



BLADE RUNNER 2049



Blade Runner 2049, movie by Denis Villeneuve, 2017.

Geographical issue:

Humanoid robots are trying to emancipate themselves and they are conscious that they have a soul. A Replicant has fathered a child, so from this moment, they tend to say that “they are their own masters”. In secret, they are preparing a revolution with an army and Blade Runners track rebels. The question is: who is the most human between Humans themselves and their slaves, Replicants?

What element is distorted?

Replicants have the ability of thinking and caring for themselves. Some of them try to have control over Humans. They do not obey to their master anymore, that is to say Human being. They feel “more human than Humans”.

Why this element has been distorted?

Human being has enacted a bill of law which has made the situation worse: transhumanism. I actually think this movie is an admonition of what could happen if we focus too much on technological progress and not enough on Nature.

What makes this work a dystopia?

All **vegetation** has disappeared or is in poor condition: no forest, no tree, no plant. We can just see a huge agricultural exploitation, but there is absolutely no space between each cultivation and there is a lot of dust. Nature is clearly dead, Humans have really killed it. At Los Angeles, several characters are surprised and impressed when they see a piece of wood or just a picture of a tree! Nobody seems to have seen a tree in their lives and all natural elements are very rare and expensive. It is tragic because trees help us to breathe, so if there is no greenery, there is no life!

This degradation of nature has an impact on all the ecosystem and have repercussions on wildlife. Eventually, the food chain is disturbed and food is changed...

You can probably think that in the future we will eat **insects**... well in Blade Runner 2049, we do! Indeed, at the beginning, a Replicant shows larvae to Officer K (the protagonist, a Blade Runner). He says that the farm is owned by Wallace Corporation (a big company specialised in robots creation). This change of diet clearly proves that Humans have spoilt all the resources they used to eat. Consequently, they turn to a new way of eating, probably because of overproduction.

Blade Runner 2049, highlights the bad sequels of **overproduction**. In fact, the movie presents a huge amount of advanced technologies, especially with the famous flying car, automatic machines in the streets, high buildings with enormous screens, holographic images, and so on. All these technologies have become a major part in the inhabitants' lives. But this cybernetic universe is not without consequence because all Los Angeles is covered with a thick cloud of pollution! Furthermore, monumental buildings are very close to each other: it is ridiculous because people cannot really walk in the streets and they need space... hence they have flying cars. Moreover, outside the city, there is the "Los Angeles Municipal waste Processing" at the San Diego district: big engines transport waste and then dump it directly into the environment. Is there still room for a beach? Not sure of that...

The streets of Los Angeles are definitely not for children. The city turns more and more into decadence, particularly with the creation of robots specialised in the **sex industry**. Indeed, in this perverse universe, the world becomes obsessed with sensual pleasures and at night, Los Angeles is literally transformed in a giant brothel. On the big screens positioned on buildings, there are advertisements which contain suggestive themes with naked humanoids. They are presented as slaves only for Humans and this, in plain sight. Then, below the buildings, next to restaurants, androids prostitutes propose their services to people. Besides, a lot of things are sexualised: for example, in an advertisement for food, a hologram contains suggestive themes. You can also see people having sex with robots through a blurred window. Angels at Los Angeles? Not sure about that either...

An important point of the dystopia is the **ultra-violence**: in Blade Runner 2049, daily violence touches all the population. For instance, at the landfill, a man is practicing child smuggling and forces them to work. The scene is dreadful because he treats them badly. Children are innocent and in need of affection. We can also imagine that citizens are all the time viewing videos which contain blood, bad language, psychologic violence, etc. Some of them are very poor. Maybe there are dealers in the streets. Furthermore, only the strong survive, so there are frequently fights. As an example, one gore scene is particularly shocking: at the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) laboratory, a scientist is violently attacked by a Replicant which is looking for evidence. There are many scenes of tension, torture and murder between Humans and Replicants in this movie.

The **control** over the population is an other form of violence in this movie: we can notice that people are "matrixed" with screens and "easy-to-use" machines. We can say that artificial intelligence catch their attention so they're not independent anymore (for instance robots ask people if they need help for anything). Besides, the population is monitored by different ways: first, Humans use robots inside their homes so finally, machines record all demands and

informations concerning users. Moreover, during his mission, Officer K is tracked by a drone in order to check if he's doing right. Then, Humans' innovations have an impact directly on their lives and put **pressure** on them. At last, it is not very comforting to know that there is an only one company (Wallace Corporation) which has the institutional monopoly: no other company could replace it.

Robots are slaves however they have a mind and a soul. They are not really robots but a perfect copy of Humans. So is it legitimate to enslave them? Blade Runner 2049 is clearly a movie which deals with **deshumanisation** because from the moment Replicants can think for themselves and have feelings, they are living beings. Yet this question is paradoxical because on the right hand, Human being has created robots so they're machines. But on the other hand, in the movie, there is a Replicant which (or who) has a baby. Does it mean that Replicants are Humans? If it's right, Humans cannot enslave other Humans. Not to mention that they implant memories inside each Replicant's head, so they have the feeling of being human and they are always looking for their identity. This movie shows all the cruelty and the monstrosity of the creators, that is to say "real" Humans.

Initially, Replicants have been created for expeditions in order to colonize planets. But they don't want to be slaves: after a rebellion, they are forbidden on Earth and tracked by Blade Runners. Replicants feel "more human than Humans" and want to have control over them. It is completely a dystopia because the aim is to **replace Humans**. Wallace has a project: make robots fertile so as to create the perfect Human. Indeed, Replicants are improved Humans because they are intelligent, attractive, immortal. If he succeeds in achieving his project, they could father other robots. We can imagine that Humanity will destroy all its environment and kill itself. This dystopia will probably mean the end of Human being. There will be only its remains: Replicants.

Why did I choose this movie?

I am a huge fan of science fiction movies and I like the fact that it leads us to think about how the future will look. I have chosen Blade Runner 2049 because I think that Denis Villeneuve has really answered this question through the various subjects he has dealt with. His masterpiece is very interesting and I wanted to study on his work to underline what makes Blade Runner 2049 a dystopia in human and economic terms.

My opinion:

I love the way Villeneuve filmed and from my point of view the actors play very well, they embody perfectly their characters. The director has clearly shown with this dystopia that taking a bad decision concerning a bill of law can turn the society into anarchy. Personally, I think that this movie is a bit too long but it is a masterpiece of photography with incredible special effects. So if you're a fan of science fiction, looking for good actors and great photography, Blade Runner 2049 is made for you!

Thank you for your attention :)

Emma G.