> Through these various genres, people get to experience different stories and fictional characters. Thus, in this paper, the genre of action, specifically the movie entitled “Venom: The Last Dance” will be analyzed through the film compositions. Film compositions such as dramatic structure, color, lighting, sound, editing, and camera movements explore how the film delivers its context and somehow connects with the audience through different techniques.

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<sup>1</sup>Blakeley, S. (2023, November 23). *Movie Genres & Subgenres | Definition, Types & Examples*. study.com. Retrieved November 28, 2024, from <https://study.com/academy/lesson/film-genres-subgenres-definition-types.html#:~:text=Some%20of%20the%20most%20common,thriller%2C%20western%2C%20and%20musical.>

## Analysis

In the movie, the story starts by continuing from the previous episode called “*Venom: Let There Be Carnage*.” The main protagonists, Eddie Brock and Venom, were still running after the battle with Carnage, where the whole world focuses on their dangerous presence in society. Being that, they tried hiding in Mexico while the government associations searched all the CCTVs to detect their location. This can be analyzed from the film composition perspective, where the exposition of the drama structure grabs the audience’s attention. Audiences can easily obtain information about what happened after the previous episode. This is important because the starting point of the film determines audiences’ interest in the rest of the context. After the exposition kind of unlocked audiences’ initial interest, the complication in the drama structure then helped audiences become more curious about the context. In the movie, different kinds of symbiotes were undergoing experiments and investments to benefit human technologies. This somehow becomes a key event where the audience can relate to the issue in the movie.

Moreover, the creator of the symbiote, Knull, needed the ‘Codex’ to be released from the prison where the symbiote trapped him a long time ago. In order to find this Codex, Knull released Xenophages to Earth to kill the symbiote with the Codex. This could not be done by just killing Venom. If either one of them dies (Venom or Eddie), the Codex will be deactivated. Such a development in the context may represent the rise of complication. During the complication, audiences can relate and maximize their curiosity about what will happen in the next scenes. Not only becoming curious about the climax at this stage, but also resonating with the characters and the background of the film is one of the important factors that films should develop through stages. While other species of symbiote are released from Area 51, they cooperate with Venom and humans to protect the Codex and the Earth. The reason why they all thrive in protecting the

Codex and eliminating the Xenophages is that once Knull is released, no one can stop him from taking control. Thus, such battles with Xenophages can be considered the climax stage in the drama structure. The scenes of battling with symbiotes and Xenophages show clear interest and the main event in the movie.

During this part, the Character Arc can also be analyzed by how the symbiotes changed their minds to help humans protect the world together. At first, they did not have any sympathy for humans, as they were simply against them. Their initial goals were conquering the world and getting host bodies from humans in order to live and maximize their power. However, as the story developed, the symbiotes changed their minds and attitudes, deciding to help humans rather than pursuing their initial goals. Such changes in the characters can make audiences more deeply focused on the context, thinking about how their attitudes or positions have changed. The climax of the movie is particularly involved with interpersonal conflict, where people can easily identify the protagonists and antagonists and their relationships in the film. As the story progresses, the results of the battle move toward success and victory for the protagonists (symbiotes including Venom and humans). This brings an important message in the resolution, where audiences' curiosity will all be resolved, and their ultimate goal of satisfaction will be fulfilled.

In addition to the drama structure, the movie utilizes different tools and techniques to further develop and deliver its story to audiences. The story generally uses dark colors like black and purple. Black often symbolizes fear, power, and unhappiness, while purple represents mystery and transformation. With the use of specific colors like black and purple, a psychological impact can be delivered to audiences, allowing them to enjoy the movie with a sense of close connection to the flow and story. Along with the color, the lighting also made the movie more realistic and perfect for the audience.

Not only did the colors play a crucial role in shaping the film, but also different lighting techniques could have made the movie's tone, mood, and narrative more realistic. The filmmakers strategically used various lighting techniques to reflect the duality of Venom's character and emphasize the tension in the story. For example, the film employs high-contrast lighting, where Venom usually engages with the deep black colors or darker instincts. The sharp interplay of light and shadow mirrors the internal conflict between Eddie and the symbiote, Venom. Moreover, the use of low-key lighting emphasizes how emotional or tense moments between Eddie and Venom are captured. This shows how the relationship between each character is an important source of the story. Lastly, dynamic lighting skills in action scenes highlight the chaos and intensity. During high-energy fight scenes, flickering lights, such as sparks, explosions, or neon signs, are used to heighten the seriousness. This technique keeps viewers visually engaged and reinforces their attention to the action genre.

Sound is another section that filmmakers consider a critical element in immersing the audience. Firstly, the dynamic use of background music features heavy, pulsating beats and ominous tones to reflect Venom's alien and chaotic nature. The intense music also highlights the relationship between Eddie and the symbiote, where they are highly engaged with each other throughout the film. Secondly, Venom's voice is deep and somehow modulated. This auditory distinction emphasizes his alien identity and sets him apart from the human characters. Also, the sound effects during the battle convey the realism and the power of the physical interactions, allowing audiences to experience them even though they are not actually there. Lastly, diegetic and non-diegetic sounds are also illustrated in the movie. Diegetic sounds, including Venom's growls, Eddie's conversations with Venom, and sounds from the city, show the visible elements of the film. On the other hand, non-diegetic sounds create a sense of drama and action, with key

scenes backed by different types of sound effects. Thus, by integrating these sound elements, the movie creates an audio experience that complements its visual storytelling. Sound effects not only reinforce the mood and atmosphere but also deepen the connection between the audience and the characters. Ultimately, this makes the film more alive and emotionally engaging.

After recognizing the importance of sound elements in filmmaking, editing and camera movements also contribute to making the film more perfect and clearly delivering the content to the audience. Movement is one of the main compositional elements in films, as it is the last stage of making the film engagement more deeply relatable to the audience. In the movie “*Venom: The Last Dance*,” producers also utilized different types of camera movements and editing as powerful tools to intensify the action and deliver a message to the audience. For instance, dolly shots are used as an effective tool to create emotional depth, heighten tension, and guide the audience’s focus. Specifically, ‘dolly in’ is used when Eddie realizes the full extent of Venom’s power or faces overwhelming threats. In addition, tilt shots are often taken when new environments or places are introduced. Places like Area 51, the waterfall where Eddie and Venom fall, and Las Vegas are all shown using tilt shot techniques. This helps viewers see the whole place right away, allowing them to grasp the context of where the next scene will take place. Different shot sizes like close-up, medium long shot, extreme long shot, and more are used to emphasize the status of Eddie’s emotions and other characters’ engagement in terms of their relationships.

With all these aspects, editing skills such as montage, jump cuts, and cross-cutting are shown in the film. To begin, the montage technique is a series of short shots that are edited together to condense time, events, and information. This is shown in the scenes of Eddie adapting to life with Venom, with a mix of quick cuts and overlaying images. Furthermore, jump

cuts are involved in cutting between two shots of the same subject in slightly different positions or angles. This is represented by the transition between Eddie himself and the influence of Venom, such as how the film transitions from Eddie's perspective to Venom's. Lastly, the cross-cutting technique refers to two or more scenes simultaneously shown in different locations. Eddie's internal struggles and external conflicts illustrate the tension and show how interconnected these elements are vice versa. Thus, these editing skills are helpful for audiences to better understand the flow of the structure, including its full context.

## **Conclusion**

To sum up, "*Venom: The Last Dance*" effectively used a wide range of film composition and techniques in order to resonate with its audience. Ultimately, these elements enhanced its storytelling like how the dramatic structure builds a compelling narrative, and eventually forms a clear stage of exposition to resolution. This keeps viewers invested in the characters and their journey. Through the visualization of the character arc, the audience gets the opportunity to think about how such characters changed their minds in the end. The use of color and lighting intensifies the mood and reflects the duality of Venom's character. Sound effects deepen emotional resonance and immerses the audience in the film's action scenes. Additionally, dynamic camera movements and sophisticated editing techniques, such as dolly shots, montages, and cross-cutting, contribute to the seamless progression of the story, making the visuals and narrative highly captivating. By integrating these elements together, the filmmakers create a cohesive and immersive experience that not only entertains but also leaves a lasting impact on the audience, re-proving the power of exploiting different kinds of techniques in storytelling.

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