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Communication 124

9 April 2020

Scholarly Article Evaluation

Lizardi, Ryan. "Mourning and Melancholia: Conflicting Approaches to Reviving *Gilmore Girls* One Season at a Time." *Television & New Media*, vol. 19, iss. 4, Sage Publishing, 2018, pp. 379-395.

Ryan Lizardi wrote the article "Mourning and Melancholia: Conflicting Approaches to Reviving *Gilmore Girls* One Season at a Time." In this, I will summarize the article, taking a look at the main points and the break up of the article as a whole. I will also critique the article, taking a look at the strengths and weaknesses of the article as a whole, looking at things like the reliability of the author, the focus of the article, the literature on this topic, the outline of research in the article, the limitations of the article, and more.

In the article, Lizardi looks at the *Gilmore Girls* revival *A Year in the Life*, looking at how it helps creator Amy Sherman-Palladino with her mourning for the show and how it promotes melancholia in viewers of the show. Mourning and melancholia are Freudian terms, referring to a feeling of loss that goes away over time and to a feeling of loss that is grounded in nostalgia instead of properly fading, respectively. Netflix promotes this feeling of melancholia in its viewers, as it helps it both gain and hold onto providers. Things like the cliffhanger ending of the revival also promote melancholia, as it leaves viewers wanting more. In addition to this, the show had to find balance between the wants of fans of the series and new viewers while finishing the series based in Sherman-Palladino's image.

This article, overall, is fairly strong. Lizardi, a professor at SUNY Polytechnic Institute, wrote this article trying to understand “what the revival expectations [of *Gilmore Girls*] were for producers, creators, fans, and other audiences,” looking at the ideas of melancholy and melancholia, how these affected people, and how Netflix operates when it comes to things like this revival (380). Although this topic may seem fairly shallow, as its main focus is on *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*, the findings can be compared to other Netflix revivals, increasing scholarly knowledge on Netflix operations and the many factors of revival reception. This is a growing pool of literature, one that aided Lizardi while he was writing this article, as he grounded himself in similar articles, looking at how peers in the field interpreted Netflix’s actions and learning more about the many revivals on the market currently.

Lizardi does a nice job explaining what he is going to talk about in his article, discussing the topics and how he is breaking down the research, explaining that he “examine[s] industrial and economic factors that led to the cancellation of the original series, and Netflix’s revival model, as well as the four *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life* mini-movies,” however, he never actually outlines how he goes about his research (380). This, I would think, would be fairly typical of research like this, as it is not experimental research. Thus, this lack of explanation seems to fit the research. The researcher also failed to explain any limitations to the study, but that may be due to the fact that this is a critical analysis. By better explaining the route that he took in his research, his limitation, and by organizing his article in such a way that he had a conclusion section, Lizardi could have made his article better. That being said, though, overall Lizardi does a very nice job explaining and finding evidence for his research.

After summarizing Lizardi’s “Mourning and Melancholia: Conflicting Approaches to Reviving *Gilmore Girls* One Season at a Time,” I was able to critique the article, looking at the

strengths and weaknesses of the article as a whole on several different levels, like the credibility of Lizardi, the literature available on this topic, the limitations mentioned in the article, and more. This article is extremely helpful in looking at Netflix's approach to revivals in general and in how revival's affect their audiences. It adds to the literature on this topic.