

Original Paper

Analysis of Family Values of the Two Generations of Godfathers in the Film *The Godfather*

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Abstract

*The Mafia is a secret organization originated in Italy. Despite its notoriety in the world, there still are a great number of people who are interested in it. A large number of cultural works have been produced because of people's infatuation and curiosity about Mafia culture. Take the film of *The Godfather* as an example, which is produced in 1972. This film has not only influenced millions of people, but introduced Italy Sicilian's mafia culture to the whole world.*

*Indeed, people's stereotype for mafia is blood, cruelty and brutality, however, the mafia also has another rational and warm look. This paper aims to make a more in-depth analysis of the classic film *The Godfather* from a new perspective of "family values" by grasping the historical background, cultural environment of the film and the life and destiny of Italian immigrants at the end of the WW II. In the process of analysis, this paper focuses on grasping the communication and contact between the main characters in the film, and analyzes the family warmth and love revealed in it.*

Keywords

mafia, godfather, Sicily, family

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction of the Story

The *Godfather* is a movie of trilogy. The first part is about an alternation between the first godfather-Vito Corleone and the second godfather-Michael Corleone. The movie begins with Vito's daughter's wedding, which reveals the family structure and hints the characters' destinies. And to some extent, this wedding also witnesses the last prosperity of the family, as from that moment on, the Corleone family is gradually starting to wane.

Although the Corleone family is one of the biggest Mafia families in New York, it is very respectable, because the old godfather-Vito Corleone is a reasonable and wise man who does what he says and knows what is supposed to be done and what is not. For example, at the beginning of the film, a helpless father-Bonasera comes to Vito to ask him to do justice for his poor daughter who was hurt by two gangsters, but without getting a fair trial. Vito promises that the two bastards would be suffering after Bonasera asks Vito to be his friend and kisses Vito's hand. However, when Sollozzo, the drug dealer comes for negotiating about selling drugs together, Vito decidedly refuses, because he knows that drugs will ruin one's whole life and the politicians he supports will not agree with it. It is the rationality and warmth reflected in the film that differs *The Godfather* from other gangster films. As the founder of the Corleone family, Vito experienced many joys and sorrows in his life, including the happiness of family union and the sadness for losing his beloved son Sonny. Compared with the second godfather Michael, Vito's most time is relatively happy. At the end of *The Godfather I*, Vito passed away while playing with his grandson in the garden.

As for the second godfather Michael, he takes over Vito's position at the time when the family is in crisis although he never wants to do anything with the family business. In *The Godfather II* and *The Godfather III*, under Michael's leadership, the Corleone family overcomes a great number of difficulties and becomes more prosperous than that in Vito's period. "Michael is rational and has a keen insight into things. His gentle appearance and strong heart show that he has a strong adaptability for everything. Michael is very smart and he is a man of resource and astuteness possessing the personalities and characteristics that a family leader should has" (Yang Limin, 2016, pp. 37-39). It seems that Michael knows more about how to run Mafia business than his father. However, in the film, the audience can hardly see his smile, because he always felt regretted and sorry for what he has done. Indeed, the Corleone family becomes stronger due to his hard efforts, but he is never understood by some of his family members. At first, his brother Fredo betrays him and then his wife leaves him, because she could not bear the bloody and cruel life with Michael anymore. In spite of this, Michael still loves his family and tries his best to protect his family from getting hurt. In most of his life, Michael finds ways to legitimate his family business so as to make his family members live a decent life, but he failed in the end. There is no doubt that Michael is unfortunate in this tragic story, but his love and responsibility for the family is deeply reflected in this great film. As the second godfather, Michael experienced more sorrows than joys in his entire life and he passed away alone in a chair at the end of *The Godfather III*. All in all, his entire life is miserable but respectable.

1.2 Introduction of the Background

The story of the *Godfather Trilogy* takes place at the beginning of the American Renaissance after the World War II. It is a story of Mafia, which mainly tells the Italian immigrants' life in America. Vito Corleone is one of the first Italian immigrants who represent the traditional values that the Italians hold, which is faithful and loyal to their family. At that period, many Italian immigrants come to America to build their own Mafia organization, colluded with the police and politician. With the protection from

the American upper class, these mafias smuggle drugs, set up casinos and make huge profits. They set fire, rob openly as well as secretly, carrying out many organized criminal activities. American theorists have commented that the Mafia is a shadow government with great power.

Under that harsh social environment, the Corleone family inevitably becomes one of them. Although getting involved in the Mafia business and becoming the godfather is not Vito and Michel's first intention, they still take the responsibility of protecting their family without hesitation when their family is in crisis. This is not a simple obligation or mission, but a kind of family values attached in their flesh and blood.

In addition to the family values reflected in the film, another important theme that makes the film great is The American Dream. "The American Dream is an ideal of living a better life in the United States, meaning that people must prosper through their own diligence, courage, creativity, and determination, rather than relying on the assistance of specific social classes or others". (Luo Qianni, 2010) In *The Godfather I*, all of the Italian immigrants, including Vito Corleone are the first Italian immigrants. They hope to achieve their own American Dream of living a rich and happy life by their hardworking, honesty and bravery in America and they believe that America would make their dream realized as long as they work harder and obey the laws there. But most of them failed to realize it and were forced to choose another path in order to safeguard their family. As for Michael, he represents the second generation of Italian immigrants with both American and Italian characteristics. He is an ambitious young man who receives American-style education and voluntarily chooses to join the American navy to serve "his country". Michael is more inclined to the life of the middle and upper class in the legal world rather than gets involved in his father's business. He hopes to live a decent life and realizes The American Dream in his own way. However, he failed anyway like his father. When his family is in danger, the Italian characteristics of Michael drive him to instantly take the responsibility of guarding his family. And once he chooses to be the godfather, his American Dream is given up forever. As a matter of fact, neither Vito nor Michael wants to embark on the criminal road, but when their family is in danger, their attached family values drive them to defend and protect their family. The realization of The American Dream in this film is also a fallacy, as it is contradicted with the path they take. To some extent, the destiny of many Italian immigrants like the Corleone family at that time is not decided by themselves. Although some of them may have power and status, they must contribute and sacrifice to maintain their attached family values. After all, family is their permanent pursuit, which is what the great film tells us about.

2. Analysis of the Family Values in The Godfather

2.1 Analyze Vito Corleone's Family Values

Vito Corleone is the first godfather. In the film, "Vito Corleone has a positive and optimistic side to both family and social life. With his tough character, strong ability and unyielding spirit, he constantly pursues money, power and status. The most impressive characteristics of him are his behavior of

strongly protecting his family and his spirit of bravely fighting against his enemies who attempts to hurt his family” (Yang Limin, 2016, pp. 37-39).

2.1.1 Vito’s Family Values in His Younger Years

Vito Corleone’s parents and brother were killed when he was young, so he did not enjoy much family love in his early years. After coming to America, Vito marries his wife and has three lovely children. He lives an ordinary but happy life in America, loving his family, working hard and obeying the laws. As a man who loses his parents and brother very early, Vito does cherish his family very much and he even cannot help weeping when his son Fredo suffers from pneumonia. From that sense, Vito’s family values can be reflected as care and love for his son. Just like the first Italian immigrants’ pursuit for American dream, Vito strives to make a living for his family and never wants to do anything illegal or dishonorable until his job is taken by an Italian mafia’s nephew. After experiencing too many injustices and hardships, Vito’s unemployment serves as a trigger which provokes his defiance for the suffering life has brought to him. And he determines to protect his family in his own way. From that moment on, Vito Corleone’s American dream is gradually falling apart and he decides to achieve his dream as well as make his family feel safe and comfortable through an illegal way. Vito’s compromise not only refers to the collapse of his belief in American dream, but also shows his deep love to his family. Vito loves his family so much that he always spends much time with his wife and children even when he becomes the godfather.

The prosperity and abundance Vito achieved in New York does not fade his hatred for his enemy who killed Vito’s mother in front of him, because he is a man who always keeps his families in mind. Therefore, after Vito makes a name for himself, he immediately takes his revenge on the mafia who killed his parents and brother, which reflects from the side that Vito always puts his family in the first place at any time.

2.1.2 Vito’s Family Values in His Older Years

During Vito’s older years, compared with his younger days, his personality and character changed a little. After witnessing and experiencing so many sufferings in the Mafia world in the first half of his life, Vito’s love for his family becomes deeper and he cherishes the precious time that he spends with his families even more. This change can also reflect his family values in various aspects.

At the beginning of the film, it is about Vito’s daughter Connie’s wedding. When the family prepares to take a picture together, Vito does not find his youngest son Michael, so he says that “I am not taking the picture without Michael”. His statement clearly shows his family values, which is about reunion: All of the family members should be together, especially on the big day of one family member’s. Besides, in his office, Vito implies to his oldest son Sonny that “a man who does not spend time with his family can never be a real man,” while having a conversation with his godson. From which, we could further understand Vito’s family values as well as his expectation for Sonny that he should spend time with his family no matter how busy he is. Vito is clearly aware of the fact that Sonny would soon take over the responsibility from him and become the second godfather, but he hopes Sonny could also inherit his

family values. That is what Vito Corleone is doing over his entire life. Connie's wedding ends with an exquisite dance with her father, which to some extent shows Vito's deep love and best wishes for his daughter. And this scene seems to be the warmest scene among the Corleone family in the film. After that, the family would undergo many challenges.

When Vito got shot and the family was becoming increasingly shaky, his love for the family, especially for his youngest Michael is clearly reflected. It is the second time Vito cries in the trilogy when Michael comes to hospital and protects him. From which, we can see that this mafia film reflects a kind of deep family love. Vito has been fighting in his whole life to protect his family and then he is protected by his son when his safety is threatened. Another plot of the film that also shows Vito's love to Michael: when Vito returns home from hospital, he learns from Tom that it is Michael who killed his enemy Sollozzo. At that moment, Vito's sadness and helplessness was clearly demonstrated, because his dream and expectation for Michael are completely broken. Vito knows that Michael is an ambitious man who has lofty ideas and pursuit, and he never wants Michael to get engaged in the family business. Although being the respected godfather with great power, Vito is manipulated by the politicians in his whole life. Therefore, he wishes Michael could become senator Corleone or governor Corleone one day, being a man of real power and realizing the legalization of the family business. From which, we can deeply understand that Vito's love for his families is not only reflected in the accumulation of wealth and prosperity, but also in the improvement of the social status.

As for another family member Tom, Vito never regards him as just a consultant in the family, but as his family member. From their daily conversation to interaction, the audience can feel the closeness and love between them. Vito always loves Tom as same as he loves his other children. From which, the Italian's family values in Vito is clearly shown. That is the impartial love for all the family members.

In retrospect, Vito's life is meaningful but tragic, which represents most of the first Italian immigrations in America at that time. With his strong belief in American dream and its justice system, Vito once tried to protect his family and to realize his own American dream by his diligence, courage, creativity and willpower. However, when he is betrayed by the belief he holds, Vito desperately starts to pursue fortune, power and social status, intending to realize American dream in his own way. There is no doubt that Vito is very successful as the godfather who is respected and loved by his families, friends and even enemies.

Compared with the second godfather Michael, Vito enjoys much more love, respect and warmth in his family. As the godfather, Vito always spends a great number of time dealing with the gang affairs, but he still makes efforts to spend time with his family and refuses to miss any of his family member's important events, for example, Vito's dance with his daughter at the beginning of the film and his leisure time with his grandson at the end of the film, from all these plots, it can be concluded that Vito is not only a cold-blooded and ruthless godfather but is more a great father and husband who just wants to safeguard his family.

It is hard to judge Vito's decision for being the godfather of the Mafia, but Vito's fate is also an epitome of tens of thousands of the first Italian immigrants who strives to protect their family's interests and dignity under that dark circumstances.

2.2 Analyze Michael Corleone's Family Values

"Michael represents the second generation of Italian immigrants: they have become American citizens since birth, and indirectly inherited the characters of Italians from their previous generation. Therefore, they have American and Italian dual cultural characteristics" (Gu Bo, 2010).

At first, Michael is an ambitious, innocent, and upstanding young man who has a firm belief in America. He joins the American navy to serve his country in the WW II, falling in love with an American girl and longing for the realization of his American dream. Michael never wants to get involved in the Mafia business. At the start of the film there was a conversation between Michael and his girlfriend Kay and Michael says that this is my family, Kay, not me, which clearly shows his attitude towards the family business. However, when his family is in crisis, Michael stands out to take the responsibility of protecting his family from getting hurt without hesitation, because the family values are deeply rooted in Michael's mind, as much as his father's.

In the trilogy, Michael is the most sympathetic figure, because he gives up everything, including his cherished American dream to safeguard his family, but his efforts for the family are hardly understood by some of his beloved families.

As the second godfather, Michael has gained some accomplishments: his business is becoming more and more successful and his family overcomes lots of crisis and develops in a good direction under his leadership. During the process, Michael's deep love for his family is reflected incisively and vividly. To make the readers have a more comprehensive understanding of Michael's family values, this paper will further discuss Michael Corleone's family values through his love for his father, mother, brothers and sister as well as his wives and children.

2.2.1 Michael's Love for His Father

As the youngest son of the old godfather, Michael enjoys much more love from his father than his sister and brothers. No matter what he decides to do, Vito would not turn it down, including his decision of joining the navy. Although Michael does not want to inherit his father's business at all in the first place, which can be reflected from his conversation with Kay, Michael also has a deep love for his father. When he read the news that Vito was assassinated, he immediately called his brother and asked about his father's condition with full of concern and anxiety. As Vito's enemies come to murder him, Michael pretends to be the body guard to protect his father with the help of a nurse. From these plots, it is reflected that Michael's love for his father triumphs over his fear for death and his unwillingness of participating the Mafia business.

In another plot, of the film, in order to ensure his father's safety, Michael decides to kill Sollozzo and the policeman. It is a kind of contradiction and change for Michael. The audience can conclude from Michael's decision that he would voluntarily abandon his innocence and hope for becoming a decent

American citizen to keep his father safe. It is true that Michael's decision is criminal and illegal, but his deep love for his father is also great in the film.

For both Vito and Michael, their fate is doomed at the moment they choose to become the godfather, so they always share the same feelings. In the film, Vito is the one who has the most frequent conversation with Michael and he feels much sympathy for Michael, because they both have no choice but to accept their fate: becoming the godfather and sparing no efforts to take care of their family members when they are in trouble. This is kind of Italian heroism to some degree. Michael always feels peaceful when he talks to his father. And he feels extremely lonely when his father passed away, because there are no one in the world could ever fully understand him anymore.

In conclusion, Michael's love for his father is implicitly but deeply presented in the process of their conversation and interaction.

2.2.2 Michael's Love for His Mother

Michael's mother rarely appears in the film, and there is hardly interaction between Michael and his mother. As a traditional Sicilian woman, the only thing Michael's mother could do is to give understanding and support to her family, to pray for her husband and children and wish them to be safe. Michael's love for his mother is presented more in the accompany and support for her.

2.2.3 Michael's Love for His Brothers

Michael has three brothers altogether: Sonny, Fredo and Tom. Sonny, as the oldest son in the Corleone family, is expected to be the second godfather after Vito. Although Sonny is characterized by rudeness and recklessness, Michael always respects and loves him doubtlessly. Sonny is very angry and tries to fight with Michael when he hears Michael's decision for enlisting the American Navy, because their father has a high expectation for Michael. Nevertheless, Michael does not bear grudges against his brother at all. When Michael is about to revenge his family's enemies, Sonny and he hug each other for a long time, which shows the warmth and love between these two brothers. No matter what unpleasant things happened between them, their attached family values always drives them united in the critical period.

For Michael's second eldest brother Fredo, he is kind and timid, but neglected by the family. Fredo is unsatisfied with his position in the family and always has the ambition to make a name for himself, which paves the way for his later betray to the family. Although being head of the Corleone family, Michael does not change his love and respect for Fredo at all until Fredo betrays to the family. When Fredo tries to persuade Michael to live in harmony with Moe in order to safeguard Moe's benefits, Michael just warns him a little rather than blaming him too much, but when Michael knows that Fredo betrays the family again by conspiring with Hymen Ross, Michael's heart is completely broken at that moment. "In the film, after hearing the news, Michael's series of performances shows his inner grief. First, he lowered his eyes to show the complexity of his heart. Then he subconsciously turned around to show that he didn't want to accept the reality. Finally, he pressed his temple with his hand to show that the impact of the news on his heart was unbearable. The series of actions show Mike Corleone's

disappointment, helplessness and sadness” (Wei Shenyi, 2015, pp. 31-33). Michael’s behaviors not only show his absolute disappointment, but also reflect from the side that he has deep feelings for his second eldest brother, blood is thicker than water after all.

Nevertheless, in order to safeguard Corleone family’s interests and dignity, Michael gives order to kill Fredo in the end, which casts a shadow over his entire life. From this, it can be concluded that “in Michael’s mind, family business is much more important than everything including his strong brotherhood” (Wei Shenyi, 2015, pp. 31-33). Actually, Michael’s murder of his brother does not conflict with his caring about his family, because the family values he holds make him focused on the big picture first, which is the Corleone family’s interests and dignity.

Tom is Michael’s another brother and they have very deep relationship with each other. Tom plays a key role in the prosperity of Corleone family. His excellent wisdom and strategy help the Corleone family to overcome one difficulty after another in the course of the family’s prosperity. Tom is well respected and loved by all of the family members, and his position is more than a consultant in the family. Michael always shows his respect as well love to Tom no matter what his status changes. In *The Godfather II*, in order to find out the traitor, Michael gives the complete control of the family to Tom, trusting him with the lives of Michael’s wife, children and the future of the family, which truly reflects his deep love and admiration to Tom. Tom is Vito’s adopted son, but this identity does not influence his loyalty and love for the family.

2.2.4 Michael’s Love for His Sister

Michael’s sister Connie is the princess of the Corleone family and she enjoys all the joys and love from the family. She rarely participates in the family business and she should have lived a happy life if her husband had not betrayed the family. In the film, after getting the information of Carlo’s betrayal to the family, which is also the cause of Sonny’s death, Michael kills Carlo without even telling Connie.

Indeed, Carlo’s death is not worth of sympathy, because he betrays the family and murders Sonny indirectly as well as utilizes violence against his wife Connie. But Connie loves her husband deeply, regardless of his bad behavior. Thus, to some extent, it would be better to say Michael’s murder of Carlo is immoral and cold-blooded than that his murder is a revenge for the loss of family’s benefits and Sonny’s death. Connie hates Michael for a long time for what he has done and she even chooses to hurt herself to disappoint Michael. But in the end, given her love and concern to the family, Connie returns back to the family to help Michael to deal with the family affairs.

Doubtlessly, Michael’s love and care for Connie is incomparable, but as the head of the family he has to safeguard the family dignity and interests, so Michael has no choice but to kill Carlo.

During his lifetime, Michael witnesses the death of his family members one by one, but Connie is the only family member who accompanies with Michael until the last stage of his life. Therefore, the audience could see that Michael and Connie both support and love each other with all their hearts.

2.2.5 Michael's Love for His Wives

In the film, Michael marries two wives successively. The first one is Apollonia, a Sicilian girl. They meet in Corleone village, Sicily where Michael hides from his enemies. Michael spends his happiest days with Apollonia there without caring about Mafia business or other complex affairs. Unfortunately, Apollonia is murdered by an accident in the end. After many years, Michael still misses her now and then, because the simple and happy life with Apollonia is what he expects most.

Michael's second wife is Kay, an American girl, exactly representing his expectation and pursuit for the American dream. At the beginning of the film, the Corleone family is about to take a picture together, Michael pulls his girlfriend Kay to join them, which not only shows his affection to Kay, but also reflects that he is a family-conscious man.

At first, the relationship between Michael and Kay is full of love, warmth and promise, because both of them stick to the American values and have a common plan towards their future. However, as the situation of his family is getting tough, Michael's Italian characteristics is awakened and he does not hesitate to take over to be the second godfather. As Michael is involved in the family business, he spends less time with Kay and their children than before, which alienates him from Kay. Their interaction decreases, but misunderstanding and dispute increase gradually. But Michael still loves his wife like always. As the protector of the family, sometimes Michael has to fight against his enemies with some illegal and brutal means in order to ensure his family's safety, which would be unacceptable to Kay though.

As the second godfather, Michael spends his entire life to legitimate his family business, so that he could live a happy and decent life with his family, and he makes a great deal of promises to Kay many times that their bright future will be achieved soon. But none of his promises are fulfilled; on the contrary, Kay is increasingly exhausted and feels disappointed in him.

In the *Godfather II*, Michael's marriage begins to collapse piece by piece. "His wife Kay is a typical American woman who lacks the tradition of Italian women's loyalty to the family, which shows that American society emphasizes the importance of self-worth, and to some extent coincides with the radical feminism at that time. Mike originally believes that Kay's abortion leads to the cracks in the marriage. When Kay indicates that she chooses abortion out of her own will, the marriage symbolizing cultural integration comes to an end" (Gu Bo, 2010). Although Michael loves Kay with all his heart, abortion symbolizes evil in Italian culture and there is no way he could forgive Kay. Their marriage is dissolved, but the love between them does not disappear. When they are both getting old, they choose to compromise to each other. For instance, when they meet each other in a ball, Michael express his hope of rebuilding the relationship with Kay and Kay comes to visit Michael when he is sick. Another plot is that when Michael and Kay come to the Corleone village for their son's concert, Michael takes a ride with Kay like they used to do during their youth. And they communicate with each other for a long time. It seems that after these years, all the misunderstandings between them are gone. All of these reflect that Michael always loves Kay no matter what happened between them.

Actually, their marriage is doomed to be a tragedy when Michael takes over the family business, because Michael is born in a Mafia family with Italian blood in his flesh and bone and he would spare no efforts to protect his family whenever is necessary, but Kay is a typical American girl with her pursuit for freedom, equivalence and justice. And she cannot accept or understand Michael's deeds to protect his family. Nevertheless, the love between them never vanish, and it just hides deeply in their heart.

2.2.6 Michael's Love for His Children

For Michael's son Anthony, just like Michael in his youth, sticks to his own dream and do not want to take the family business. At the beginning of the *Godfather III*, Kay asks Michael to let Anthony make his own choice about his career. Although Michael wants Anthony to finish his law degree so that he could be helpful to the family business, Anthony chooses to pursue his music dream anyway. The contradiction between them ends with Michael's compromise.

Michael deeply loves Anthony and does not want him to experience the bitterness that he experienced before, so he chooses to respect Anthony's choice and supports his dream ultimately.

For his daughter Mary, she is as beautiful as her mother. Michael loves her so much that he would give her everything she wants as long as she feels happy. However, in the *Godfather III*, when Vincent and Mary fall in love with each other, Michael is strongly opposed to their relationship and asks Vincent to stay away from his daughter, because Vincent will become the third godfather after him and Michael knows exactly how dangerous it would be for Mary by then. What Michael intends to do is not damage the relationship between Vincent and Mary, but protect his daughter, but Mary still cannot understand that. From this aspect, the audience can not only feel Michael's deep love for his daughter as an ordinary father, but also feel his helplessness for being cold and cruel to his beloved daughter.

In the end of the film, Mary is killed in a murder. Michael tries so hard to protect his daughter, but Mary still becomes the victim in the Mafia's fighting. At that moment, Michael's heart is totally broken and at the same time, his last wish to legitimate his family business is completely shattered.

3. Conclusion

Family is an eternal topic all over the world and men are always considered as the backbone of the family, which is also the truth for Corleone family.

Where there is family, there is responsibility. Being the man with power does not mean he has much less responsibility to take, but more, because the greater capacity means the greater responsibility. Vito Corleone starts from scratch, establishing the enormous business emperor with unremitting efforts, taking good care of his family. We can feel tenderness as well as rationality in him, because Vito wins the esteem from his families, friends and enemies by giving the respect back.

For Vito, being the godfather does not mean he will give up his family, on the contrary, he spends much more time with his family, as he believes that a man who does not spend time with his family can never be a real man. Besides, he always separates his family from his work, and he never talks about the

Mafia businesses at the food table.

In Vito's whole life, he just wants to protect and provide his family, which is the common wish for most fathers in the world.

For Michael Corleone, although becoming the second godfather is not Michael's first intention, he still chooses to continue his father's business when his family is in trouble. This is because Michael's dual personalities and characteristics that drive him to do so. "In Italian culture, the absence of the father means the collapse of the family" (Gu Bo, 2010). Therefore, when his father was murdered and his family in the edge of falling apart, Michael's Italian characteristics and personalities are evoked, which also means the death of his American dream.

As he says to Kay in *The Godfather III*, he spends his whole life protecting his family. Michael does what he says, but his life is still full of tragedy, regret and self-accusation, because he has done too many things that are against his initial will. In addition to endure his psychological torture, Michael must also face the misunderstandings from his family. He should have been a smart, integrity and promising young man with a happy life, but he still chooses to take the heavier responsibility without any hesitation when his family is in danger.

After becoming the godfather, he has tried many times to change his life track, to legitimate the family business, but failed all the time. "Director Coppola has such a perfect explanation for the tragedy of Mike Corleone. He said that Mike's affairs can be compared to our new world. Mike himself can be compared to a young man who was once pure and intelligent. As a child of the old world, he once naively wanted to correct the mistakes of his predecessors, but in the end, his hands were stained with blood and he deceived his crimes with excuses, so he became a more vicious man" (Zong Niya, 2015, pp. 10-20). Although this trilogy tells a Mafia family story that is glutted with blood and violence, there is love and warmth in it. And it is the family values reflected in the film that make it classic as well as unique in the film history.

Whether for Vito or Michael, when they choose to be the godfather, they also choose the road of desperate and loneliness, and they may not be understood or accepted by some of their family members, but they both love their families with all their heart. There is an eternal theme sticks around the trilogy, which is the family and love.

To sum up, *The Godfather Trilogy* is a tragic story that consists of brutality as well as warmth. The two generations of the godfathers in the film are Italian style heroes who bear all the sufferings and bitterness along their path to protect their families. Their attached family values are the spirit of this great film.

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