

**Acts of Translation:  
Young People, American Teen  
Dramas, and Australian Television  
1992 – 2004**

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## ***Key Words***

Teen Dramas

*Dawson's Creek*

*Heartbreak High*

American Television Programs

Television Scheduling

Youth

Australian Television Broadcasting

Network Ten

Yuri Lotman

Translation

Semiosphere

Televisuality

Narrative Transparency

## ***Abstract***

The thesis examines American teen dramas on Australian television in the period 1992 to 2004. It explores the use of the genre by broadcasters and its uptake by teenagers in an environment where American popular culture has frequently been treated with suspicion and where there are perennial arguments about the Americanisation of youth and their vulnerability to cultural imperialism. The thesis argues concerns about Americanisation and cultural imperialism in relation to youth culture, young people and the media are misplaced. American teen dramas are investigated as an example of the ways imported programs are made to cohere with national logics within the Australian mediasphere (Hartley, 1996). Utilising Yuri Lotman's (1990) theory of cultural 'translation' this thesis argues teen dramas are evidence of dynamic change within the system of television and that this change does not result in a system dominated by imported product, but rather a system that situates foreign programming amongst domestic frames of reference.

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction: American Teen Dramas and the Trouble of Cultural Change.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>The Teen Drama</i> .....	2
<i>Televisuality</i> .....	8
<i>Network Ten</i> .....	12
<i>Americanisation</i> .....	13
<i>Young People</i> .....	14
<i>The Semiosphere and Translation</i> .....	16
<i>Research Method</i> .....	22
<i>Design of Study</i> .....	25
<i>Transparent Texts</i> .....	27
<i>Broadcast Institutions</i> .....	31
<i>Teenage Viewers</i> .....	37
<i>Chapter Outline</i> .....	40
<b>Chapter One: Youth, Media and Americanisation .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<i>Introduction</i> .....	43
<i>Brainwashed by Americanisms</i> .....	45
<i>Australian Experiences of Americanisation</i> .....	51
<i>The Youth Market</i> .....	56
<i>Examining American Media Flows</i> .....	60
<i>Yuri Lotman, Translation and the Semiosphere</i> .....	71
<i>The Semiosphere as a Model for Meaning Systems</i> .....	77
<i>Youth as a Site for Translation</i> .....	82
<i>Conclusion</i> .....	86
<b>Chapter Two: Narrative Transparency and the Form of Teen Drama.....</b>	<b>88</b>
<i>Introduction</i> .....	88
<i>Narrative Transparency and Mythotypic Texts</i> .....	89
<i>Narrative Transparency and the Teen Drama</i> .....	98
<i>Dawson’s Creek as Narratively Transparent</i> .....	101
<i>Narrative Transparency and International Success</i> .....	124
<i>Heartbreak High: Narrative Transparency and National Specificity</i> .....	125
<i>Complementary Narratives about Youth</i> .....	140
<i>Textuality, Broadcasters and Translation</i> .....	146
<b>Chapter Three: Network Ten and the creation of a youth broadcaster .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<i>Introduction</i> .....	148
<i>Network Ten: Branding (for) Youth</i> .....	151
<i>Industrial Crisis and Target Markets</i> .....	155
<i>Programming for “youth”</i> .....	158

<i>Ten's Programming Strategies</i> .....	160
<i>Scheduling for Youth – Counter Programming</i> .....	168
<i>A Space for Youth: Buffy vs. Dawson's Creek</i> .....	176
<i>Counter Programming: Industrial Discourse as Techniques of Uptake</i> .....	181
<i>Continuity Material and Channel Branding</i> .....	183
<i>Imagining the Medium, Imagining the Nation</i> .....	187
<i>Ten as Youth Space: Essence, Location, Community</i> .....	191
<i>Privileging Images of Youth as Fun</i> .....	205
<i>Conclusion: Ten as a Translative Site</i> .....	208
<b>Chapter Four: Americanisation and the Translative Audience</b> .....	<b>213</b>
<i>Introduction</i> .....	213
<i>Focus group participants</i> .....	214
<i>Groups</i> .....	219
<i>Rationale</i> .....	225
<i>Factors Shaping Engagement: Realness, Cultural Distance and Genre</i> .....	229
<i>Dawson's Creek: Male Viewers</i> .....	232
<i>Dawson's Creek: Female Viewers</i> .....	238
<i>Heartbreak High</i> .....	244
<i>Aspirational Viewing and Cultural Sophistication</i> .....	249
<i>Conclusion</i> .....	263
<b>Conclusion: Translation, National Broadcasting and 'Foreign' Texts</b> .....	<b>265</b>
<i>Translation, Narrative Transparency and the Broadcast System</i> .....	265
<i>Broadcast Systems, Televisuality, and the Australian Television Aesthetic</i> .....	268
<i>Network Ten and the Creation of a Youth Space</i> .....	271
<i>Americanisation as a Practice of Narrative Accrual</i> .....	273
<i>National Television in a Post-Broadcast Environment</i> .....	278
<b>Appendix I: Timeline of Youth Dramas in Australia</b> .....	<b>282</b>
<b>Appendix II: Part Transcription of <i>Heartbreak High</i>, Episode #192</b> .....	<b>284</b>
<b>Appendix III: Transcript of "Yellow" Ident, Network Ten - 2002</b> .....	<b>290</b>
<b>Appendix IV: Transcript of "The O.C." Ident, Network Ten - 2004</b> .....	<b>293</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>294</b>

## **Tables and Figures**

Table 1.1: Binary Conceptions I	47
Table 1.2: Binary Conceptions II	60
Table 1.3: Binary Conceptions III	83
Table 2.1: Comparing the Narrative Transparency of <i>Dawson's Creek</i> and <i>Heartbreak High</i>	100
Table 2.2: Representations of Youthfulness, Comparing <i>Heartbreak High</i> and <i>Dawson's Creek</i>	141
Table 3.1: Most Important Categories of Programming – 5pm to Midnight	161
Table 3.2: Share Figures (%) Friday, November 29 1991, Brisbane Market	170
Table 3.3: Share Figures (%) Friday, November 27 1992, Brisbane Market	171
Table 3.4: Prime Time Schedule (6-10:30pm) Thursday, May 17 2001	173
Table 3.5: Ratings Figures 7pm, Thursday, May 17 2001, Brisbane Market	174
Table 3.6: Ten's Idents 1996-2004	191
Table 3.7: "Give Me Ten" Idents	193
Table 4.1: Group Breakdown by School and Gender	215
Table 5.1: Binaries of Youth and Cultural Identity	277
Figure 2.1: Heartbreak High Character Timelines	137
Figure 3.1: Share Figures (%) Comparison, 1991 & 1992, Brisbane Market	171
Figure 3.2: Ten Logo as Window to Youth Culture	196
Figure 3.3: The Ten Logo as Pushbuttons	197
Figure 3.4: Bert's Bubble (A)	199
Figure 3.5: Bert's Bubble (B)	199
Figure 3.6: Bert's Bubble (C), Seriously	199
Figure 3.7: Clapper - 19.4 Sec	200
Figure 3.8: Kissing - 19.5 Sec	200
Figure 3.9: Kissing Through Frame - 19.6 Sec	200
Figure 3.10: Watching Through Frame - 20.2 Sec	200
Figure 3.11: "Summer Of Love"	202
Figure 3.12: "All I Need Is You"	202
Figure 3.13: "Summer Of Love"	204
Figure 3.14: "All I Need Is You"	204
Figure 3.15: <i>The O.C.</i> is Coming	207
Figure 3.16: To Ten	207
Figure 3.17: Teen Drama History	207
Figure 3.18: Soon to Tuesdays	207
Figure 3.19: New but Old Drama	207
Figure 3.20: <i>The O.C.</i> will be Here Soon	207

## ***Statement of Original Authorship***

The work contained in this thesis has not been previously submitted for a degree or diploma at any other higher education institutions. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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