

Cultural and thematic factors of the two version of the film let the right one in...

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Cultural and Thematic Factors of the Two Versions of the Film 'Let the Right One In' The versions of 'Let the Right One In' film emanate from a novel by John Ajvide Lindqvist with the same name (Ajvide Lindqvist & Segerberg, 2008). 'Let Me In', which is a British-American film released in 2010 is categorized as a romantic horror was written as well as directed by Matt Reeves and is a reproduced version of 'Let the Right One In', a 2008 Swedish film, which was directed by Tomas Alfredson. The film entails the life event of a twelve-year-old boy who undergoes immense bullying for most of his life in school and is portrayed to have a vampire child as his friend. The theme of bullying occurs as a major one in forming the plot and in building the main characters' friendship. The cultural aspect that is enriched by this theme is the absenteeism of a male or father figure in the boy's life, which makes it hard for him to speak out. The result is an identity crisis with no reliable model and coming from a broken family. It is culturally wrong for a boy child especially in the years the movie is set in to confide in their mother or a woman. The twist comes in when the boy confides in the new girl and this makes their connection point.

The immediate theme related to bullying is the coming-of-age of the boy and the girl (Ajvide Lindqvist & Segerberg, 2008). The boy has to take care and defend himself for the first time while the girl is forced to look for food all by herself when her benefactor "father" dies. This maturity process is culturally appropriate and their ages, early teens, are perfect for the themes exploration. The theme of gender and sexuality is explored in the film's main characters with the remake of the film portraying a more contemporary boy-girl relationship than the original version. The rationale behind this is the

difference in setting, where the original film is set in Stockholm, while the remake is set in New Mexico. A great distance exists between the two settings culturally in that the original is more conservative in terms of the relationship portrayed between the two lead acts, while the remake alludes to a more open society where gender/sexuality is not something to be ashamed of at all stages.

The other cultural difference is in the setting of the movies (Wright, 2010).

The theme of loneliness and identity loss occasioned by growing in an impoverished and dark kind of neighborhood comes out in the film. The original being set in Sweden manages to convey a darker neighborhood with no history, no church, and the buildings/complexes are a bit eerie. The remake is set in the 1980s American society, which were more modern/contemporary and the director weaves in various aspects of pop culture detritus from this period in time especially by portraying the boy as obsessed with TV shows such as ' Reagan' or ' Now & Later's'.

The differences in the two films are profoundly based on the setting and cultural aspects of the Scandinavian film sector as opposed to its American counterpart (Wright, 2010). The storyline is well conserved in both films and kept central to both is the relationship and lives of the two main casts, the boy and the girl, even though the remake gives them different names from the original. The commendable aspect with the remake is brought about by its appeal to wide range of audience in terms of connecting with a more familiar setting, New Mexico (culturally divergent) as opposed to the Scandinavian Stockholm suburbs (culturally convergent), which fewer people can connect with.

References

Ajvide Lindqvist, J. & Segerberg, E. (2008). *Let the right one in*. New York: St. Martins Griffin/Thomas Dunne Books.

Wright, R. (2010). Vampire in the Stockholm suburbs: let the right one in and genre hybridity. *Journal of Scandinavian Cinema*, 1 (1), pp. 55--70.