

## Unravelling the Cinematic Complexity of Post-Colonial Algeria: A Narrative Analysis of Lyes Salem's 'L'Oranais' (2014)

فك تشابك التعقيد السينمائي للجزائر ما بعد الاستعمار: تحليل سردي لفيلم لياس سالم "L'Oranais" (2014)

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### Abstract:

The film "L'Oranais" (2014) directed by Lyes Salem skilfully mixes cinematography and narrative methods to dive into the difficulties of post-colonial Algeria. Through a multidimensional narrative technique and non-linear storytelling, the movie tackles issues of identity, colonialism, and resistance. Characters like 'Said' symbolise the quest for belonging amidst the tumult of independence, as the shadows of colonial tyranny deeply impact the socio-political setting. In this movie, cinematography plays a key part in character development, successfully expressing symbolism and themes via visual metaphors. With its precise attention to detail and comprehensive exploration of history, "L'Oranais" creates a powerful impression, compelling spectators to examine the persistent legacy of tyranny and the irrepressible endurance of the human spirit.

**Keywords:** Post-colonialism; Identity; Resistance; Cinematography; Narrative techniques.

### ملخص:

تدمج الفيلم "الوهراني" (2014) إخراج لياس سالم ببراعة بين تقنيات التصوير السينمائي والسرد ليستكشف بعمق تحديات الجزائر ما بعد الاستعمار. من خلال تقنية سردية متعددة الأبعاد وسرد غير خطي، يتناول الفيلم قضايا الهوية والاستعمار والمقاومة. الشخصيات مثل سعيد ترمز إلى البحث عن الانتماء في وسط زخم الاستقلال، حيث تؤثر ظلال الطغيان الاستعماري بعمق على الإعداد الاجتماعي والسياسي. يلعب التصوير السينمائي دوراً رئيسياً في تطوير الشخصيات، ويعبر بنجاح عن الرموز والمواضيع من خلال الاستعارات البصرية. بفضل انتباهها الدقيق للتفاصيل واستكشافها الشامل للتاريخ، يخلق "الوهراني" انطباعاً قوياً، مما يجبر المشاهدين على استكشاف الإرث المستمر للطغيان والقوة الروحية التي لا يمكن كبحها في الإنسان. كلمات مفتاحية: ما بعد الاستعمار، الهوية، المقاومة، التصوير السينمائي، تقنيات السرد.

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## **Introduction:**

Thanks to its rich heritage in North African history and culture, Algerian cinema has flourished into a lively and exciting sort of creative expression. Algerian movie industry has enthralled viewers worldwide from its early days, defined by struggle and resistance against colonial oppression, to its present-day expressions, which reflect the intricacies of post-colonial identity.

"L'Oranais" (2014) stands out among Algerian films like a gem that shines amidst the background constellations of cinematic progress. Lyes Salem's "L'Oranais" stands as a cultural artefact and a tribute to the tenacity and innovation of Algerian filmmakers. Both the story and the cinematographic explorations that make "L'Oranais" a masterpiece are important to its relevance. The film takes audiences on a journey to the streets of Oran, a city that is always changing, via breath-taking images, expressive soundtracks, and expert editing.

This paper's central argument is that the film "L'Oranais" is the key that unlocks the door of Algerian cinema. The deeper implications contained within this cinematic masterpiece may be revealed by exploring the nuances of its cinematographic and narrative features. This is therefore important to illuminate the diverse landscape of Algerian cinema and the ways in which "L'Oranais" sparks critical debate by dissecting the film's visual language, thematic elements, and narrative structures.

## **1. Historical and Cultural Context**

Algerian film, with its finely created plots and fascinating visual storytelling, acts as a monument to the rich historical and cultural fabric of the nation. A complete investigation of Algerian cinema is required to properly comprehend the cinematic accomplishments of key films like "L'Oranais" (2014), which arise from a legacy rooted in artistic expression and socio-political strife.

The origins of Algerian cinema may be traced back to the impassioned battle for independence from French colonial control in the mid-20th century. During this chaotic era, great filmmakers such as Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina and Gillo Pontecorvo embraced cinema as a potent instrument of resistance, perfectly expressing the spirit of revolution and the ambitions of the Algerian people (Hanna, 2001). The founding of the Algerian National Film Office (ONCIC) in 1966 represented a critical event in the trajectory of Algerian film. This government programme provided the finances and assistance to indigenous filmmakers, allowing them to properly reflect their own tales and experiences on the silver screen (Stora, 2001).

"L'Oranais" is inextricably connected with the socio-political environment of 1960s Algeria, an era defined by deep upheaval as the country wrestled with the long legacy of colonialism and the challenges of nation-building. Against this background, the film dives into issues of identity, belonging, and the struggle for meaning among a fast-evolving society (Hatem, 2017). Set against the background of the Algerian War of Independence, "L'Oranais" serves as a devastating meditation on the complicated dynamics of post-colonial Algeria and the ongoing legacy of colonial oppression on its people (Plant, 2001).

The narrative weave of "L'Oranais" is strongly saturated with the echoes of historical events, deriving inspiration from the hardships and victories of the Algerian people. The film eloquently shows the perseverance of ordinary Algerians in the face of misfortune, portraying the spirit of

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solidarity and resistance that marked the war for independence. Through its varied characters and fascinating tale, "L'Oranais" shines light on the human toll of colonialism and the continued search for justice and autonomy in post-colonial Algeria (Benjelloun, 2019).

In exploring the historical and cultural backdrop around Algerian cinema and the film "L'Oranais," it becomes obvious that these cinematic triumphs are not only works of art, but significant representations of the nation's stormy history and lasting spirit of resistance in managing to make use of cinematographic techniques in the narrative.

## ***2. Cinematographic Techniques***

Cinematography plays a significant function in crafting the visual tale, adeptly capturing the essence of people and their surroundings. In other words, skilfully communicating the emotional depth of individuals using strategic camera angles and movements is what cinematography is all about (Smith, 2018).

The precise use of colour and lighting considerably boosts a film's visual impact and narrative depth. Colours may create unique moods and ideas, while lighting influences the tone and atmosphere of each scene. The cinematographer's precise selection of colour palettes and lighting schemes mimics distinct socio-political situations, demonstrating dramatic contrasts and defining the atmosphere (Jones, 2017). Furthermore, the interplay of light and shadow adds layers to the tale, underlining important moments and amplifying the emotional effect of scenes (Brown, 2019).

There is also, composition and framing which involves the intended arrangement of visual things within the camera frame. Effective composition and framing may guide the viewer's attention, express meaning, and evoke emotion. Cinematographers utilise many composing strategies to assist the narrative process. Whether via intimate close-ups or large wide vistas, each frame is carefully constructed to portray thoughts and messages (Taylor, 2016).

Music and sound effects are also key components that heighten the emotional impact and atmosphere of a film. Sound designers meticulously chose aural features that complement the sights and plot, immersing the audience in the film's reality. These auditory features aid in generating diverse emotions and sentiments, with dramatic music increasing terrifying passages and subtle sound effects improving realism (Smith, 2017).

Furthermore, pace and rhythm are key characteristics of editing that affect the flow and timing of a film. Editors alter the tempo to influence the audience's involvement and emotional reaction. In "L'Oranais," the editing generates a rhythm that matches with the narrative's dynamics, whether increasing during action passages or slowing down for periods of contemplation. By regulating the tempo, editors increase the film's impact and coherence, guaranteeing a fascinating watching experience (Smith, 2017).

And last but not least, montage and sequence structure include the arranging of images and scenes to communicate information, develop suspense, and move the plot. Editors develop smooth transitions between shots to achieve continuity and cohesiveness. In "L'Oranais," montage techniques may be applied to compress time or juxtaposition opposing parts for thematic impact. Additionally, the organisation of sequences effects the narrative's evolution and the audience's understanding. Through effective montage and sequence structure, editors construct the film's rhythm and express its thematic depth (Jones, 2018).

### **3. Narrative Perspectives**

In "L'Oranais," narrative viewpoints serve as crucial conduits for moulding the audience's knowledge of the tale and its underlying ideas. Through a multiplicity of narrative strategies and points of view, the film gives numerous viewpoints on the developing events, offering viewers the ability to investigate the tale from many angles and interpretations.

#### **3.1. Protagonist and Antagonist**

In "L'Oranais," character analysis serves as a major pillar of the story, allowing viewers a glimpse into the subtleties of the characters entangled in the Algerian War of Independence. The film features a wide ensemble of individuals, each filled with their own distinct motives, conflicts, and connections, all of which intersect to define the underlying themes and story developments.

At the centre of "L'Oranais" is the protagonist, whose trip acts as a prism through which viewers understand the greater socio-political panorama of colonial Algeria. Through the protagonist's experiences, hardships, and victories, the film dives into issues of identity, resistance, and the fight for liberty, presenting a highly intimate perspective on the greater historical tale.

"Said" emerges as the principal protagonist, symbolising the desire for identity and salvation amid the chaotic terrain of post-colonial Algeria. Once a zealous freedom warrior, 'Said' grapples with the repercussions of the conflict, negotiating the complicated web of problems that characterise his nation's road towards self-governance. His character symbolises the varied Algerian experience, divided between the aspirations of revolution and the brutal reality of having to govern with no prior experience on any of the above-mentioned elements. Throughout the film, audiences bear witness to Said's personal battle as he strives to rebuild a country while addressing the demons of his past. His trip serves as a heart-breaking analysis of the individual's desire of purpose and importance in a society plagued by the legacy of colonialism and persecution.

Conversely, the antagonist in "L'Oranais" emerges as the residual ghost of colonial control and the internal power struggles that haunt the newly independent Algeria. This foe takes in different shapes, from harsh government troops to internal groups vying for power. Through Said's encounters with these hostile forces, the film dives into themes of resistance, betrayal, and the lingering agony of history. The adversary acts as a catalyst for Said's own progress, testing his views and driving him to face the inconsistencies inside himself and his society.

The dynamic interaction between the protagonist, Said, and the multitude of hostile forces in "L'Oranais" carries the story along, allowing viewers a sophisticated exploration of the human condition in the wake of colonialism. Through Said's hardships and tribulations, the film inspires thought on the difficulties of identity, allegiance, and the everlasting shadows of history. Ultimately, "L'Oranais" serves as a heart-breaking remark on the persistent legacy of colonial tyranny, encouraging spectators to examine the continual battle for emancipation and self-determination in the face of hardship.

Said exhibits a substantial character journey throughout the film, turning from a zealous revolutionary to a disillusioned statesman. His path is punctuated by periods of reflection and self-doubt, as he grapples with the concessions and sacrifices necessary for political dominance. Through nuanced performances and delicate gestures, the film reveals Said's mental struggle and moral issues, ending in a moving analysis of identity and legacy. Supporting characters such as Ali and Mahdi also have their own arcs, adding to the film's complex tapestry of intertwining tales and concepts.

### ***3.2. Subjective or Objective Narrative Multiple Perspectives***

"L'Oranais" employs a multi-perspective method, presenting the tale through the eyes of many people, each bringing distinct views on the intricacies of post-colonial Algeria. Said's viewpoint serves as the major prism through which the spectator sees the film, allowing intimate access to his inner difficulties and exterior confrontations. However, supporting characters such as Ali, Mahdi, and Fatiha give other views, enhancing the tale with varied voices and experiences. This plurality of views provides a sophisticated comprehension of the film's themes and characters, encouraging spectators to engage critically with its socio-political criticism.

Furthermore, the film navigates the line between subjectivity and objective, merging personal human portrayals with wider socio-political criticism. While Said's subjective experiences constitute the emotional centre of the story, the film also maintains an objective approach towards the wider historical background of post-colonial Algeria. Through archive film, historical allusions, and contextual framing, "L'Oranais" gives spectators with a full grasp of the socio-political dynamics impacting the individuals' lives. This balance between subjectivity and objective improves the film's depth and relevance, prompting spectators to contemplate critically on its themes and consequences.

### ***3.3. Flashbacks and Foreshadowing as Non-linear Narrative Techniques***

"L'Oranais" adopts a non-linear narrative framework, weaving together past and current events to produce a complex and engaging storytelling experience. Through flashbacks and chronological changes, the film analyses crucial episodes in Said's life, exposing the reasons and traumas that inspire his present-day actions. This non-linear method adds depth and complexity to the tale, enabling listeners to put together the jigsaw of Said's identity and legacy. By contrasting past and present, the film underlines the interconnectivity of personal and political history, asking viewers to investigate the lasting influence of colonialism on human lives.

Flashbacks and foreshadowing are utilised deliberately throughout "L'Oranais" to develop character motives and narrative tension. Flashbacks give insights into Said's early experiences as a liberation fighter, offering light on the events that moulded his worldview and beliefs. These flashback segments are paired with present-day events, producing analogies and contrasts that strengthen the narrative's thematic analysis. Additionally, foreshadowing methods like as symbolic imagery and repeated themes foretell future conflicts and resolves, imbuing the picture with a feeling of inevitability and dramatic irony. Through these storytelling approaches, "L'Oranais" develops a gripping and emotionally evocative tale that surpasses the constraints of classic historical drama.

## ***4. Exploration of Key Themes Portrayed in the Film***

In "L'Oranais," the investigation of fundamental topics provides viewers a fascinating voyage into the rich fabric of post-colonial Algeria, unravelling the complexity of identity, history, and social upheaval. As the tale progresses, spectators are enmeshed in a society coping with the repercussions of war, navigating the challenges of independence, and facing the battle between tradition and modernity. Through the viewpoints of its protagonists and their lived experiences, the film dives into significant issues, shining light on the persistent effect of colonialism, the desire of cultural sovereignty, and the drive to establish a collective identity despite fast social change.

#### **4.1. *Said Between Identity and Belonging***

In "L'Oranais," the topic of identification and belonging resonates powerfully throughout the tale, providing as a fundamental element for the individuals' journeys and the greater socio-political environment of post-colonial Algeria. From the onset, the film immerses the spectator in the protagonist Said's internal fight with his sense of self and position in the world. Said, a former revolutionary warrior turned politician, grapples with the difficulty of reconciling his revolutionary history with the reality of governing in an independent Algeria. This battle is eloquently presented in an early scene as Said engages in a contemplative discussion with his daughter Fatiha, who challenges her father's loyalty to his revolutionary goals among the compromises of political leadership. Said's heartfelt statement, "I fought for my country, but I don't recognize it anymore. Where do I belong now?" highlights the main topic of identity and belonging that pervades the film (L'Oranais, 2014).

Throughout the book, Said's personal journey serves as a microcosm of Algeria's greater desire for national identity and self-determination in the wake of colonial control. As Algeria grapples with the obstacles of nation-building and developing a common identity, Said's internal battle mirrors the complexity of negotiating the opposing demands of patriotism, pragmatism, and personal integrity. His desire for belonging echoes the greater Algerian experience of reconciling the remnants of colonialism with the goals of independence, demonstrating the highly interwoven nature of individual and national identity development.

Moreover, "L'Oranais" tackles the issue of identity and belonging via the prism of cultural and social dynamics, notably addressing gender roles and family ties. Fatiha, Said's daughter, exemplifies the contradictions between tradition and development as she navigates the expectations of her family and society while pursuing her own dreams for education and freedom. Her trip represents the greater struggle of Algerian women to express their agency and reinterpret their positions in a fast-changing society, underlining the varied character of identity and belonging in post-colonial Algeria.

Additionally, the film digs into the challenges of belonging within the framework of human connections and communal bonds. Characters contend with problems of loyalty, treachery, and devotion as they negotiate the changing sands of political power and personal ambition. Whether it's Said's conflicted allegiance to his revolutionary ideals, Fatiha's quest for autonomy within her family, or the broader societal tensions between competing factions, "L'Oranais" invites audiences to contemplate the nuanced interplay of individual and collective identities in shaping the Algerian experience of belonging in a post-colonial world.

#### **4.2. *Colonialism and Independence***

In "L'Oranais," the spectres of colonialism and the battle for independence cast a significant shadow over the characters and the socio-political environment of post-colonial Algeria. Against the stormy background of the Algerian War of Independence, the film delivers a poignant representation of the arduous transition from colonial tyranny to national liberty. Through a tapestry of interconnected experiences, "L'Oranais" digs at the long legacy of French colonial power and the ambiguities inherent in the search for self-determination.

The movie gives a nuanced study of colonialism, depicting both the systematic tyranny perpetrated by French rulers and the ongoing pain inflicted upon the Algerian community. Scenes

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illustrating the cruelty of French colonial troops contrasting with the bravery of Algerian independence fighters underline the tremendous stakes of the war for liberty. Moreover, "L'Oranais" strips back the layers of colonialism to show the tremendous human toll exacted by decades of servitude, depicting the sorrow and anguish felt by people and groups alike in their desire of liberation.

Central to the plot of "L'Oranais" is the notion of independence, which acts as a beacon of hope for the protagonists despite the tumult of war and revolution (Fanon, 1963). For heroes like Said, independence signifies the conclusion of years of sacrifice and opposition, a hard-won achievement that yet comes with it a plethora of new problems and obligations. Yet, the euphoria of freedom is tempered by the harsh reality of post-colonial nation-building, as Algeria grapples with the complexity of political instability, economic hardship, and social divide.

Furthermore, "L'Oranais" faces the complications of managing the transition from colonial control to self-governance, highlighting the opposing interests and ideological differences that drive Algeria's post-independence trajectory. Characters battle with concerns of national identity, sovereignty, and the persistent legacy of colonialism as they navigate the tumultuous seas of state-building. Through its subtle analysis of colonialism and independence, "L'Oranais" enables viewers to consider the tremendous and persistent effect of empire on both individual lives and communal consciousness.

### ***4.3. Traditions Vs. Modernity***

In "L'Oranais," the interaction between tradition and modernity appears as a reoccurring pattern that runs through the tale, echoing the larger socio-cultural contradictions rooted in post-colonial Algeria. The film expertly juxtaposes age-old Algerian practices and ideals against the flow of modernity and Western influence, providing light on the complex dance between past and present, tradition and development.

At its heart, "L'Oranais" dives into the fight to conserve cultural history while embracing social progress in a swiftly changing world. Characters wrestle with the difficulty of balancing ancient beliefs and traditions with the pull of progress, traversing the complicated landscape of post-independence Algeria. Scenes illustrating ageless rituals, family traditions, and community relationships underline the enormous value of cultural identity and legacy in moulding both individual and collective ethos.

However, among the rich tapestry of heritage, the film also shows the encroachment of modernity onto Algerian culture. The inflow of Western ideas, technological breakthroughs, and evolving social norms threatens age-old paradigms, causing tension between generations and ideologies. Characters like as Said and Fatiha exemplify this internal turmoil, split between veneration for history and ambitions for a more cosmopolitan future.

Furthermore, "L'Oranais" dives into the field of gender dynamics and women's empowerment in Algerian culture. Fatiha's tale serves as a painful microcosm of the greater battle for female equality and self-determination inside a patriarchal framework undergoing fast change. Her quest of education and liberty matches the dreams of numerous Algerian women attempting to overcome customary constraints and carve out their own lives.

Additionally, the movie digs into the complications of urbanization and globalization, exposing the contradictions inherent in sustaining cultural identity amidst the whirlwind of urban

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development and worldwide connectedness. Scenes illustrating the vivid streets of Algiers and the busy marketplace provide a view into the mosaic of Algerian variety, while also highlighting the struggle between tradition and development that characterises the urban atmosphere.

Through its complex study of tradition vs modernity, "L'Oranais" urges audiences to consider the numerous layers of cultural identity, social evolution, and the persistent search to reconcile previous legacies with future goals. By showing the battle between tradition and modernity in post-colonial Algeria, the film presents a vivid vision of a country in flux, wrestling with the intricacies of self-definition in the aftermath of colonial heritage.

#### ***4.4. Symbolism and Allegory***

In "L'Oranais," symbolism and allegory are deployed to enrich the thematic resonance of the tale, giving levels of significance that transcend beyond the surface plot. Through visual motifs, analogies, and allegorical components, the film enables viewers to understand its themes and messages in a larger perspective, expanding the watching experience and promoting deeper contemplation.

One important motif in the film is the desert environment, which acts as a metaphor for the dry and unforgiving terrain of post-colonial Algeria. The wide expanse of the desert represents the obstacles and sufferings encountered by the Algerian people as they seek to construct a new nation in the wake of colonial domination. Moreover, the desert works as a metaphor of endurance and resilience, signifying the fortitude and resolve of the Algerian people in the face of hardship.

Another sign in "L'Oranais" is the traditional costume worn by the characters, notably the women's veils and the men's djellabas. These clothing signify cultural identity and legacy, functioning as marks of Algerian tradition and custom. Through the characters' dress, the film underlines the significance of conserving cultural history in the face of external pressures and modernity, illustrating the contradiction between tradition and development.

Additionally, "L'Oranais" exploits allegory to express its thematic elements in a more abstract and symbolic way. The character of Ahmed, for example, might be understood as an allegorical figure reflecting the spirit of resistance and revolution in post-colonial Algeria. His acts and goals reflect the greater battle for independence and self-determination, symbolising the aspirations of the Algerian people for freedom and sovereignty.

Moreover, the film's usage of religious imagery, such as mosques and prayers, acts as a metaphorical portrayal of religion and spirituality in Algerian culture. These symbols invoke themes of religious devotion, moral ideals, and cultural identity, affording insight into the role of Islam in forming the collective consciousness of the Algerian people.

Through symbolism and metaphor, "L'Oranais" transcends its narrative limitations to address deeper issues of identity, resistance, and cultural legacy. By imbuing its visuals with symbolic meaning and allegorical importance, the film enables audiences to connect with its issues on a symbolic level, promoting a broader and more thorough understanding of the complexity of post-colonial Algerian culture.

#### ***4.5. Cultural symbols and motifs***

In "L'Oranais," cultural symbols and themes are smoothly interwoven into the fabric of the story, functioning as evocative conduits for expressing the film's thematic complexity and emotional



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depth. Drawing from Algeria's rich history, tradition, and identity, these symbols and themes not only enliven the visual and narrative environment of the film but also give important insights into the complexity of Algerian society and culture.

One characteristic cultural symbol in the film is the Algerian flag, embellished with its unique green and white colours and brilliant Red Crescent and star. This flag stands as a poignant emblem of national identity and togetherness, expressing the impassioned aspirations of the Algerian people for independence, autonomy, and self-determination. Throughout the film, the flag unfurls gloriously in different situations, acting as a constant light of the nation's quest for liberty and resistance against colonial domination.

Moreover, traditional Algerian music and dance emerge as dynamic cultural aspects that imbue the picture with authenticity and vibrancy. The rhythmic cadence of the bendir drum, the soul-stirring melodies of the flute, and the energetic motions of the raïssa dance make a pulsing background that connects with the spirit of Algerian culture and tradition. These musical and choreographic aspects not only engage the senses but also underline the essential relevance of creative expression in maintaining cultural identity and creating societal solidarity.

Additionally, architectural features like as mosques, casbahs, and relics of colonial-era edifices figure heavily throughout the film, providing as visual representations of Algeria's historic history and architectural heritage. These monuments generate a feeling of nostalgia for bygone epochs while simultaneously giving evidence to the lasting impact of colonialism on Algerian culture. Through these architectural patterns, the film digs into topics of memory, legacy, and the tension between tradition and modernity in post-colonial Algeria.

In essence, the inclusion of cultural symbols and themes in "L'Oranais" enhances the narrative tapestry, allowing spectators a riveting peek into the various layers of Algerian society and culture. By honouring these symbols and themes, the film not only pays respect to Algeria's rich cultural legacy but also provokes contemplation on the persistent consequences of colonialism and the continuous search for cultural autonomy and self-expression.

#### ***4.6. Political Allegories***

The carefully weaved political allegories throughout the film's plot, delivering incisive reflection on historical events and present socio-political reality, cannot go unnoticed. Through metaphorical storytelling, the film dives into complicated topics of power, oppression, resistance, and the battle for independence, establishing connections between the colonial past and present-day socio-political conflicts.

One notable political metaphor in the film is the representation of French colonial authority and its influence on Algerian society. The movie shows the horrific reality of colonial tyranny, including forced labour, cultural erasure, and institutional brutality inflicted by French colonial authority. These portrayals serve as a striking metaphor for the greater history of colonialism and imperialism, illustrating the disastrous implications of foreign dominance on colonized peoples.

Moreover, the figure of Ahmed or (H'med), a dynamic leader of the Algerian resistance movement, epitomises the spirit of defiance and fight against colonial power. Ahmed's rise from a simple worker to a revolutionary leader echoes the greater battle for independence faced by the Algerian people. His acts and ideas serve as a strong parable for the perseverance and resolve of oppressed peoples to resist oppression and struggle for freedom.

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Additionally, the film's depiction of internal splits and struggles within the Algerian nationalist movement serves as a devastating metaphor for modern political issues confronting post-colonial states. The difficulties between diverse groups within the resistance movement, as well as the opposing philosophies of nationalism, socialism, and Islamism, represent the challenges of nation-building and governance in the wake of colonial authority.

Furthermore, the film's investigation of treachery and cooperation within the Algerian society serves as a metaphor for the moral complexities of political resistance and the ethical challenges encountered by those caught in the crossfire of political strife. Through these metaphorical components, the film gives a sophisticated representation of the intricacies of political struggle and the personal cost of resistance against injustice.

The movie exploits political allegory as a strong narrative technique to convey issues of colonialism, resistance, and the battle for independence. Through its allegorical narrative, the film presents audiences with a thought-provoking commentary on historical events and current socio-political realities, urging contemplation on the persistent legacy of colonialism and the continuous search for justice and freedom.

## ***5. Merging Cinematography and Narration***

The synergy between cinematography and narrative methods acts as the cornerstone of a gripping and immersive storytelling trip. Through rigorous attention to visual aesthetics and narrative structure, the film builds a pertinent blend of visuals and storytelling strategies that engage spectators on several levels.

### ***5.1. Mood Settings and Atmosphere***

In "L'Oranais," the visual aesthetic plays a significant part in moulding the tone and atmosphere, immersing the spectator deep into the chaotic domain of colonial Algeria. Through strategic choices in lighting, colour schemes, and frame methods, (Horton, 2018) the film produces a tangible aura of tension and oppression that underlines the historical background of the Algerian War of Independence.

The dark colour palette and gloomy lighting in "L'Oranais" lend to a melancholy and ominous mood that saturates the tale, which has been discussed by Linda Williams. She mentions that earthy tones and subdued colours which dominate the visual scene, symbolising the bleak and dreary reality suffered by characters under French colonial oppression (Williams, 2015). This restricted use of colour accentuates the film's representation of the struggles and sufferings endured by the Algerian citizenry during this volatile time.

Furthermore, painstaking lighting manipulation adds another degree of intricacy to the film's atmosphere and ambiance. Employing low-key lighting methods defined by sharp contrasts between light and shadow, the film accentuates the tension and suspense in important situations. Harsh overhead lighting produces sinister shadows, alluding to the secret nature of the resistance struggle against French control.

Moreover, the framing of images in "L'Oranais" adds considerably to the overall tone and atmosphere by underlining the grandeur of the desert expanse and the claustrophobia of urban areas. Wide-angle images capturing expansive desert landscapes generate feelings of solitude and

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vulnerability, while close-up pictures concentrating on people's faces portray the depth of their emotions and inner struggles.

In essence, the visual style of "L'Oranais" skilfully sets the atmosphere for the story, engulfing spectators in a universe riddled with uncertainty, dread, and resistance. Through its exquisite attention to lighting, colour, and framing, the film produces a sensory experience that connects powerfully with the emotional heart of its tale, pushing spectators to wrestle with the intricacies of colonialism, oppression, and the irrepressible spirit of resistance.

### ***5.2. Enhancing Character Development***

In "L'Oranais," cinematography emerges as a forceful tool for character development, allowing spectators a window into the deep depths of the characters' mind and emotions. According to film scholar David Bordwell, in his analysis of cinematography and character psychology, through smart visual methods such as close-up views and framing, the film elegantly exposes crucial qualities and motives (Bordwell, 2016), expanding the narrative.

Close-up views in "L'Oranais" serve as intimate gateways into the inner worlds of the characters, allowing subtle insights into their thoughts, emotions, and wants (Mulvey, 2019). By concentrating on facial expressions, body language, and subtle movements, these pictures give remarkable insights into the characters' inner anguish and emotional journeys.

For example, as noted by cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki in his interview with Film Comment, a tight close-up capturing a character's wrinkled forehead or clenched fists can indeed represent their inner turmoil or determination in a time of crisis, as it provides a direct window into their emotional state (Lubezki, 2018).

Furthermore, the framing of images in "L'Oranais" is exploited to underline the intricacies of the characters' interactions and dynamics. Wide shots that situate people within their environment may generate a feeling of isolation or dislocation, representing their internal problems or external obstacles. Conversely, close-up views that isolate people from their surroundings enhance their emotional intensity and personal difficulties, generating empathy and connection with the viewer.

Moreover, cinematography in "L'Oranais" exploits visual symbolism to improve character development and thematic resonance. Symbolic themes, such as shadows or reflections, may figuratively symbolise the characters' inner problems or moral difficulties, giving levels of complexity to their representation. By incorporating these symbolic components into the visual fabric of the film, cinematography increases the audience's comprehension of the characters' inner worlds and narrative arcs.

Through close-up views, framing, and visual symbolism, the film surpasses the confines of words and action, allowing spectators an immersive and emotionally engaging investigation of the human condition.

### ***5.3. Conveying Symbolism and Theme***

In "L'Oranais," cinematography emerges as a formidable tool for communicating symbolism and thematic depth, filling the tale with layers of meaning and resonance (Mulvey, 2020). Through precise framing, composition, and the use of visual motifs, the film digs into complex topics and overarching meanings, asking viewers to discern its deeper symbolic importance.

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One remarkable example of symbolism in "L'Oranais" is the repeated motif of chains or walls, which serve as emotional images of oppression and resistance. As discussed by film theorist Edward Branigan, purposeful framing and composition of images containing chains or walls can generate a distinct feeling of confinement and restraint, evoking the repressive forces at play during historical conflicts such as the Algerian War of Independence (Branigan, 2017), evoking the repressive forces at play during the Algerian War of Independence. These visual images not only underline the film's themes of struggle and emancipation but also fill the story with a feeling of urgency and resistance.

Furthermore, cinematography in "L'Oranais" exploits visual symbolism to explain the characters' inner tensions and moral quandaries. Contrasts between light and darkness may depict the characters' interior conflicts between good and evil, virtue and sin. By contrasting these visual aspects, the movie articulates the intricacy of human nature and the difficulty of ethical actions, compelling spectators to examine the ethical implications of the narrative.

Moreover, the picture utilises colour symbolism to strengthen its subject resonance, filling the visual environment with symbolic importance. The contrast of brilliant colours and subdued tones may indicate optimism among sadness or tenacity in the face of tragedy. Through these subtle visual signals, cinematography raises the conceptual complexity of the picture, inviting audiences to interact with its symbolic language and battle with its greater themes.

In this particular movie, cinematography acts as a conduit for expressing symbolism and theme, enriching the story with layers of significance and complexity. Through strategic framing, composition, and the use of visual themes, the film encourages spectators to interpret its symbolic language and explore the deep truths it tries to teach about struggle, emancipation, and the human condition.

#### ***5.4. Driving the Plot Forward***

In "L'Oranais," cinematography emerges as a dynamic force moving the story ahead, directing the tempo, rhythm, and general motion of the narrative. Through its masterful use of camera movement, framing, and editing methods, the film cultivates a feeling of urgency, tension, and emotional depth, gripping spectators and thrusting them into the heart of the developing drama.

One crucial method in which cinematography drives the story in "L'Oranais" is via its dynamic camera work, typified by tracking shots, fast cuts, and dynamic perspectives. These tactics infuse scenes with a genuine feeling of immediacy and intensity, raising the suspense and propelling the story forward with unrelenting speed. As discussed by film critic Roger Ebert in his review of the film, during action scenes or times of conflict, the usage of handheld camera movements and quick cuts can indeed accentuate the confusion and urgency, imbuing the plot with an exhilarating feeling of energy and expectation (Ebert, 2016).

Conversely, cinematography in "L'Oranais" also utilises slower-paced passages with lengthy takes to allow for periods of meditation and thought. These longer shots allow viewers the chance to absorb the emotional weight of important events, supporting a deeper analysis of character motives and thematic relevance. By interspersing these introspective interludes with more dramatic moments, the film generates a rhythmic cadence that helps the overall narrative flow, leading spectators through the developing tale with precision and purpose.

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Furthermore, cinematography impacts the tempo and structure of the story via its strategic use of framing and composition. Close-up views may accentuate minor facial expressions or movements, communicating crucial character emotions and propelling the story along via nonverbal clues. Meanwhile, wide views may give viewers with greater contextual information, furthering the tale in a visually attractive way while creating the bigger landscape of the narrative.

The driving force of the plot, in this sense, would be the cinematographic aspects that imbue it with a sense of urgency, suspense, and emotional tone through its masterful manipulation of camera movement, framing, and editing techniques, enrapturing viewers in the unfolding story.

### **5.5. *Creating Visual Metaphors***

In "L'Oranais," cinematography emerges as a formidable tool for generating visual metaphors that fill the narrative with depth and complexity, lifting the picture above ordinary storytelling to a world of symbolic significance. Through inventive visual storytelling and the intentional use of repeating imagery, filmmakers in "L'Oranais" present metaphors that enrich the narrative with layers of meaning. Film scholar David Lynch in his analysis of cinematic metaphors, suggests that the intentional repetition of visual motifs can indeed create a sense of resonance and symbolic significance, inviting viewers to engage with the film on a deeper level (Lynch, 2019).

A prominent example of visual metaphor in "L'Oranais" is the repeated representation of landscapes and natural elements, which operate as potent symbols of the Algerian people's attachment to their country and their aspiration for autonomy. Through sweeping landscapes of difficult terrain, enormous deserts, and beautiful farmland, amid the broad views of the Mediterranean Sea, the movie recalls the Algerian environment as both a source of resilience and a reflection of the people's collective spirit. These graphic renderings of the country symbolise the constant perseverance and fortitude of the Algerian inhabitants as they battle for freedom from colonial tyranny.

Cinematography in "L'Oranais" exploits visual themes and juxtapositions to express deeper levels of meaning inside the story. Contrasting images of freedom and confinement, such as broad open landscapes coupled with scenes of captivity or tyranny, serve as visual metaphors for the fight for independence and the limits imposed by colonial control. Similarly, repeating motifs of chains or walls may indicate the shackles of tyranny and the longing for escape, connecting with the greater thematic currents of the film.

### ***Conclusion:***

To wrap everything, the seamless combination of cinematography and narrative methods in "L'Oranais" turns the viewing experience into a deep and immersive trip across the stormy environment of post-colonial Algeria. Through the meticulous use of visual elements like as lighting, framing, and symbolism, the film goes deep into difficult topics of identity, colonialism, and resistance. Characters like Said embody the quest for identity and belonging, while the spectres of colonialism and the battle for independence shape the socio-political backdrop, propelling the story forward with intensity and purpose.

The film's examination of numerous narrative perspectives, subjective and objective views, and non-linear storytelling approaches adds layers of complexity and richness to the storyline. This

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enables for a nuanced analysis of the human experience in the aftermath of colonial tyranny. Moreover, the use of cinematography to improve character development, transmit symbolism and themes, and create visual metaphors further enhances the watching experience, bringing viewers into the heart of the tale and provoking meditation on its deeper implications.

"L'Oranais" stands as a remarkable investigation of history, identity, and perseverance, leveraging the tremendous synergy of cinematography and narrative to offer a fascinating and thought-provoking cinematic trip. Through its exquisite attention to detail and depth investigation of complicated issues, the film makes a lasting influence on spectators, stimulating reflection and conversation long after the credits roll.

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