|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| NAME OF THEORY: | Todorov Narratology theory |  |
| What does this theory state? | 5 step narrative:  1) Equilibrium  2) Disruption of Equilibrium  3) Recognition of Disruption  4) Attempt to repair damage  5) New Equilibrium |  |
| First example: | The narrative of the stolen weapons:   1. Normal way the gang makes money – gambling, horse betting etc. 2. Tommy’s men stole the wrong cargo – they are now in possession of state weapons 3. Aunt Polly finds out and gets Tommy to promise to dump them somewhere to be found 4. Tommy devises a plan to return the weapons 5. He reveals last minute that he wants to keep them | The ‘new equilibrium’ of Tommy keeping the weapons can be argued to not be equilibrium, as the storyline seems to continue beyond the first episode; it seems to be more of a cliff-hanger. |
| Second example: | The narrative of the arrival of Major Campbell (the officer)   1. The scene of him in the carriage, seeing the state of society in Birmingham 2. He starts to establish authority – finds Arthur and interrogates him about the weapons 3. Arthur reports back to the family on Campbell’s intentions 4. Campbell gives a speech to the city’s corrupt officers and solidifies his authority 5. Campbell brings in his own men that will now take charge/positions | Tied in with the narrative of Tommy and the stolen weapons – as he is searching for them. |
| What conclusions can we draw from trying to apply this theory to Peaky Blinders? | Overall, the 5-step narrative generally applies to the story of Peaky Blinders, as it can be applied to some of the different plot points.  The narratives can also be shown over several episodes, leaving the audience engaged as they want to know the ‘resolution’ to a narrative; the new equilibrium. | However, as Peaky Blinders is a long form TV drama, many narratives are carried over episodes and so it can be hard to establish all 5 steps to the equilibrium in one episode. |

PEAKY BLINDERS: MEDIA LANGUAGE THEORY