Han Phung ENGL110 Prof. Austin Williams March 18, 2024

## Unifying Themes in the Works of Christopher Nolan

Christopher Nolan is one of the most admired directors in modern movie history. He is known for using complex stories, beautiful visuals, and important themes to keep people interested in his movies. As an artist, Nolan has made many films that look into the complicated nature of being human and question the usual ways that stories are told. This essay will look at three of Nolan's movies from the point of view of observation to find a theme that connects them all.

Christopher Nolan's study of "The Fragility of Reality" goes beyond stories and into the very core of what it means to be human. Nolan's movies are like intellectual places where the idea of reality is open and can change based on how we see things and how complicated our thoughts are. People who see Nolan's movies have to choose between the natural world and the dream world.

Some of Nolan's movies, like "Inception," have so detailed storylines that it is hard to tell the difference between dreams and real life. Nolan changes the idea of time in the dream world to show how changeable reality is. This makes it seem like our view of the world is wrong and subjective. This movie by Nolan looks at how memory can be lost and how that can change how we see the world. Some parts of the story are told at different times, which helps readers understand how the main character, Leonard Shelby, feels because he cannot make new memories. As seen in his movie "The Prestige," Nolan also looks at how technology can change how people see things and how lies can be told. The magical world in this movie is a metaphor for how false life is and what you see changes based on how you look at it. Alfred Borden and Robert Angier's fight in Nolan's movie is used to show how different people see what is true. After reading this story, People think about what they know about the real world.

The way Christopher Nolan handles the ideas in "The Fragility of Reality" shows how good a writer he is and how he can make people think about their lives. Because of the director, we should know that reality is not set in stone but changes based on our memories, dreams, and experiences.

In "Inception (2010)," Nolan takes the audience into the darkest parts of the mind. There, experts are told to put an idea in someone's thoughts. The movie is mostly about how dreams can change reality. The main character, Dom Cobb, lives with his problems and tries to tell the difference between his honest and imagined thoughts.

Nolan uses beautiful pictures and a problematic story structure to make people think deeply about reality and how our views change over time. People who liked the movie always think about the famous spinning top ending. This makes them think about how confusing the ending is, leading to endless conversations about what Cobb is like.

The movie "Memento" came out in 2000. Christopher Nolan set up the story of "Memento" as if it were a book to show how difficult Leonard Shelby, the movie's main character, is thinking. Leonard can only remember things for short amounts of time, so he goes to a world where time is broken and memories are short. By showing a bunch of random scenes opposite to what happened, Nolan can pull viewers into Leonard's wild world and make it hard to tell the difference between dreams and reality.

Nolan does a great job of showing how memories can be wrong and how reality is constantly changing as Leonard struggles with his job and tries to figure out what happened with his wife's death. Fans are asked to think about how accurate their readings are by the film's non-linear story, which is meant to show how Leonard's thinking is broken. Every scene in Leonard's search for the truth is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. You must put the story pieces back together and find the hidden truth.

If "Memento" goes beyond telling a story and looks at memory, perception, and truth, it makes us think seriously about the essential things about being human. People are captivated by Nolan's movies, which have complicated plots and well-told stories that make people think about the essential nature of reality long after the movie is over.

Christopher Nolan is great at making movies with harrowing stories that look into deep parts of the mind and how we see the world. This is shown very well in "The Prestige (2006)." The movie is set in fancy London in the 1800s, and it does an excellent job of transporting viewers to a world where lies are shared, and the idea of truth is temporary. The main plot of "The Prestige" is a fight between two magicians, Alfred Borden and Robert Angier. They always try to get ahead of each other, making them lie and cheat. Like obsession, kindness, and what it means to be human, Nolan explores these ideas through the main characters' struggles with their wants and choices.

With all of its story twists and turns, "The Prestige" makes people think about what life is all about. Nolan does an excellent job of making it hard to tell the difference between reality and dream, which makes people suspicious. Like how magic works, the movie's plot is built up of smaller and smaller layers of fantasy that are taken away one by one until the truth is revealed. Being hurt is what the movie is mostly about when it talks about life. Many people, like Angier and Borden, are very committed to their jobs and would even give up their names if they had to. More and more, they are fixated on their fixation as the competition gets more challenging. This makes it hard to distinguish between the character and the performance and between reality and fiction.

By making a world where nothing is what it seems to be, "The Prestige" shows how good Nolan is at directing and paying attention to the little things. The movie's ending is a shocking turn of events that makes people question what they thought they knew. It forces them to face how brutal truth and perception are. "The Prestige" is more than just a story about two magicians; it is also a thought experiment about life. Nolan's movies are about love, suffering, and lying, which makes people think about their views and how pursuing personal goals can affect them in real life.

Still, Christopher Nolan's movies all share one thing: they are all about how fragile life is. People are made to think deeply about what it means to live and see through Nolan's films "Inception," "Memento," and "The Prestige." These films look at the psyche, a man with short-term memory loss, and the world of lies and dreams. People are drawn to Nolan's films and ideas because they make them think and want to visit unknown places where reality is just a lie ready to be broken.