

On the relation between sound and meaning in Hicks' Snow Falling on Cedars.

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On the relation between sound and meaning in Hicks' *Snow Falling on Cedars*

Daniel Lefkowitz

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Abstract

This article looks at the semiotics of speech in a Hollywood film. Sound — and especially speech — plays a crucial role in the cinematic experience, but a minimal role in film theory and criticism. Filmic speech generally drives plot and characterization, while visual techniques are developed to construct and comment upon a film's thematic statements. An interpretive analysis of the 1999 film *Snow Falling on Cedars* however, demonstrates that director Scott Hicks reverses this common relationship between the visual and the aural, deploying speech to construct and comment upon the film's main theme of memory.

⬇ About the article

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