

Young Children in the Semiotic Space of Modern Cinematography: Implications for Coherent Development



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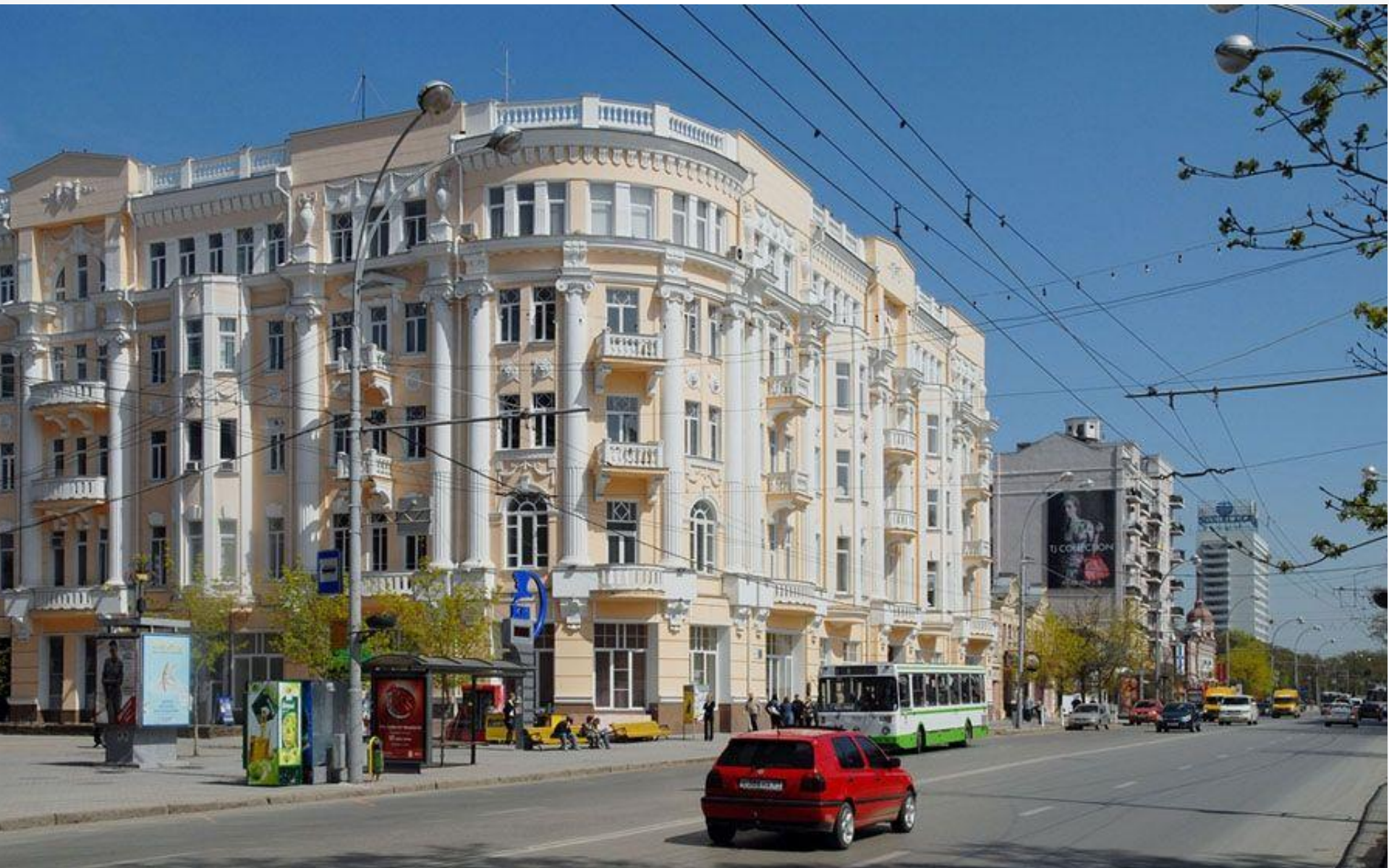
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PLAN

1

The terms semiosphere and semiotic space of cinematography

2

The role of cartoons in education of values

3

Significance of cartoons for age-related build-ups

4

Cultural implications of modern cartoons

5

Conclusions



“digital natives”



Small, G. and G. Vorgan. “IBrain. Surviving the technological alteration of the modern mind”, Harper Collins e-books, 2008.



What is semiosphere?

All semiotic systems are “immersed” in a semiotic space and “can only function by interaction with that space” (Lotman 1990: 125). A sign cannot make sense except in the context of other signs.



Cinematic art for children

The huge world of art for children represents a semiosphere which, according to Yu.M. Lotman, is characterized by semiotic homogeneity and individuality at the same time.



Cartoons and Values

Values education is about changing kids' behavior for the better.

Robb, W. "What is values education – and so what?", 1998. Retrieved from: www.valueseducation.co.uk

Moral dilemmas from cartoons remain relevant later in life.

Seeing
is
Believing

Significance of Cartoons for Age-related Build-ups

Age	World-View
4-5	mythopoetic world-image
5-6	thinking and imagination

Artistic images of cinematic art turn into semantic units of the worldview, which is a phenomenon of consciousness.

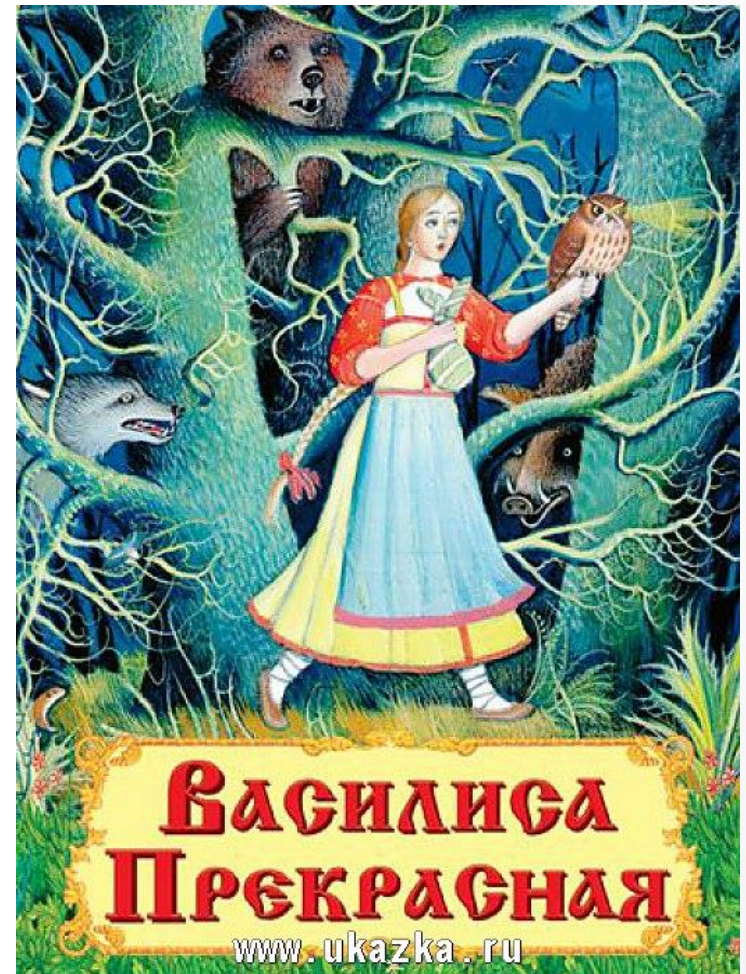


Gender identity and values of gender-related behavior

Baba-Yaga



Vasilisa-the-Beautiful



Gender identity

Ivan Tsarevich riding a Gray Wolf



Phenomenological Row of Stages

- “self”
- elements of the world
- daily objects
- cultural communication norms



Visual Literacy

If one wants to reach younger people at an earlier age to shape their minds in a critical way, you really need to know how ideas and emotions are expressed visually

~ Martin Scorsese, director and filmmaker

A wise man once said that a picture is worth a hundred words. But when visual symbols are used in place of words to express an idea or to evoke a feeling or a mood within us, it is necessary for the viewer to understand the message.

~ S. Oring , 2000 from a Call for Visual Literacy



Emotional Regulation

a set of skills that can be taught and learned through watching cartoons



Emotional Regulation

- **Children with good emotional regulation skills:**
- are able to experience, express and manage a range of emotions
- adjust well to transitions and new situations
- engage in appropriate behaviors in response to emotional situations
- show a high tolerance for frustration

Children with poor emotional regulation skills:

- may exhibit a limited range of emotions
- have difficulties coping with stressful experiences
- may engage in outbursts of negative emotions
- may show aggressive or ego-centric behaviors (depending on their age)
- are less socially competent, in general



World on the Screen

Each animated film reveals one side of the world to a child, but does it in a full and many-sided manner



Cultural Implications of Modern Cartoons

Common values:

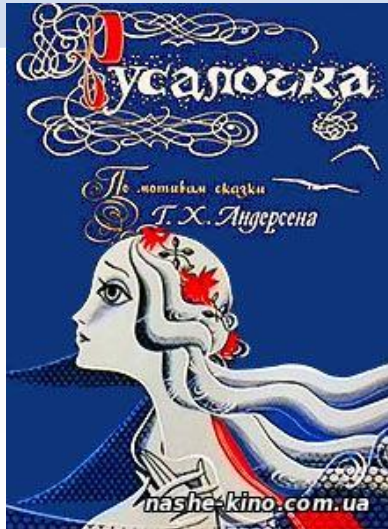
- human nature orientation;
- man and nature orientation;
- time orientations;
- activity orientation;
- relational orientation.

Kluckhohn F. and F. L. Strodtbeck. 1961. Variations in Value Orientations. Evanston.



Little Mermaid

Russia



USA



Japan



Modern Russian fairy tales



- Masha is portrayed as a smart, very kind and mischievous little girl who is exploring the world through a number of entertaining situations where she demonstrates her assertiveness, being absolutely fidgety, whereas the kind-hearted Bear always keeps Masha out of trouble but often ends up the unintended victim of her mischief (*Wikipedia*)

COMPLETE WORLD VIEW



CONCLUSIONS

Cartoons

- provide overall development of cognitive, creative and moral aspects of developing personalities;
- enable to provide integrity of the real and figurative;
- build the right hierarchy of objects, phenomena of reality and the system of cultural values;
- teach children about natural connections existing in our life;
- encourage skills of independent search and critical thinking.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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