

ON DESCRIBING LIFE TRUTHFULLY IN REVOLUTIONARY FILMS

A Talk to the Officials in Charge of Cinematic Art
November 1, 1968

Busy as he is with many important duties, the great leader still met you comrades today. He has shown deep concern for the development of cinematic art and demonstrated a profound loving care for film artists.

It is the highest possible honour for you that you had an audience with him and received from him important teachings to serve as a guide in the production of films. I congratulate you on having an audience with the leader. Bearing in mind the great honour you have received today, you must produce many good films and thus display loyalty to the great leader and prove yourselves worthy of his deep trust and concern.

You should always regard it as the highest honour and a sacred duty to take a load off the leader's mind and devote all the energy you have to carrying out his teachings. You should inform the officials of the film studio of the teachings given by the leader today as soon as possible and having studied them carefully, draw up a detailed plan for implementing them. You should examine the next year's plan for film production according to themes, correct it as instructed by the leader, and make positive efforts to produce revolutionary films of great ideological and artistic value. In particular, you must describe life truthfully in revolutionary films, bearing in mind the leader's teaching that life should be vividly described in films which deal with the revolutionary traditions.

Describing life truthfully is the fundamental requirement derived from the nature of art and literature, forms of social consciousness which reflect reality through artistic representation. Life is the main object of description in art and literature as well as the basis of artistic representation. Only when they describe life truthfully can art and literature depict real people. The vital power of an artistic and literary work depends on how truthfully it describes life. An excellent realistic work touches the heartstrings of the people and has tremendous power to influence, because it describes life truthfully.

Film artists must make conscientious and unceasing efforts to describe life truthfully in creating revolutionary films in order to produce works of great ideological and artistic value.

In order to describe life truthfully in revolutionary films, you must provide a depiction of the typical lives which reflect social nature as rich, multifarious, detailed and vivid as the reality is.

A truthful description of life in art and literature cannot be achieved simply by representing any life in a recognizable outward form. If an artistic or literary work is to depict life truthfully in a realistic

manner, the essential and typical facts must be selected from the complicated reality and depicted in a rich and vivid manner.

The glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung involved innumerable typical facts in which the essence of the times and of history was contained. These are fine materials for producing revolutionary films and the vivid and meaningful depiction of such materials will result in the production of good films which describe life truthfully.

In order to describe life truthfully in revolutionary films, it is necessary to select a story from the experience of struggle by revolutionaries and portray it in depth. Life consists of struggle and struggle is part of life. Though the anti-Japanese guerrillas waged an unprecedentedly arduous struggle for a protracted period in order to defeat the Japanese imperialist aggressors and achieve the liberation of the fatherland and the freedom of the people, their life was varied and filled with revolutionary optimism and noble feelings. If film production becomes biased towards battles or marches because it must depict the struggle of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, it will be impossible to portray life properly and offer vivid depictions of revolutionaries.

Only when the political, military and cultural life of revolutionaries is represented in its varied aspects, can the revolutionary films portray their real life and give a clear picture of heroes who possess strong political principles and profound humanity. The feature film *Five Guerrilla Brothers (Parts I and II)* made a deep impression on the audience by portraying the real, vivid images of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, because the life and struggle of the heroes are described in detail and in depth as an integrated whole.

The problem of describing life truthfully in revolutionary films is linked with the problem of portraying people as real people. The focus of description in artistic and literary works is people. The truthful description of life in artistic and literary works aims, in the final analysis, at portraying people vividly as real people. Giving a truthful and vivid depiction of people's characters is the key to enlivening the vitality of artistic and literary works.

In order to represent heroes' characters truthfully in revolutionary films, it is necessary to show how their revolutionary consciousness germinates and develops and how they form their revolutionary outlook on the world.

A person's character is not immutable, but changes continuously in the process of his or her practical social praxis, so it is important to represent truthfully the development of character in films. Though a person has several characters, the kernel of them all is his idea.

Ideological consciousness controls all of a person's activities and defines his personality and values. The most significant factor in the development of a person's character is the change and development of his or her ideological consciousness. Therefore, if films are to show truthfully the typical characters of heroes who are growing into revolutionaries, primary attention should be directed to describing in depth how they are awakened ideologically and how they shape their

revolutionary outlook on the world.

The films which have been made by our film artists based on revolutionary traditions are deficient in truthfulness of representation and fail to make a deep impression on the audience, because they do not describe in depth how the heroes shape their revolutionary outlook on the world.

Following the teachings of the great leader, you comrades must produce many revolutionary films which describe truthfully and in depth the workers, peasants, intellectuals and other people from all walks of life who are growing into revolutionaries in life and struggle, as well as the process of the formation of their revolutionary outlook on the world. In this way you will contribute greatly to the revolutionary education of the working people and youth.

If you are to show the heroes shaping their revolutionary view on the world truthfully in revolutionary films, you should delve deep into their inner world and portray in detail the process by which their revolutionary consciousness is germinating and developing, in keeping with the logic of their lives and characters.

People's ideological consciousness is formed and grown in the face of different social phenomena and experiences of a complicated reality. People's revolutionary consciousness is also formed and crystallized in various ways according to their class origin, social status, the influence of their surroundings, their life experiences, their education and their level of knowledge. Hence, in describing the inner world of people in a precise fashion in keeping with the logic of their lives and characters one creates a vital means for the truthful depiction of how they shape their revolutionary outlook on the world.

If film artists are to describe life vividly in producing films and truthfully portray heroes who are growing into revolutionaries and shaping their world outlook, they must be imbued with the revolutionary idea of the great leader, the Juche idea, and well-versed in the Party's lines and policies. Only those film artists who have firmly grasped the Juche revolutionary world outlook and possess an extensive political viewpoint can correctly grasp the essence of people's lives and characters and their development and describe them in truthful detail.

If they are to represent life in depth in a realistic manner and describe truthfully the workers, peasants and other common people who are growing into revolutionaries through life and struggle, film artists must study reality and make an effort to experience life.

The sincere study and experience of real life is a prerequisite for film artists who wish to describe men and life truthfully in films. Without knowledge of the reality it is impossible to create a truthful representation.

If they wish to produce a film based on the revolutionary traditions, film artists should listen to many stories from anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters while studying materials, because they had no direct involvement in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. These

will be good materials for them. If they give deep study to materials about the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and combine meditation with research in their creative work they can produce good revolutionary films which reflect truthfully and in depth the heroic struggle of the anti-Japanese guerrillas and their worthy lives and noble mental world even though film artists have not experienced the revolutionary struggle directly.

I expect that you will produce many revolutionary films of great ideological and artistic value and thus make the great leader happy.

Korean Friendship Association (K.F.A)

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