

Student's Name

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Course

Date

Media Analysis

The first season of Empire drama series was premiered on Fox on January 7, 2015, and till March 18, 2015. The show was aired on Fox on Wednesdays at 9.00 PM ET (Fox, 2015). The 12 episodes American Television series, centers on an entertainment company, The Empire Entertainment Company. It is a family business making lots of profit from signing in popular musicians and hip-hop artists as well as recordings from talented family members. Each of the family members fights for control over the company. The main casts in the movie are a divorced couple Lucious Lyon and his ex-wife Cookie Lyon. The couple has three sons Andre (oldest son and married to Rhonda), Jamal (middle son), and Hakeem Lyon (Fox, 2015). Lucious and Cookie spent most of their early lives in drug dealing until Cookie was imprisoned. Although the family was living in poverty, they had ambitions to prosper in the music industry. They were a happy family always protecting and encouraging each other until Cookie was imprisoned (Fox, 2015).

The interaction in the Empire Series is family-based. The ambitions and fight for control over The Empire Company bring the interactions in the family (IMDb, 2015). While in jail, the interaction between Cookie, Lucious, and their sons are minimal. After the release of Cookie from jail, her relationship with her ex-husband Lucious is business-centered until episode 7, where it becomes intimate (Fox, 2015). Although the divorced couple tries to keep their relationship business-wise, it is clear Lucious loves Cookie. Their three sons bring them together.

They often organize family dinners. Also, Jamal and Hakeem musical performances bring Cookie and Lucious together on many occasions.

Cookie loves her sons even after 17 years of imprisonment and less interaction with them. She tries to build a new relationship. She manages to win back Jamal's and Andre's love, but Hakeem resents her, but later he accepts her. Lucious allows Cookie to be the manager of Jamal. She, therefore, interacts more with Jamal, more than any of her sons. The good relationship between Jamal and his mother, makes Cookie favor him as the future boss of The Empire Company (IMDb, 2015). Interactions between Lucious and his sons are mostly in the recording studio, at live performances, and at family dinners. He seems to be more aggressive to his sons. Lucious dislikes Jamal because he is gay, hence less interacts with him. He resents his oldest son Andre for marrying a white lady, and he doesn't have musical talent like the rest of the family. He seems to have a close relationship with Hakeem than any of the other two sons. In addition, the three brothers seem to have a close relationship, although sometimes struggle over company control breaks the relationship. They less spend time with each other unless on their company's projects.

SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY focuses on the outcomes of a relationship. It states that individuals in a relationship continually assess whether the relationship they are in is giving them more or at least equal to what they are giving (Lawler, 2001). Costs include sacrificing individual interests in the sake of the other or poor communication. Benefits involve sharing common interests, being understood, and companionship (Lawler, 2001). **SOCIAL EXCHANGE THEORY** explains the aggressiveness of Cookie after being released from prison in the Empire series. She sacrificed her freedom by selling drugs to fulfill her husband's dream of recording hip-hop music. Cookie expects her husband care, encouragement, and frequent

visits while in prison. Lucious fails to meet Cookie expectations and neglects her. He later divorces her while she is in prison. After release, Cookie fights for her rights hence the aggressiveness.

ATTACHMENT THEORY states that early relationships, especially childhood relationships, shape and influence future relationships. It describes the nature of child's initial experiences of bonding or lack of it with his/her guardians that affects later adulthood relationships and attachments (Snyder & Lopez, 2007). **ATTACHMENT THEORY** explains Lucious less emotional attachment with his sons and wife. Lucious grew up as an orphan and had to strive to survive. He had no an attachment figure to learn from. Lucious puts his entertainment company as a priority over his family. He is not able to maintain a relationship with his wife Cookie while in prison and neglects her. He gives less emotional attention to his sons, instead he is determined to make them future bosses of his company.

UNCERTAINTY REDUCTION THEORY states that human beings try to reduce uncertainty about others by learning about them. When one learns more about someone, they can predict their behaviors more easily (Lopez & Snyder, 2007). The theory can explain the resentments and rejection of Cookie by Hakeem, her youngest son. After being away for 17 years, Cookie is uncertain whether she will win her son's love back. Although, Jamal and Andre accept her back, Hakeem rejects her. Cookie tries to reduce the uncertainty by learning more about Hakeem. She spends time with him wherever she gets a chance to. Lucious asks Hakeem to respect his mother. Although it takes time for the two to learn each other, the relationship is restored.

Works Cited

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