**Barthes’ Other Narrative Codes**

**The Semic Code**

This code refers to connotation within the story that gives additional meaning over the basic dictionary meaning of the word.

Therefore, when you see a colour or an object it may have an influence on your understanding of the narrative. An example of this would be if you see the colour red then it could suggest that there either is or soon will be danger. Another example would be if a character hands another a bit of paper with numbers on it, which (depending on the context of the scene) could suggest a secret code, a phone number or an account number.

Write down another example that you can think of and why it might be used.

**The Cultural Code**

This code refers to anything in the text which relies on the audience having an external knowledge (not from watching the text) of something such as scientific, historical, and cultural knowledge.

Therefore, when you are given a reference to something else that is widely known and accepted it may have an influence on you understanding of the narrative. An example of this would be when, in the film ‘The Matrix’, the character of Nero is told:

“You take the red pill you stay in Wonderland and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes.”

This is a reference to Alice in Wonderland and means that you expect that if he should take the red pill he can then expect that strange and bizarre things will be revealed to him. Another example of this would be if there were an image of Santa Claus then you not only identify the represented character of “dear St. Nick” but also the additional ideas that come with him: the elves, the reindeer, the presents, etc.

Write down another example that you can think of and why it might be used.

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