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**Sequence Analysis Essay**

**Introduction**

Jaws Sequence shot presents the use of cinematography techniques in a unique pattern distributed across the entire short film. The shot creates a wide range of emotions for the viewer, from fear, suspense, anger, disbelief and confusion, among others. The film has used camera angles, camera movements, sound and other techniques to ensure the elements of the shot are clear follow the same routine have smooth cuts and seamlessly combine properly. The sequence shot is a clear indication of cinematography techniques used in film production and their importance in creating a storyline.

**Sequence Analysis**

One of the most interesting concepts presented by Jaws sequence is the visual techniques and camera movements in the film. According to Swenberg, Thorbjörn, and Per Erik, a camera movement is an approach that helps the audience follow the storyline in a sequence (222). In Jaws shot sequence, panning, tilting, zooming out, and static panning are some of the evident camera movements. These movements are combined with a slight change in the camera angle to ensure a clear focus on the subjects. For instance, the scene in which Alex runs out into the water presents a slight panning movement of the camera to the right. The direction of the camera movement matches that of the previous camera shot on the dog. The two shots are linked easily through a cut that appears seamless and with less visual effects. Similarly, the heavy woman, Alex, the dog and Brody, in the first shot, help to depict the camera movements in the sequence. The camera begins by showing the heavy woman, panning to follow Alex and onwards to Brody and onwards to the water. These shots are connected continuously without a cut, but with proper camera movements.

There is a consistency in the cuts that the sequence has that help the viewer relate with the activities they watch in the screen. A good example is the following shots where the camera movement focuses on a subject and smoothly transitions into another subject but in the same direction. Alex and the dog are key examples in multiple shots in the film, where the camera movement transitions from Alex to the dog. Similarly, the scene where Brody speculates that a woman screaming in the water has been attacked by a shark shows a unique camera technique to have consistency in the cuts. Both scenes are cut into each other every second in an alternating manner, with one of the shots showing Brody and his concern about the water safety, and the other showing the woman, who is later lifted from beneath the water by another man. The consistency helps the audience to follow clearly how the film is constructed and can help to improve on the suspense these viewers have on the sequence.

The motivation between each cut is derived from the flow and movement of the subjects in the scene. The cuts are made concerning how the subjects move across from right to left or from left to right in the sequence. In most scenes within the sequence, the cuts are motivated by the camera movement in which it follows two shots are joined based on the direction of the movement of the camera or that of the subject. For instance, Alex and the dog are caught in two distinct shots, but due to their same direction of movement, it is easy to join these shots with a simple cut that appears to combine the two in one shot. Through the editing done on the sequence, the camera movement, cuts and the shots themselves are further enhanced. For instance, in the cut between Alex and the dog, the introduction of motion blur at the cut itself helps to hide the change in clips, which is essential to allowing a smooth transition. The editing also interpolates the smoothness of these cuts such that it becomes difficult to notice the transition.

Sound design is another technique that has been used largely in this sequence to inform the audience of the surroundings and events happening in the scene. In multiple scenes within the sequence, sounds are used to help the audience understand the context of the film, the actions and feelings. For instance, in the establishing shot, there are sounds of far dialogues in the background, beach noise in the background, water and a radio. When there is a change in a scene from the beach to the water, the splashing sounds and child noise are more apparent than the beach noise and dialogue. Similarly, when the producer wanted to create a sense of anticipation and anxiety, the prominent sounds were background music, with fewer people talking and children noises in the background. At such times, the camera was static and this helped to create suspense among the audience.

The sequence has portrayed the point-of-view shift approach to helping the viewers see what the subject appears to see from their angle. This is especially utilized in one scene in the sequence where Brody is concerned with water safety and is watching the kids as they play. Harry approaches Brody to inform him about the way the kids are happy, and Brody slightly pulls himself upwards to get a better view of the children. The camera shifts to provide a point-of-view from Brody’s perspective and angle, and the focus is tighter on the children playing with some blur on Harry’s face. The shift in point-of-view assumes Brody’s position an what he can see on the water as the children play. This is especially important in this sequence as it shows the concern that Brody has when the children are playing in the water. It helps to anticipate something happening that may have been predicted by Brody. It also helps to show his view of Harry when he speaks, and it is clear that Brody’s attention is not on Harry, despite being relatively Infront of him.

The use of symbolic images in the setting creates the visual explanation of events that are not described through conversations and words in the sequence. The sequence has embedded the use of these symbolic images across the entire film (Cannon 12). One instance of this is when the shark had attacked the children while they were in the water, and one of the toys was evidence afloat on top of the water. The image symbolizes the death of one child who was using the object while in the water that was attacked by a shark. This is clear because of how the scene ends with a focus on the object as it is pushed onto the surface of the land from deep in the water body. Similarly, blood is used as a symbolic image in the water. When the shark attacked from the bottom of the sea, the children were not concerned since they initially thought it was but a joke. However, once the blood was visible through the water, the children, along with their parents, felt the need to run into safety out of the water. The symbolic representation of blood and its colour shows the danger in the water, which is why the children had to escape the danger caused by the shark in the water.

The shots in the sequence had varying timelines, from which various events occurred and camera movements became different. However, these timelines are not easy to depict due to the editing techniques that the sequence has undergone along with the visual elements applied on the edits. For instance, the entrance or beginning shot spans over 40sec continuously showing the surrounding and using multiple camera movements like panning R and L, tilt up and down, zoom out, trackback other movements. In this process, the time allows the camera to show a variety of subjects and aspects involved on the setting such as the beach, the seawater, the horizon, the crowd, and the main characters involved within the sequence itself. Other scenes in the sequence take up different times such as 3sec, 2sec and 5sec, among others. The rhythmic variation of these shots and cuts and patterns is that they allow the audience to see the whole surrounding and become accustomed to it easily. Moreover, the shots are timed properly and in a similar direction that allows for easy flow of the concepts presented in the film by the producer.

**Conclusion**

Cinematography techniques used in Jaws sequence are essentially important in showing how the story is presented and the way proper film production practices are done. The sequence analysis shows that the production process has resulted in additional editing techniques to hide cuts and transitions that are made in the film. The sequence also uses symbolic images that help the audience to understand and relate the various visual components without a vocal explanation. The sequence has utilized the point-of-view approach to allow the viewers to see what the characters see from their viewpoints. The editing done on the film further enhances the sounds that are used in the film to show differences in scenes and environments in which the characters operate within.

Works Cited

Cannon, Michelle. "The Clip Club: Primary Film-Making & Editing." *Digital Media in Education*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham, 2018. 121-159.

Swenberg, Thorbjörn, and Per Erik Eriksson. "Effects of continuity or discontinuity in actual film editing." *Empirical Studies of the Arts* 36.2 (2018): 222-246.