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Turning a Novel into a TV Show

The conversion of written or print artwork into screenplays has been going on for a long time. Novel adaptation refers to the act of creating film or TV show from written novel. This paper aims to prove that it should be a common practice for novels to be turned into screenplays. Such adaptations not only appeal to the existing audience, but also to the new one. The process of changing the novel into TV show is very important in film, theatre, and the rest of the media industry. Therefore, in this paper, the benefits of turning a novel into TV show are explored and defended. In addition, the whole cross-generic change or transformational process is also explored.

The visual presentation of the characters in TV shows sinks deeper into the mind of the audience as compared to what the audience grasps through reading about the characters. Taking inference from *Adios to my Old Life*, a novel on a girl aged 17 named Ali with a desperate passion for music. Despite her young age, Ali is determined to enter the auditions for a Latin American talent TV show named *Ove Mi Canto*. Turning the written novel into a screenplay brings out her character in a more vivid way than sticking to the book. Ali is determined to get the chords on her acoustic as perfect as possible despite the freaky high humidity (Ferrer 1). Her determination can be more enhanced through watching her push on with the zeal for the auditions.

The screenplay effect of dramatizing how Ali's father is heads over heels against her auditions for the music show is lasting longer than it is described in the novel. The audience is able to feel her father's obsession in protecting her to the point of sending a chaperone with her to ensure nothing happens to his daughter. It is due to the fact that the TV show would give the audience to interpret gestures and making meaningful inferences. In other words, imagination is enhanced when the script is played out on the TV as opposed to reading. The audience imagination through screenplay contributes to the long-lasting effect of the drama as opposed to reading.

The audience cognitive skills are more enhanced through watching the TV show as compared to merely reading the novel. In this context, cognition refers to the process of perceiving or knowing something based on memory, reasoning, as well as judgment from what is visualized. Transforming the novel into screenplay enhances the spatial cognition by the audience. According to Ursyn (13), spatial cognition enables one to reflect as well as reconstruct the space in thought from the perception and cognition based on what is seen or observed. The ability by the audience to explain the characters' thoughts throughout the piece of art are thus more enhanced when watching the screen play rather than reading the author's work in the novel.

According to Hayden (21), art form consists of various visual formats related to performance. Based on that, the artistic nature of Ali is best brought out through the TV show than in the written novel. Transforming the novel into a TV show would, thus, promote the understanding of the artistic theme passed across by Ali and her musical talent.

Being a musical novel, transforming it into a TV show would be better if the show is aired on a music channel such as the MTV. The novel would be better presented as a musical documentary depicting Ali's life in relation to her musical talent. The documentary would also

present key players in her life such as her father, Sosi, her mother, and all the rest. Straying away from the debate on classification as low or high art, it is important to understand that all art is subjective. What is regarded as high art by one person may be the contrast as perceived by another person. Consequently, classification as high or low art is highly depended on one's opinion in relation to the art.

Changing the novel into a documentary depicting Ali's musical journey and adventure is likely to empower many viewers, especially those in doubt of their talents. Additionally, the young artists whose talents are suppressed by their parents are likely to benefit from the show through learning to persist and build a formidable determination to exploit their talents. Moreover, the documentary focuses on the challenges faced by young women as they strive to rediscover themselves. The key themes presented to the viewers would be age, race, and gender in relation to the achievement of personal goals.

The novel would be transformed into a documentary without following a specific script or plan. The events in Ali's musical life will unfold in a way that no one can easily predict what happens next. The element of surprise will be maintained, just like in the case with most TV shows. It would give the audience an opportunity to be a part of Ali's life, watching the events unfold in their own way. As argued by Kilborn and Izod (115), documentaries engage their real or imagined world through some form of narrative as part of the means through which reality fragments are processed into account aimed at an audience. In conclusion, the transformation of a novel into a TV show is a necessary step in the revealing process of the new sides of a literature piece of art.

Works Cited

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