

Sex, Subjectivity and Violence in *Bad Guy*, *The Coast Guard*, *Samaritan Girl*

Emma Chun-yu Liu/ National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

Abstract

In the Korean director Kim Ki-duk's three films: *Bad Guy* (2001), *The Coast Guard* (2002) and *Samaritan Girl* (2004), the main woman characters coincidentally has one thing in common, that is, their behavior are all related to sex. As Laura Mulvey has brilliantly claimed, women on the movie screen are the object watched by male audience, the female characters in these films could also be perceived as objects. It is because they are not only watched by the male audience, but also the male characters in the movies. Either forced to be prostitutes, or self-willingly to offer sex to men, the female protagonists also seem to be in a position of object or victim when compared with the more active or controlling male characters. However, all three female protagonists could be viewed as owning a unique kind of subjectivity or agency, though this kind of subjectivity and agency is entangled with violence. That is, although these characters might be criticized to be a negative representation, what the characters did and in the films has shown and also brought the possibility of a different kind of subjectivity and agency.

Keywords: women, subjectivity, Kim Ki-duk