

The transporter essay

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The Transporter is an action-packed film written by Luc Besson, opening with a high energy long car chase in Paris of presenting a professional getaway driver Frank Martin (Jason Statham) transporting masked bank robbers. They were chased by the police but Frank was able to escape with his cargo. Frank follows his own strict rules but when he engaged in transport deal to deliver a package, but when he agreed on his second deal that is when his rules are broken and his life got entangled with smugglers (Empire Magazine, 2003).

The film begins with Frank heading for the site of the deal where four masked and armed men emerged from a bank carrying loads of money. The four men get in the car but Frank refused to drive arguing that the deal involves transporting three men only, not four. Their boss threatened him and aimed a gun on Frank's head but he shoot one of his men and pushed out of the car instead.

Frank immediately started the car and show off his driving skills in a lengthy car chase with the Paris police; running road to road, in between narrow pathways, in a highway jammed with cars, in sidewalks spinning the wheels side ways and back forth, and jumped off in a truck loaded with cars. Frank is successful in transporting the three men in their destination but the men offered him more money to transport them further but he refused saying that is not part of the original deal. Frank went home and cleaned his car while a local detective, Inspector Tarconi (Francois Berleand), approached him asking if he knew of a police chase involving a similar car as his. Of course he denied of involvement. Frank received a phone call asking for a transport deal. Upon meeting the client, that is when the audience got a better picture of his dealings after he explained his self-made rules: first, “

never change the deal”; second, “ no names”; and third, “ never open the package”. The second deal is a rough one.

Frank accepted to deliver a package for a wealthy man named Darren Bettencourt a. k. a Wall Street (Matt Schulze). Unexpectedly, despite Frank’s professionally-bound rules not to get involved with his clients, he broke his third rule after he got curious of the moving package in his trunk and opened it (Sartin, 2008). Luc Besson’s script is another Hollywood-blockbuster of an action flick centred into the life of a philosophical and professional loner former mercenary Frank Martin inspired from the famous authors of detective and crime novels novels such as Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett (Sartin, 2008). Unlike the usual thriller and detective films, The Transporter showcased one of the longest car chases while featuring a dazzling BMW swerving off across huge explosions around the beautiful locations in Southern France (Ingman, 2002).

Frank’s job being a transporter will not be as entertaining is it is without a fast and high-powered car engine. The BMW is just enough to showcase his driving skills and speed matching his polished tuxedo outfit. The spice on Frank’s life did not stop from pulling off of his suave driving skills and reserved attitude while in the middle of a rough chase. His curiosity over the package added a human stigma that he cannot help but be interested on what was really the package.

He found a girl tied up with mouth sealed by a tape, not hesitating to offer her a drink and even allowing her for a pee. Frank tied a rope around her neck but realized that she run away. After tracking the girl, he saw two

policemen rounding his car and they fought in a hand-to-hand combat.

Policemen are always present in action, detective films were the good guys are caught up in the middle of a troublesome scene. Moving on to his deal, he placed the two policemen in his trunk together with the “

package”. This deal was not like the other deal he had. After successfully delivering the package, Frank’s car blew off while he was on his way to his car carrying sodas for the policemen in his trunk. He returned to the house of Wall Street—the recipient of the package, beat his men, and stole one of his cars only to find out that the beautiful Chinese girl named Lai (Shu Qi) in the package he delivered was in the car still tied up.

He brought the girl to his house and discovered that Wall Street and his men are smugglers shipping hundreds of captives to the country. Lai asked Frank for help and their collaboration in saving the captives led to a romance, a major twist in many Hollywood films. Statham’s skills in martial arts and hand-to-hand combat showed of his speed and grace justifying Frank’s ability to escape and remain in control of the situation. Director Cory Yuen’s choreography of the fight scenes surely are not only entertaining but fast, skilful, and creative. Cory has several well-choreographed action films such as X-Men and Romeo Must Die and in The Transporter, he was again successful in bringing out the power and expertise in fight scenes and chases particularly the memorable oil slick combat of Martin against several men (Russell, 2003).

Frank’s life changed from a high paying professional getaway driver into an investigator-saviour-lover of Lai and the hundreds of captives being smuggled to the country by Wall Street and Lai’s father. He helped Lai find the shipping crates but before he found them, he engaged

into numerous combats with a combination of martial arts, explosions, and lengthy chase. Wall Street died in struggle driving a truck carrying loads of captives with Frank.

Moreover, Frank drove the truck on the side of the road but was confronted by Lai's father, who was found to be an accomplice to the smuggling, pointing a gun towards him. Frank was forced to get out of the truck as instructed by Lai's father. They had a small conversation while Lai arrived on the scene. As Lai's father aimed his gun to Frank, a shot was heard after Lai shoot his father instead. Frank and Lai were both unharmed and the police led by Tarconi arrived and unloaded the shipping containers freeing the captives inside.

The film is successful in delivering all the stunts and numerous action sequences packed within a ninety-two minute movie. Statham is physically able enough to pull off the challenges of the fights scenes where he has to climb up and jump off ceilings and shipping crates; change vehicle by vehicle; and battle with no weapons most of the time. Most of the fight scenes are smoothly filmed which provided the film with stunning action sequences. Director Yuen's expertise in a Hong Kong style of fight scenes is evident in the use non-fatal articles but can be use as weapons particularly the bicycle pedals used during the oil slick fight and the shirt used to grab and strangle Frank's opponents (Bracken, 2003). There are several and actors action films that are relatively similar with Jason Statham and The Transporter respectively.

Statham undeniably has the physical body, strength, and skills to project a graceful fight half the size of Vin Diesel or The Rock. Luc Besson is a known filmmaker featuring professional killers particularly in his films *The Professional*, featuring Jean Reno as a professional hitman named Leon, and *La Femme Nikita* featuring Anne Parillaud as a delinquent and addict teenager named Nikita turned into assassin. He does the similar approach in Jason Statham turning him into a transporter professionally delivering all sorts of items from drugs, bank robbers, and briefcases with unknown content (Bracken, 2003). Unlike the other Besson films, *Transporter* has little emotional depths than *The Professional*. It lacks strong theme that would complement the fights, explosions, and the rest of the action sequences in the movie. However, Frank's love interest with Lai and his willingness to save the captives being smuggled added to his charisma of being one of the great action heroes.

Statham's ability to pull off lengthy chase and powerful hand combats are amazing particularly during Frank's outnumbered fight under motor oiled floor which is a favourite. He has a good balance with bicycle pedals on his feet while walking across the slippery floor and managing to beat the men around him. Director Yuen is known for more violent action sequences but it seemed that his choreographies are limited in this PG-13 film. There can be more possibilities for more hardboiled scenes but since the film targeted a younger audience, there are relatively fewer bloods exposed.

Additionally, the lack of an emerging theme made the film simple with no symbolism embedded or strong emotional aspects involved. The *Transporter* reflects the classical Hollywood narrative style—a dominant <https://assignbuster.com/the-transporter-essay/>

cinematic style. Although there are no standard rules, it is basically fictional combining the real events we see in this world and the extraordinary things. There are numerous narrative elements but most films follow common pattern beginning from the introduction of the conflict as it progresses gradually giving the audience the hint of what is happening and what is about to come. Finally, the film will end with a solution to the conflict providing a complete story (Hammit, 2006). Most of the films use the fundamental elements of a narrative style—the shot and the cut considering the use of camera and editing, which contributed greatly to the packaging of the whole story. As the Transporter starts with an opening chase of the bank robbers and driver Frank, the audience is provided with a hint of Frank's character as one of the skilled professionals working independently.

As the film progress, exposing more of Frank's transport deals, his profile is further revealed. As he engaged in another deal, his rules are declared which served as one of the major structure in his transport business. Eventually, his life got entwined with more personages—Inspector Tarconi, Lai, and the smugglers.

The problem is introduced after he broke one of his rules and he became a target for the antagonists after a failed attempt to his life. Additional conflict was introduced as he helped Lai unravel the smuggling of captives led by Wall Street. The film ended with Frank, together with Lai and Inspector Tarconi, successful in capturing the smugglers and freeing the captives contained in shipping crate. References Bracken, M. (2003) Transporter. Retrieved December 8, 2008 from <http://www.epinions.com>

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