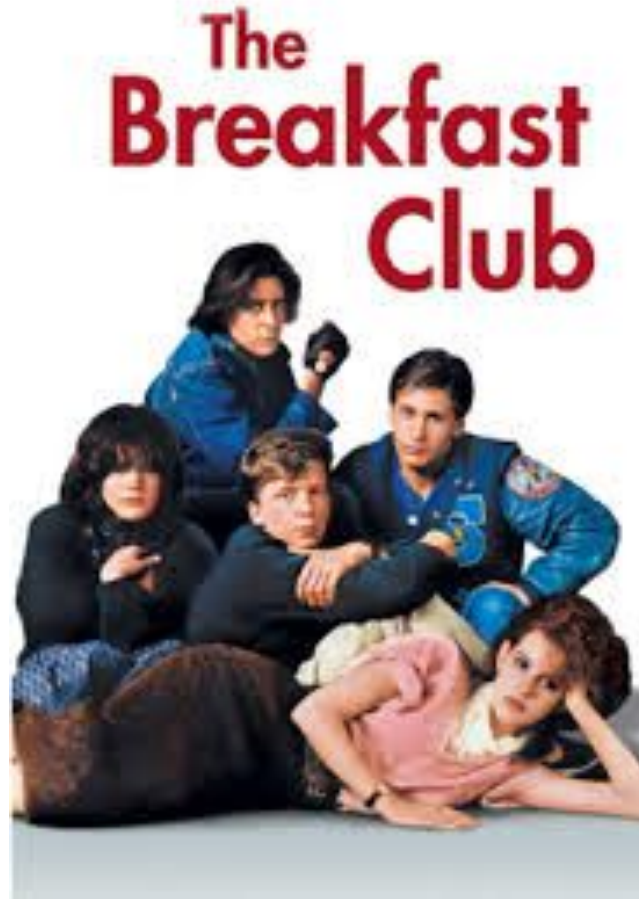


The Breakfast Club as artistic text



Lotman's mechanism of intra-textual semantic analysis

1. Levels of syntagmatic segments (Opening scene)

The shot

-video sequence that consists of continuous video frames for one camera action.

Group of shots

Sundaram postulates the existence of two categories of scenes:

N-type scene - **unity of location, time and sound**. N-type scenes are divided in three types: dialogue, progressive and hybrid.

Dialogue: A simple repetitive visual structure can be present if the action in a scene is a dialogue.

Progressive: A linear progression of visuals without any repetitive structure.

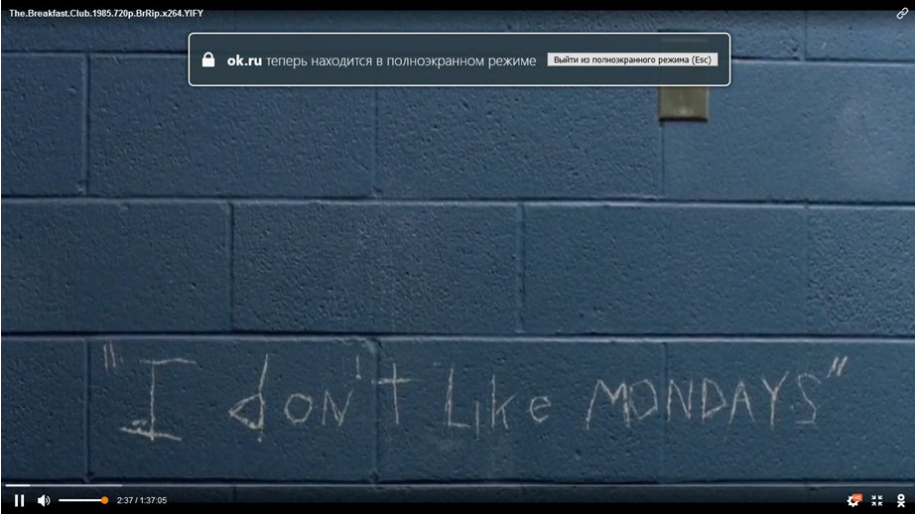
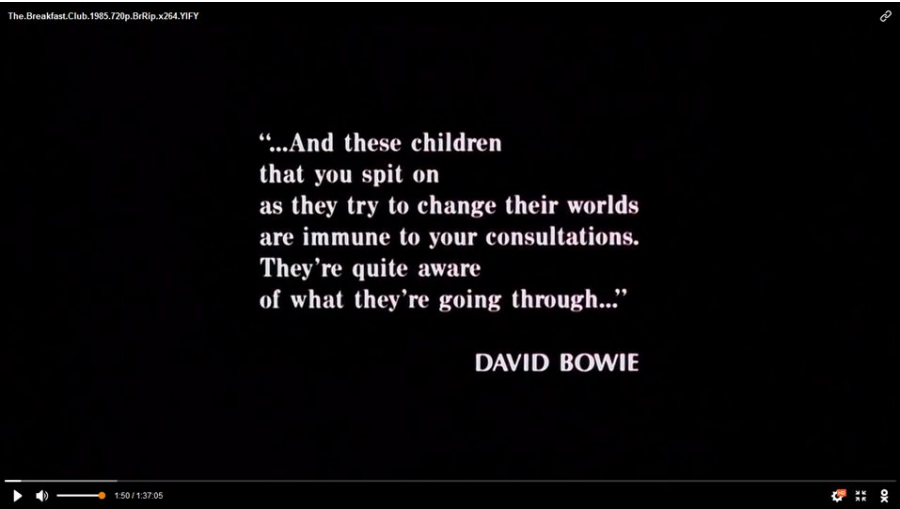
Hybrid: A dialogue structure embedded in an otherwise progressive scene.

M-type scene - no unity of visuals either in terms of location, time or lighting conditions.

Audio structure

Basis of video structure taken from Bertrand Delezoide
"Hierarchical film segmentation using audio and visual similarity"

Group of shots-Hybrid



Primarily union of time and sound

2. Semantic segments (opening scene)

Principles: "everything boils down to differences but also to groupings", and "every image on the screen is a sign, that is, it has meaning, it carries information" (Lotman)

The scene

- consistent, underlying semantic meaning – establish the premise and characters
- chromatic composition of lighting in all the shots
- consistent audio track (“Don’t you forget about me”)

Group of scenes

Bigger underlying semantic- to also establish relationships between characters, character hierarchy

“Video can be separated into three parts: **presenting subject or topic information**, showing evidence and details, drawing conclusions. “

The audio structure

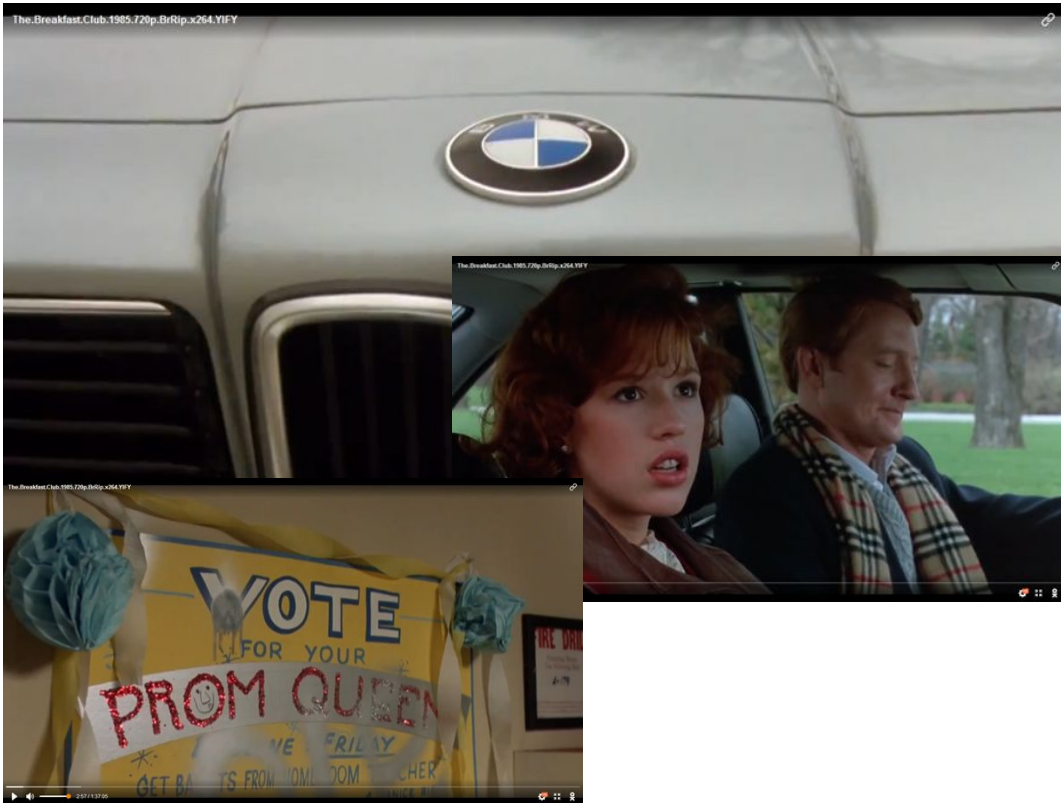
This structure is a four-layer representation: group of scenes, scene, group of clips and clip.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUN-8TvevGU&list=PLLZRszdTMo6qB5CpFktZJlh8LLAJq_-TC&index=7&t=39s

4. Pairs of contiguities (Syntagmatic axis)

Combination of shots different in content but similar in structure and metaphorical message

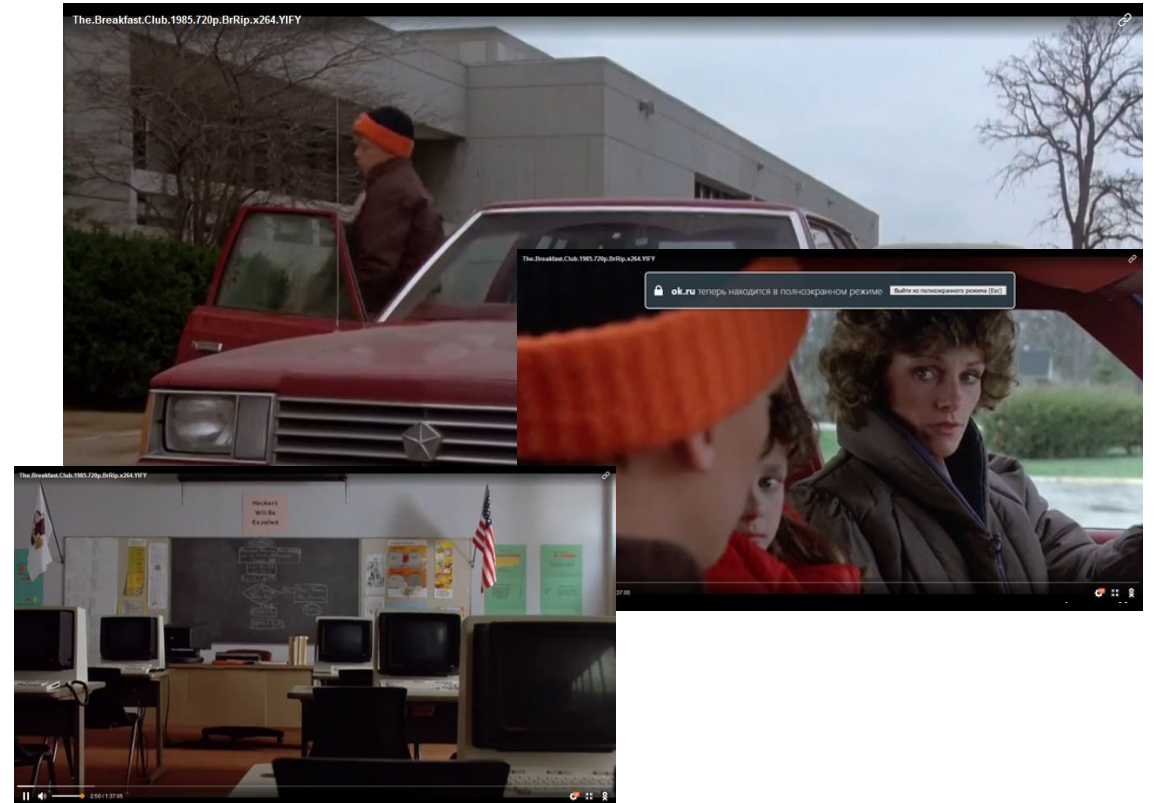
Character Stereotypes and relationship with parents (bringing out metaphor)



“Princess”

Parent: "Honey, missing class to go shopping doesn't make you a defective."

Expensive clothes



“Brain”

Parent: “Mister, you figure out a way to study.”

Warm and practical clothes

“Athlete”

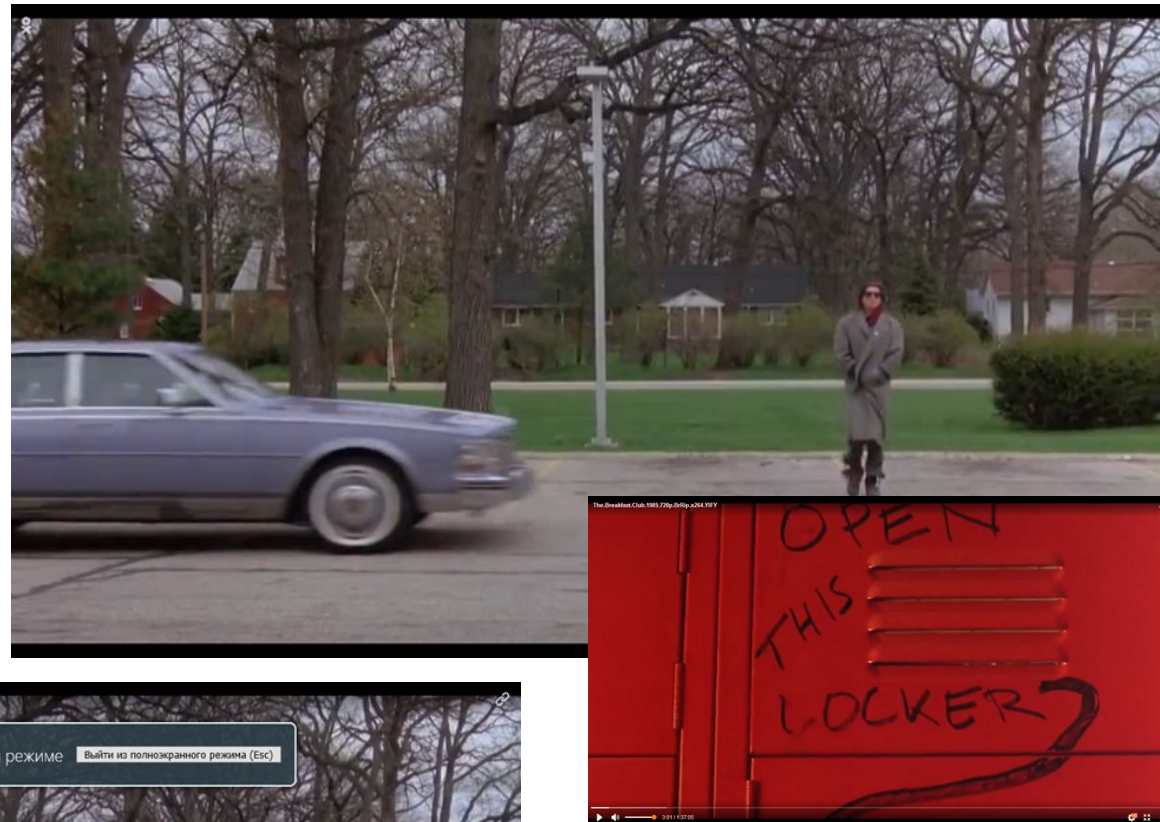
Parent: “I screwed around....there’s nothing wrong with that except you got caught”



Sport’s clothes

“Criminal”

Parents aren’t present



sunglasses, mismatch shoes, a trench coat and a red bandanna



“Basket case”
Parent ignores her
Gothic, dark clothes

Character hierarchy and relationships (establishing shot sequence, POV of principle)



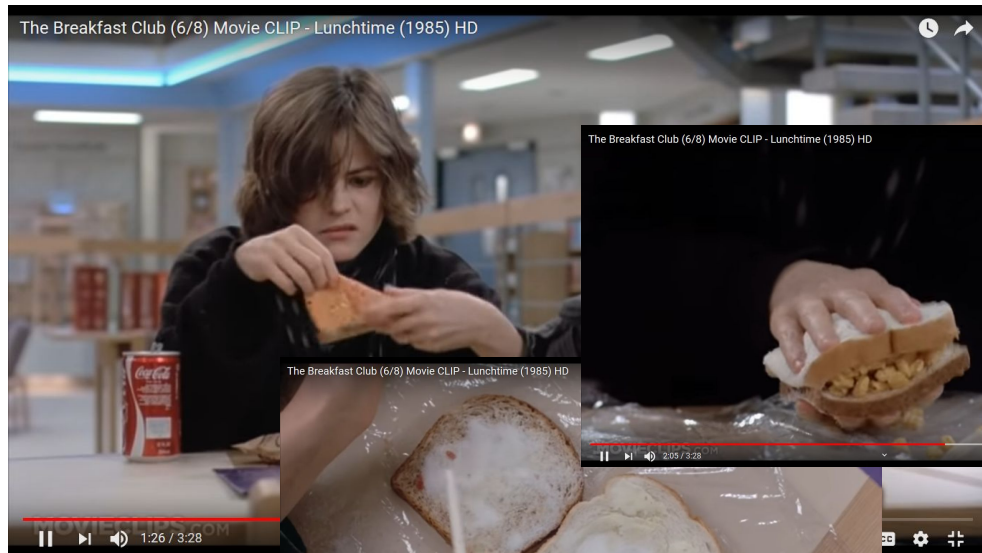
- Claire and Andrew –“higher class”- in front, sitting together
- John-Dominant pose and actions
- Brian-Submissive and avoiding confrontation
- Allison-Closed off and turned away from everyone
- Principle- dominant



“The repetition of the same element mutes it’s semantic significance”

Character stereotypes scene: Lunchtime

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3muplFIYQ&list=PLLZRszdTMo6qB5CpFktZJlh8LLAJq_-TC&index=3



7.The structure of syntagmatic construction and divergences from it in pairs formed by contiguity. (syntactic construction)

Relation to syntagmatic structure:

- Individual shots establish characters and their relationship
- Parallel shot sequences establish relationship with their parents and differences between characters
- Choice of camera angles in the shots establish power relations

Works as a set up:

- Clips of the school
- Shots of teenagers in cars with parents
- Shot of their clothes
- Collective shot of them in the room

- Creates borders of the scene

Montage establishes a purposeful system of structural relationships through the making of a pictorial or iconic sign

3. Pairs of repetition (Opening and Ending)

Music (“Don’t you forget about me”)

-Lyrics are heard when there’s no dialogue or voiceover narration

Background music to voiceover narration

Voiceover

-The same voiceover narration by Brian (by the end the meaning of narration is clear)

-Addition of other character’s narration accepting their stereotypes

Location

-School front

-Parents dropping them off- opening

-Parents picking them up

Character relationships

-Development in relationships

-Symbolic gestures

Narration repetition:

Opening:

“We see us as you want to see us...

You see us as a brain...”

Ending:

“We see us as you want to see us...but what we found out is that each of us is a brain...”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3CUh8v7MNo>

Opening



Ending



6. Distinctive semantic features and basic semantic oppositions (grammatical construction)

Semantic oppositions within equivalences (opening and ending):

Underlying meaning -same location but different relations

-Establish character and plot development

Same soundtrack

-By the end has a stronger and more clear meaning

Similar narrative structure

-establishes new meaning of the voiceover narration

-establishes character development

“Mirroring” scenes

-Brings together the plot of the movie

-“Reveal differences in similar”

Concludes structure of the movie:

-Beginning and end of detention

-1 day

-Artistic rhythm