A Brief Analysis of the War Scenes of the Historical War Film "Dunkirk" Creates

Zhiqi Pei

Department of Arts, Liaoning University, Shenyang, 110136, China

Corresponding author e-mail: 971664136@qq.com

Abstract: Nolan's "Dunkirk" is an historical war film in an unconventional kind, which follows his usual suspenseful style. By using nonlinear narrative skills, Nolan distinguishes it from other historical war films. He splits the whole war story into three timelines, selects three different individuals in the war to stand from a personal perspective, and uses parallel montage and contrast montage to frame the whole story. The use of sound effects and representative color tones also help create a real war scene, as well as express the mood of fear and the desperate to return home, which expresses the topic of anti-war indirectly.

1. Introduction

The word "home" can simply arouse the emotional resonance of countless people, because home is not only the initial memory of everyone, but also the ultimate destination of all the wanderers. In the smoke-filled battlefield, home has become the mind of countless soldiers. "Like a caged bird still thinking of trees and woods. Like a fish in the pond never forgetting its river", there's no doubt that being alive in this war is the biggest victory.

What Nolan is best at is to select suspenseful stories, and then compile stories with non-linear narratives. In the narration, the audience is constantly given various clues, allowing the audience to grasp various clues while following the director to advance the plot layer by layer. [1]Nolan once said: "I didn't shoot it ("Dunkirk") as a war film, but as a suspense thriller about survival." [2]In this film, Nolan still follows his narrative method, dividing the story into three timelines, a week, a day and an hour, instead of presenting the coherent one. Nolan re-separated and choreographed, replacing the maximalism style with minimalness. Unlike the accepted war story formats, he didn't ode to the courage of sodiers fighting agaist the enemies. Conversely, he stood in a personal perspective and through the three views of land, sea and air, he revealed the real relationship between the war and each person in a panoramic interweaving of three dimensions of time.

When referring to the scene of the war, some people think it's too clean on the beach without all the blood and gore. But I think what Nolan wants to show is not bloody, but something more terrible than blood -like loneliness, like despair. What gives people a heavy blow is the harm and cruelty of war to mankind, and the real process of hurting those who witnessed the war from the psychological and spiritual level. [3]That is Nolan's field. And as we all know, a work wants to show too many points, but can not grasp the focus. "Dunkirk" expresses only one point, it is a kind of high-level fear. This has to mention the use of sound effects and nearly 70% of IMAX lenses. Here's how I analyze some of the most compelling images for me.

2. Shots with Sound Effects

(1) The first scene in the film is in the falling German dissuasion order, several British soldiers who were separated by the enemy wandering the deserted streets aimlessly. They were so tired that they couldn't even let go of any water in the roadside pipe. One of the lads picked up a few flyers, also picked up a cigarette butt in the ashtray, was about to find a corner, smoking a cigarette, pulling a shit... At this time, the German guns rang out. The whole opening was not white, the paper in the

wind messy sound, unscrewing the tap and pushing open the squeak of the street to the end of a dead, with a strong sense of generation. Sudden gunshots, let the audience also feel unable to prevent, the rhythm of the film suddenly quickly up. This static rhythmic scheduling and precise documentary sound complement each other, enhance the opening sense of generation, fresh and vulgar. Holding a water pipe to drink water, pick up cigarettes, convenient these small details, it is the most basic physiological needs of young men, in the context of war, death and panic everywhere, such a "busy and busy" has become a delusion.

(2)"Moonstone" civilian ship and D36 warship "shoulder rub." The music here suddenly became so dark and strange that it was overwhelming. The soldiers on the warship stood motionless on the deck, and the picture was dead. The ship, which had jam bread for the soldiers in the cabin, was later torpedoed by the D36. Soldiers standing on the deck during the day, along with soldiers rescued at night, were trapped in the cabin during the torpedo attack. The silence on the deck during the day is hinting at the robbery they were about to be in the cabin below at night.

(3) People and the Sea. After the trio managed to reach the beach with the boat, the trio sat on the beach just looking at the churning sea, only the wind rolls and waves layered up and mixed with the environmental sound of the pointer ticking, who did not say a word, the picture is so chilling, unknown everything brings endless fear. At this time silent victory sound, not only in the plot of the precise pinch soldiers after the rest of the mentality, but also in the rhythm of the film can give the audience a chance to breathe. They see a soldier walking from the beach to the sea, and you don't know if he wants to swim back to England or end his life in despair, and that's what Nolan's interview with a World War II veteran of Dunkirk - the veteran himself doesn't know what the soldier wants to do, no one knows, it's just a real thing in the Dunkirk retreat. In the expression of the picture, a lonely back slowly into the sea, by the waves of layers of engulfing, the soundtrack is bleak and tragic. At this moment, the sea is the master of fate, human beings in front of the sea is so small.

(4) Water and fire are incompatible. The British destroyer at sea was hit by a German air strike, a plane crash ignited the oil slick on the sea surface, and the soldiers who had been underwater had just poked their heads out of the water for their lives, and it was a roaring fire that greeted him. At this moment the music stopped, only cold and rapid pointer ticking and drowning. The difficulty of survival in the seams speaks for itself.

3. Go Home: Theme of the film

The theme of the film "Go Home" echoes its slogan, "When 400,000 people can't go home, home comes for you." There is no strong heroism, only the escapees, the saviors and the fighters in their own fate of the instinctive stress response. When these reactions are starkly presented, we can see the good and evil in human nature after the disguise is removed. As Nolan puts it: "It's not a war movie, it's a survivor's story." The hero was bombarded on the beach, and as explosives, bullets, and shell casings poured down, he tried to bury his head in the sand like an ostrich. In order to escape wearing the dead British soldiers in the uniform of the French brother, the night boat "calm" refused to carry male masters and artillery men of the navy soldiers, stranded fishing boats in the face of the sacrifice of who's sickening "charge war", are some of the ugly face in the face of survival. But who can guarantee that they will not be deserters in the face of death? But the men who feared death would also rescue the high-arms on the docks; the French brother opened the cabin before jumping ship to protect himself, rescued the soldiers trapped in the cabin, secretly dropped the rope son in the small boat when people did not pay attention, so that the male and high artillery men successfully arrived at the shore with the ship; and those who had just encountered air strikes on the embankment would be the same as the men and the French brother successfully carried the wounded over the wooden board. It is these little details that shape the image of a soldier in war more authentic.

The "death point" in the film is very representative and has deep meaning. First the captain died. He died suddenly, the last second still commanding the pilot to fight, the next second has been destroyed. The director didn't even give the captain a shot, it was all about his command. Yet his death can make us feel the deep fear of unknown enemies. Then came the death of the French

brother, whose death was ironic. He saved several British soldiers, but in the moment of life and death by the high artillery with a gun to force out, and finally the collective abandoned the ship when the high artillery called him abandoned the ship, but his physical strength has been exhausted, and ultimately did not survive. The vicious battle in this cabin is a very real restoration of the most selfish side of man's life. "All afraid of death, all greedy" really exposed the British in this retreat in the selfish xenophobia. After all, it was to pay for his life, and the soldier who frequently abetted others in the cabin was also killed by the fire that started in the sea after escaping. The most representative is the death of George, a small helper. He was actually the last person to die, but he was killed by a cowardly soldier. He represents the tens of millions of ordinary people who came to the rescue, in the retreat, their role is the soldiers, in order to protect the soldiers to go home alive, I do not know how many innocent people will be sacrificed on the rescue road. Where there are some years quiet good, but someone for you to carry the burden of moving forward. The most heroic character in the film is the pilot who finally landed in enemy territory. He shot down an enemy plane by gliding only when the propeller failed, and after landing he would rather burn it down than let it fall into the enemy's hands.

4. Lens language: parallel montage and contrast montage

If music is the backbone of the positive atmosphere, then the lens language and color tones are the most sophisticated hardcover parts. In the lens language, the film mainly uses parallel montages and contrasting montages. The whole film is because of the parallel montage, only to achieve the effect of nonlinear narrative. The best part is that at the end of the film, the male master reads Churchill's famous speech, with the still dark blue waters, hundreds of green military hats on the land-line beach, the sea line George becomes a civilian hero, the airline pilot was captured, conveying Britain's vow never to surrender. Next, I'll focus on selecting a few places to compare montages for analysis.

(1) Civilian ships and warships. The first is the picture of a civilian ship passing through a warship. As the Moonstone sailed past the D36, the sky was covered with yellow sand, the sea and the ship were shrouded in gloomy blue, and the ship's deck was covered with soldiers and dead. These soldiers who are about to return will wonder why the British went to the dead-of-the-day Dunkirk. Moving from the bow to the end of the battleship is the furthest distance from the sea. The contrasting picture of large warships and small civilian ships also reflects the role of the people for the country. Later, when a large british migrant ship came to the rescue, the soldiers on the deck of the D54 waved their hats and cheered loudly. At this moment, the British flag flying on board the ship together with this cheer, confirmed the significance of the people's rescue.

(2) Born and died. The first is the high artillery from the merchant ship successfully escaped from the French brother tragedy drowning in the cabin is a dark small brother struggling to fumble the escalator close-up, accompanied by the sound of stoic and drowning to bring the audience into the drowning space. Then the picture quickly cut to the high artillery mouth big mouth breath, smoothly climb the escalator to see the sky picture. The next shot of the French brother drowning made me very memorable. First gave him an immediate up-and-coming close-up of the escalator, after which the position of the lens was always behind the escalator, and the lens slowly pulled away. He is more and more far away from the escalator, let his hands in the water how to pounce, but how can not reach the escalator. Finally drowning the moment, stretched out the hand floating, brought me is the drowning moment of deep feeling of panic and despair, the sound of water and gas also made me suffocate. The second was the people rescued and burned to death when a fire broke out on the sea. Those who are unfortunately trapped in the waters of the oil slick area, just to escape the fate of drowning, but can not escape the tragedy of being burned to death. At this time the rescued man on board the ship, gasping for breath, said "take me home", no doubt, he was lucky. The next picture is a contrast between the sea, three safe civilian boats on the left, the small civilian boat that managed to escape the fire at the right rear and the large warship that capsized in the sea on the right front. This frame is extremely colorful. The blue sea on the left half, unlike the cold, dark blue before, is more calm at the moment. Red-and-yellow, interwoven flames and carbon-grey smoke were also silently denouncing the ferocity of the war. The golden, sparkling sea on the right half also offers

infinite hope to the living.

(3) The population and deserters. First, the little red brother and the coward soldier. When the boy was questioned for the first time, the little red brother angrily told the cowardly soldiers that "it's not good at all." And when the coward asked him the second time, "Boy, he's going to make it, right?" "The little brother hesitated and said yes. At this moment, he has seen how hard it is for a soldier to survive in the sea, and does not want him to bear more guilt. The emotional bond between the population and the deserters has also been established. At the end, the artillery men who finally boarded the train home thought that deserters like them who could return home alive would be despised by the chinese, but when the train entered the station, the window was outside the window to greet them as heroes. As the blind old man with a blanket said, "It's enough to survive."

5. The color tone of the movie.

Tone, the land line to sand yellow mainly, so that the picture always has a yellow sand shrouded in the feeling. Moreover, yellow is also related to cowardice, the opening male and French brother buried bodies on the beach, carrying the wounded trying to escape, etc. are in this cowardly yellow main tone to complete. Moreover, yellow and blue are a popular combination, and yellow can awaken the low-key blue color to create high contrast. So the khaki sky on the sea is just against the murmuring blue sea of death. The commander's place is a cold blue-based hue, representing the "calm" British official. But the commander himself is a dutiful and dutiful role. When he saw through the telescope from the United Kingdom, a search ship, took off the telescope for the moment, eyes with tears excitedly said "home." The next frame of the sea boat's lens became a slightly yellowing hue, like an old photograph fixed in this moment of successful retreat. In the second half, enemy aircraft once again came over the embankment to prepare for bombing, and the commander slowly bowed his head to witness the next second of death. And when he looked up again, the gliding British fighter had shot it down, and the golden sun was shining on his face, warm with his comforting compatibility. Finally he put down the bezel in front of him, decided to stay and continue to wait for the Allies, the Captain saluted farewell, back to the blue tone, can be carefully observed will find that it is also incorporated with a light yellow. Such a design is also a complement to the previous British government's attitude towards the Allies as a shield. When the port of Dorset was seen on the Moonstone, the golden sun filled the cabin; the green and yellow of the grass outside the train window gave us a glimpse of a British mainland still full of vitality and vitality; the yellow fire of the dark changes was won over the pilot's face, and behind it was still the dark grey land covered by shadows, but it was just the darkness of the pre-dawn sky, as the litlight of the sky was slowly emerging.

6. Summary

"Dunkirk" as a historical war film full of no-nonsense suspense style, it is realistic, full of human nature. There are no scenes of blood and rain, but they have been using immersive plot and three-dimensional IMAX lens to bring us back to the real scene of the Great Retreat. "When 400,000 people can't go home, home comes for you" and coming home alive is the greatest victory in the battle of retreat.

References

[1] Wei Feng, The Anti-traditional Narrative in "Dunkirk"[J]. Global Horizon. 2018, (08), pp. 127-129.

[2] Dongsheng Jiang, The Trembling Delay And The Visual Oscillation――Analysis of The Rhythm of The Movie "Dunkirk"[J].Journal of Jilin University of Arts.2017(06).

[3] Guo Feng, Chang Meng,Creating the atmosphere of war scenes in film creation: Taking Dunkirk as an example[J].New Films.2019,(01), pp. 11-17