

# The Ethical Description of Spatial Relations in Realistic Disaster Movies from Real Events to the Film Adaptation of the Captain

Hao Liu

Art College, Chongqing College of Humanities, Science & Technology, Chongqing, 401524, China

## Abstract

The movie *The Captain* is adapted from the real incident occurred on May 14, 2018 that the crew of Sichuan Airlines flight 3U8633 successfully handled an air accident. The film alternately shows stories that take place in two spaces, one of which is a disaster space flying in the air of 30,000 feet, and the other is a ground space. The film tells the story of a plane sailing on the plateau when the windshield burst and fall off. The crew members and 119 passengers experienced extreme dangers such as low temperature, hypoxia, and cabin decompression. In the end, with the excellent professionalism of the crew, ground safety and the full cooperation of the dispatch center, the plane landed safely. "As a unique art form, film and television cover an important part of human culture, and use symbols and media to carry out cultural communication." One important reason why films recreated with real events as the story model can attract audiences so much is that it can also examine the ethical expressions in different spatial relationships through the visual expression of actual disaster events.

## Keywords

Ethical narrative; The Chinese Captain; Spatial relations.

## 1. Disaster Space: The Humanity of Self-help and Professionalism

The passengers who took the flight were all individuals with their own stories. With the bumps and weightlessness of the plane, they experienced a baptism about the bottom line of human nature. The movie portrays ordinary individuals: some of them are rude and unreasonable, some are youthful and rebellious, some deceive their wives to become chefs in Lhasa...When the disaster really happens around, when the face of death approaching, they will inevitably break out of crisis self-help and reflection, more emotional outbreak of child flight attendants have a fierce quarrel to express the will of "I want to live". In a small space, when the bottom line of human nature begins to conduct introspection and nitrosine, "empathy" appears. After a brief period of mutual questioning, everyone will eventually become a community of shared future in the cabin and fight against the common "enemy". After the cabin pressure is released, the relay of "pushing" the second captain back to the cockpit is a gesture of help and an ethical self-help in a moment of crisis.

Survival is the instinct of all people. A door inside and outside the cab will produce a very different spatial interpretation. Within the cab, the cold-faced captain manually operates the aircraft in case of oxygen and instrument failure; the deputy captain reluctantly continued to operate the aircraft; the second captain acted as the backing of the think tank, and the atmosphere of the cab is silent, nervous and never giving up. Outside the cab, the crew chief in hypoxia with a calm voice broadcast to call for the air attendant to exchange their own safety for passengers' peace of mind. "Every one of us has received day-to-day training to ensure everyone's safety. This is why we are on this plane!" Passengers in the cabin are anxious, and the only thing they can do is to stick to their faith. Throughout the whole process of crisis

resolution, it is not simply to use lines to inspire people, but to win the trust of passengers and audiences through the effectiveness and accuracy of actions. Professional ethics is a kind of professional norms, it is an internal and non-mandatory restraint mechanism formed in the process of people's career. It is precisely because of the awe of life of all crew members inside and outside the cockpit and their sense of responsibility for all living organisms in the aircraft, the awakening of correct professional ethics has created miracles.

## 2. Ground Space: Rule Ethics and Back-up Guarantee

The film shows the audience the routine preparations of the crew before the plane takes off, such as familiarizing with the flight route, understanding the weather, and checking emergency plans; the flight crew checks the time and image. The handover between different departments in the busy and urbanized airport on the screen greatly satisfies the audience's prying into this mysterious space. After the preparation was completed, it officially entered the second scene, plane cabin. After entering the cabin, the crew began to check the equipment, every simple operation, to repeat the password for two-way confirmation, in an orderly order. Professional and rigorous daily flight work is not only an expression of the professionalism of the film, but also an awe of the rules. The preparation before take-off is necessary to guarantee the system. In the ground space, the mechanized operation steps lay the importance of the systems and the rules, and it is also the respect and affirmation of the ethics of the rules.

In the film, the director uses a diversified perspective to tell the story. Through the dialogue between the captain, the airline's logistics department and the military aviation base, the three organically connect the aircraft, the airport ground, and the military base; fire protection, public security, and all emergency departments were quickly put in place under unified arrangements; news reports, the perspectives of passengers and crew members, aviation enthusiasts, and the Southwest Air Traffic Management Bureau's perspectives were all involved, closely linking the sky with the ground. After the plane landed safely, the director also arranged a scene in order to show the spirit of the civil aviation staff to work together, and the staff worked together to stop the taxiing plane which push the tension of audience to a climax. When everything is calm and the rescue is carried out steadily, the audience will realize that behind the disaster, there must be countries, families, and countless strangers working hard and praying together, each doing their best and performing their duties to create an extraordinary rescue.

## 3. Conclusion

The compliance of the rules in the ground space, the human awakening and common battle of the passengers in the disaster space, the mutual trust and skilled operation between the crew, and the orderly support of the plane after landing make the flight have a "connection between people, heaven and earth" in terms of space relationship. This is not only the connection with every body on the plane, but also 3u8633 and "I", which makes the cinematic expression of this real event more tense, but also makes the story more powerful to the ethical expression of human nature, occupation and rules. The Captain could have expressed it as a tribute to individual heroism. However, the film finally adopted the ethical description of superimposing the disaster space and the ground space, so that every participant in this flight showed the "ordinary hero" side, which is worthy of attention and praise.

## Acknowledgments

This paper is the mid-term achievement of 2021 Chongqing institute of humanities and social science and sciences youth project "Chinese youth students ethics in film evolution research" (project approval number: crkrwsk2021025) and the mid-term achievement of 2021

Chongqing institute of humanities and technology institute of art youth project "short video rural culture communication research" (crkys2021).

## References

- [1] Yuan Zhizhong. Outline of Film and Television Culture [M], Southwest Normal University Press, 2017.
- [2] Jia Leilei, Yuan Zhizhong: Chinese Film Ethics [M]. Southwest Normal University Press, 2018
- [3] Pu Jian. A narrative conspiracy with the audience——An analysis of the typified narrative of "Chinese Captain"[J]. Contemporary Cinema, 2019(11):19-21+177-178.