

The Effectiveness of Film Music in Creating Comedic and Dramatic Atmospheres in the Short Fiction Film "Jarene"

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the effectiveness of musical accompaniment in creating a comedic and dramatic atmosphere in the fictional short film titled "Jarene". Music, as an audio element in film, plays a crucial role in enhancing visual narratives and the audience's emotions. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative with a semiotic and audiovisual aesthetic analysis approach. Data were obtained through direct observation of the film "Jarene", interviews with the filmmakers, and literature studies related to film music theory and dramaturgy. The results indicate that the selection of music type, tempo, harmony, and synchronization with visual scenes can effectively create a contrast in atmosphere between comedic and dramatic segments in the film. Fast paced music with light melodies tends to enhance the comedic tone, while slow tempo music with minor harmonies is

effective in depicting dramatic moods. This study concludes that well designed musical accompaniment can enhance the quality of emotional delivery and strengthen the narrative message in short films. These findings are expected to serve as a reference for filmmakers in utilizing music elements to support the atmosphere in their audiovisual works.

Keywords: Music Film, Atmosphere, Comedy, Drama, Short Film, Jarene.

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of monologue creators in the 2000s was influenced by the anxieties of real life experiences, evolving into a form of comedic art performed as a one-man show on stage (Ali, 2019). The role of the monologue is conveyed implicitly by the creator with the aim of satirizing or mocking specific individuals as material for humor (Islami, 2022).

The delivery of implicit messages is often presented by performers in the traditional ludruk art form. The monologues in this drama or play boldly convey critiques of various cultural phenomena, ranging from economic issues, history, politics, to socio-cultural matters. Through the critiques of these critics, a range of insinuations can be expressed, from mischievous to absurd (Suprihatien & Damayanti, 2020).

The implicit message of ludruk performers often highlights the daily life issues of ordinary people (fragments of life) using a more egalitarian language, as common folk tend to be transparent and straightforward. Ludruk, as a cultural defense tool for the people of East

Java, embodies values of local wisdom. (Prativi, 2023).

In ludruk, the messages conveyed create a diverse image for the audience that is synonymous with the term "Parikan". Parikan is a traditional Javanese poem that is referred to as a pantun in Indonesian (Jayanti, 2017). Parikan itself has meanings and characteristics similar to roasting performed by monologue creators in Indonesia (Komika). However, literally, parikan possesses a strong cultural power because it is rooted in a narrative shaped by Javanese dialogue, forming the culture and customs of the local community.

Today's ludruk as a performance art has been marginalised or pushed aside due to the fast development of the mass culture. Performance art of ludruk could no longer catch the interest of this generation, it has been substituted by the modern media, which is much more popular, relatively cheaper, and more easily consumed via television or any other kinds of electronic equipments (Adicahyo, 2014).

This, the role of the media is needed as a bridge in preserving traditional performing arts, one of which is film. Film, as a product of popular culture, should not only be

understood as mere entertainment media. More than that, the film text is a discourse that contains certain intellectual values (Wibisono, 2019). The essence adopted from the ludruk performing arts is found in the dialectics of the "Suroboyaoan" language. The "Suroboyaoan" language is chosen and represented in the dialogues of the film titled "Jarene". This serves to strengthen the local identity, especially of the people of Surabaya. Research conducted by (Chaer et al., 2023) shows that by utilizing dialectical and intuitive logic, one can listen to the intuitive phenomena of the existence of linguistic features such as speech, words, and abstract phonemes.

Research conducted (Krauß, 2018), oleh stated that This paper will show that the dialect rather exhibits a binary T-V distinction in politeness similar to that in French and German, as opposed to the strict speech level system as found in Central Javanese, Korean, and Japanese. This research illustrates how powerful the symbols depicted through regional dialectics can carry a strong identity for each area.

Then the research conducted by (Winiasih, 2018) states that the form

containing in the Surabaya Javanese language has its own characteristics as an affective form, pronoun, interjection, greeting word, and a filler for syntactic functions. In addition, the form containing has special features in the use of popular terms and word shortening.

The term taken from the "Suroboyaoan" language in the film Jarene is the word "Jancok". This word has a complex and contextual meaning. The use of the word "Jancok" evokes various emotions and social relationships, depending on the situation and the relationship between the speakers. In the cultural context of "Arek Suroboyo", this word has become an integral part of daily communication and local cultural identity. Emotional expression in communication is conveyed through various messages packaged using verbal symbols and nonverbal symbols (Parapat, 2020).

An interesting linguistic and social phenomenon, especially in the context of local culture. The word "jancok", although literally often considered rude or having negative connotations, has undergone resemanticization in the culture of arek Surabaya and much of East Java, shifting its meaning from

being initially offensive to becoming more expressive and even full of familiarity.

The other side of every emphasis on the intonation of the voice conveyed symbolizes a reinforcement of the identity of arek Suroboyo. The delivery of the word "Jancok" in the film "Jarene" represents various situations experienced in daily life, making the audio-visual message feel strong and vividly portray a particular region.



Figure 1. Movie Poster "Jarene".

Previous studies that support the narrative in the film "Jarene" are (Poernamasari, 2023), this reinforcement then appears with the identity that is formed afterwards, namely by making the process of imitating and joking in dark jokes an act of cyberbullying that is formed. Cyberbullying is a form of social construction with the role of

"Selebtwit" as social actors.

It was further added by (Sugiarto, 2016) that the material for monologue jokes, consisting of social issues that are characteristic of each stand up comedian, is also featured in the film being studied, and stand up comedy programs are currently popular among the Indonesian public. These factors contribute to the popularity of comedy films starring stand-up comedians among viewers.

The musical aspect also plays a role in conveying the story to the audience. (Muhiddin, 2021) The emotions felt, such as aggression, connection, happiness, reflectiveness, sadness, and tension, are related to moral judgment. This is what makes the film more valuable and establishes a strong connection with the dialogue presented.

Then the research conducted by (Pratama & Rozak, 2021) shows that music, in the use of musical instruments, major or minor tonality, dynamics, motifs, and tempo, becomes a characteristic in creating dramatic effects in films.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with a semiotic

and audio-visual aesthetic analysis approach. Data was obtained through direct observation of the film "Jarene", interviews with the filmmakers, and literature studies related to film music theory and dramaturgy.

This approach was chosen because it is capable of exploring the meaning, symbols, and aesthetic and emotional effects of the audiovisual aspects in film. The object of this research is a fictional short film titled "Jarene". The focus of the study is on the audiovisual elements that include visuals (*mise en scène*), cinematography, actor expressions, lighting, color, and image composition, as well as audio (music, sound effects, dialogue, and the use of silence), and how these elements create effects of humor and drama.

The data is analyzed using semiotic and aesthetic film analysis by identifying the visual and audio signs used to build a sense of humor and drama, and then interpreting how these signs function narratively and emotionally for the audience.

Table 1. Research Methodology

No.	Metodology	Description
	Identification	Scenes that contain humor and drama
	Analysis	Audiovisual elements in those scenes

	Interpretation	Meaning and emotional impact generated
	Evaluation	The effectiveness of message delivery or atmosphere through audiovisual media

The collection of literature in the discussion of film refers to two books: "5 Days to Master Filmmaking" and "Production Management of TV Program Events in Drama Format" (Mabruri, 2013). Javandalasta, in his book "5 Days to Master Filmmaking" (2011: 1-3), explains that the word film originates from a medium for storing images, often referred to as Celluloid, a plastic sheet coated with emulsion (a light-sensitive chemical layer). From this point, film in the sense of audio-visual presentations is understood as moving image fragments.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The stages of work design include three phases: pre-production, production, and post-production.



Figure 2. Work Design

The initial stage of film production begins with pre production, which involves preparing all aspects of creating a short fiction film. This includes an overview of the pre production process for writing the script in the making of a short film in the drama comedy genre titled: "Jarene".

The concept of this short film has a linear narrative, as a linear storyline allows the audience to better understand the film's story. This film aims to showcase the moments experienced by new students as they enter the world of college.

By combining the drama genre, the writer attempts to bring the world and characters within this film to life naturally. The comedy genre is added to give the story more vibrancy. Supported by the Director of Photography (DOP) using visual comedy techniques, it will enhance the comedic elements.

Synopsis: In an Angkringan, two young men named Aldo and Alvin are chatting and joking. Alvin tells Aldo that he once saw his friend eating sushi in a smashed style. Aldo laughs upon hearing this and shares that he also witnessed his friend eating lemper like a Japanese person. Then Alvin says, "It's hard to understand people who are struggling".

Assuming it was a joke setup, Aldo interjected that one shouldn't try to

understand a poor person but just give them money, hearing that response made Alvin laugh. In the midst of their banter, a curvy girl approached the food stall and walked past them. Their eyes immediately fixated on the girl's backside. Still gazing at those two chunks of flesh, Alvin whispered to Aldo that a girl like that would definitely be interested if offered a ride on a cool motorcycle.

Feeling offended because of his old motorcycle, Aldo retorted Alvin's words. Aldo concluded that although his motorcycle was old, it was that very motorcycle that allowed him to attend the same university as Alvin. After hearing those words, Aldo felt a bit guilty about what he had said. In the midst of the debate, the Angkringan keeper shouted at them to order something from the stall instead of just debating without buying anything.

The film production process is a series of steps that involve the production team and the filming of a movie. In this stage, the writer, as the screenwriter, discusses the script with the director and the Director of Photography (DOP) to provide information to the talent, direct the talent, organize the talent, give notes, and lead the talent to effectively portray their respective characters. Ensuring that the crew can implement everything that has been prepared.

The artistic director is responsible for building the set and preparing the props,

the camera operator is tasked with capturing images with their camera, and so on. The depiction of the script is essential to serve as the main foundation

for shooting during production. Below is the arrangement of the script depiction in the table.

Table 2 Image Capture Process

Scene	Shoot	Visual	Description
1	1		Eko focused on watching television shows while waiting for class time.
	2		Eko remembers to check the items for sale, so he looks for the items in the cupboard and opens them.
	3		Eko turns on and adjusts the VCD player to view the contents of the cassette.

The second depiction represents the musical aspect added as a supporting visual illustration.



Figure 3. Allegro Tempo

The image shows a segment of a music score for piano with the tempo marking "Allegro", which means the piece is played quickly and cheerfully. The score is written in a 4/4 time signature, with a key of C major as there are no sharps or flats at the

beginning of the score.

In this notation system, there are two staves:

- Upper staff (G clef / treble clef)
For the right hand, playing a melody that starts from the note C and moves upward sequentially.
- Lower staff (F clef / bass clef)
For the left hand, playing notes that form a stable rhythmic accompaniment.

The dynamic instruction "f" (forte)

indicates that this section should be played loudly or forcefully.

The musical structure is simple, consisting of a melodic pattern developed in the right hand and rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand, indicating that this piece is likely part of a piano exercise or a light short classical composition.



Figure 4. Drama Themes

The picture is a piece of music score with the title “Drama Theme”. Here is a detailed description of the image:

- a) Key: The score uses the key of G (treble clef) for the right hand and the key of F (bass clef) for the left hand.
- b) Time signature: 4/4 (four beats per bar).
- c) Dynamics: There is a dynamic mark of *p* (piano) which means played softly.
- d) Notation:
 - In the right hand (key of G), the notation starts with half notes, then a combination of quarter notes and tied notes (legato) in the 2nd and 3rd bars.

- In the left hand (key of F), there is a more active rhythmic pattern at the beginning with eighth notes, then tied notes that show the movement of the supporting melody.

The whole score gives a soft and emotional feel, which matches the emotion of the narration in the dialog. It can be an introduction to a larger piece of music, such as the opening of a dramatic scene.



Figure 5. Drama Theme

The image is a snippet of the music score. Here are some details of the image:

- a) Key signatures: G key (treble clef) for the right hand and F key (bass clef) for the left hand.
- b) Time signature: 4/4 (four beats per bar).
- c) Tempo: Adagio, which means played at a slow and expressive tempo.
- d) There are two bars (time signatures) of music featuring notation for both hands (right and left).
- e) The right hand (high notes) plays the main melody.

- f) The left hand (low notes) supports with simple harmonies in the form of long notes and some descending melodic movements.

In general, this notation gives the impression of calmness and melancholy.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research conducted, it can be concluded that film music has a significant role in building and strengthening the emotional atmosphere, especially in the comedy and drama genres in the fictional short film “Jarene”. Music not only functions as a complementary element, but also becomes the main medium in conveying emotional nuances to the audience.

In comedic scenes, music is used with a fast tempo, dynamic rhythm, and light tones to create a funny and entertaining atmosphere. In contrast, in dramatic scenes, music with a slow tempo, melancholic harmonies, and more subtle dynamics is used to reinforce the depth of emotion and conflict between characters.

The effectiveness of music in the movie “Jarene” is shown through the emotional response of the audience,

which is in line with the purpose of conveying the atmosphere by the filmmaker. This proves that the right selection and placement of music can enhance the narrative quality and overall viewing experience. Therefore, it can be concluded that film music is a crucial element in building atmosphere, especially in comedy and drama genres.

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