**REFLECTIVE ESSAY**

Table of Contents

[Explain how the film might play with our sense of certainty, suggesting one thing and then revealing another. Tie it to the ideas of Elinor Ostrom or Simon Critchley 3](#_Toc65187040)

[From a consequentialist perspective was Adrien’s lie a good lie 5](#_Toc65187041)

[References 7](#_Toc65187042)

# Explain how the film might play with our sense of certainty, suggesting one thing and then revealing another. Tie it to the ideas of Elinor Ostrom or Simon Critchley

Frantz is known to be a moving film by Francois Ozone that was released in the year 2016 and was set in post First World War focusing on the aspects of the truth and lies and necessity of truth and lie in the grieving world. The movie can be defined to be the rework of the Broken Lullaby film by Ernst Lubitsch that was released in the year 1932 but has been given a new direction by changing the perspective of the movie. The movie was selected at 73rd Venice International Film Festival to compete for the Golden Lion. The main actress won the award for Marcello Mastroianni. Frantz was nominated for eleven categories at the 42nd César Awards and won the award for best Cinematography. The film is an intense drama work which has very well played with the human sense of certainty while suggesting one thing and then revealing other aspects.

Sense of certainty refers to the immediate action and the mode of first hand of the consciousness in which mind envisages and visualises sensory content to be the key objective. This specifically means that sense deems to believe the aspects as an objective whatever it receives in the world without justifying the truth. There are a range of certainties in this world and among them a belief is known to be psychologically certain when the person gets convinced with the supremacy of the truth (Stern *et al*., 2015). This movie has played with the sense of certainty while revealing the truth after making the audience believe about a particular fact it has been framed earlier while interweaving the loop throughout the movie. The certainty is similar to incorrigibility and inveterate which is known to be the key property of belief and is an aspect the person is incapable of giving the fact up. Consequently the movie keeping the fact in the mind has played its key trick by tripping the audience into believing the fact initially that Adrien’s is Frantz’s friend and second time when every person believed that the movie will have a happy ending.

Playing with the psychology of the certainty of the people throughout the movie the director has tried to tie up its audience with the sequence of uncertainties and suspense in which the director has succeeded to a great extent. The aspect of pure being remains to be the essential element of the sense certainty, in view of the fact that sense certainty in its very nature proves its object to be true in the universe as the person believes the fact by heart and wants the particular certainty to be true (Baer, 2020). While watching the movie every person would have believed that the main character of Anna and Adrien will be together at last and lead a happy life and when the fact got manipulated every person found it sad and developed a soft corner for Anna which has helped in transforming Anna's character to be real in front of audience who can comprehend her pain in actual forms. However, it can be observed that pure being should not be something immediate and of something in which the procedure of mediation and negation can be involved essentially.

While tying to the idea of Elinor Ostrom of certainties, an economist who has shared a nobel prize in the year 2009 in economics for her scholarly work of lifetime it can be observed that according to the economist that the situation that are characterised by the dilemmas of social are considered to be uncertain situations where one cannot understand or comprehend the subjective or the objective and the probability of the relationship (Onthecommons.org, 2021). A probability is not being able to set the events of the future. In this movie, the direction and story of the movie can be rationalised with this theory, as the movie has changed its base adhering to the theory. In this movie uncertain situations have been created by the director for manipulating the thinking of the audience by adhering to the social dilemma of Adrien’s perspective of telling the lie. The movie has been able to manipulate the thinking of the audience by suggesting one fact and after a while revealing another fact. In this the director has very well described that a probability cannot be the base to set the future events or the aspects.

At last it can be concluded that the movie has been able to trip its audience in loop of certainties and uncertainties by suggesting a fact and then changing the aspect into other fact while manipulating the thinking of the audience and making the character of Anna real in front of the audience so that they can empathise Anna’s pain and grief irrespective of the play of truth and lie.

# From a consequentialist perspective was Adrien’s lie a good lie

Consequentialists is known to be the class of teleological, normative ethical theories that implies that the consequences of the conduction of one person are considered to be the ultimate basis for making any judgement about the wrongfulness and rightness of that particular conduction of the person (Fraser, 2016). Accordingly, concerning the standpoint of a consequentialist, a right act considering morality is known to be the one that will be able to produce a good outcome. From the consequentialist perspective the lie can have two faces, facts and interpretation (Smillie *et al*., 2020). The first fact is concerned towards the fact of Adrien and the second fact is concerned towards the perspective of Frantz’ family members and Anna. In this movie, it has been shown that Adrien becomes secretive about the fact of killing Frantz in the war and hence he ends up telling lies to everyone that he is a friend of Frantz. In this Adrien seeks forgiveness of Frantz’s family and Anna as Adrien is wracked with guilt and criminality and in order to gain their belief towards them Adriene tells a lie.

In this particular case, the intention of Adrien is virtuous and he has not hurt anyone while telling the lie. Besides, Adrien told lies as he was not being able to tell the truth in front of them as the truth was heart wrecking for them. Henceforth, in this perspective it can be said that in this particular angle Adrien lie is a good lie as he told the lie to come close to the family of Frantz and eventually seek forgiveness at times. At the same time, it can be observed that Adrien and Frantz were at war facing each other and killed Frantz in a trench out of the sense of the dutifulness of a soldier in the battlefield. So it was not purposeful or concerning any personal inclination, hence it can be concluded that Adrien in that sense is not an enemy of the family and never wanted any harm for the family members of Frantz or Anna. So the lie told by Adrien can be considered to be a good lie.

On the other hand, taking the perspective of the Frantz family, due to the lie told by Adrien, the family members of Frantz was being able to heal from the loss of their son as the family members of Frantz considered Adrien to be the connection to their lost son being a very good friend of their son. Because of the lie told by Adrien, the family members of Frantz started to heal from the pain of the loss of their son, so concerning the mental satisfaction, the family member of Frantz developed due to the lie of Adrien and was being able to heal, it can be said or it can be concluded that the lie told by the Adrien is a good lie which has helped the family members in healing their pain and developing faith in leading life again. It is to be believed that a lie is considered to be a good lie as long as it is not hurting anyone or not manipulating the belief of a person in a wrong way.

A person is largely judged by the intention one has and a good intention is considered a lot more valuable than honesty to some extent as well as perspective of lie (Slote, 2020). Lies are considered to be more beneficial when they are not based on the fact of selfishness and egocentricity. In this movie, concerning the fact that the scenario of telling a lie was not based on the fact of satisfying selfishness and egocentricity. Consequently, adhering to the lie and believing it true, Frantz’s family members was being able to boost their self esteem into leading their life again normally and was being able to heal their pain considering Adrien to be their son’s friend and hence it can be concluded that in this scenario the lie was a good lie. However, another angle can be added to this aspect of lie that Adrien would have told the truth about killing frantz in the battlefield would have hitted hard the family members of Frantz and they would have known the truth about their son’s death. The fact can also be that while seeing Adrien and knowing him to be the killer of their son would have hurt their sentiment adversely. Hence in this matter, the lie can also be considered valuable in vow of the mental health of Frantz’s family.

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