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Literature and Screenwriting for Film: Facets of Adaptation

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Abstract: Literature and film are the medium of expressions of human emotions imaginations etc. It is the artistic in nature. The literature has different genre like novels, short story, drama, poetry, biography in the written form. Screenwriting or scriptwriting is the art and craft of writing scripts for mass media such as feature films, television productions or video games. It is often a freelance profession. Screenplay and teleplay begins with a thought or idea, and screenwriters use their ideas to write scripts, with the intention of selling them and having them produced. In some cases the script is based on an existing property, such as a book or person's life story, which is adapted by the screenwriter. In most cases, a film project is initiated by a screenwriter. The initiator of the project gets the exclusive writing assignment. They are referred to as "exclusive" assignments or "pitched" assignments. Screenwriters who often pitch new projects, whether original or an adaptation, often do not have to worry about competing for assignments and are often more successful. When word is put out about a project that a film studio, production company, or producer wants done, they are referred to as "open" assignments. Open assignments are more competitive. If screenwriters are competing for an open assignment, more established writers usually win the assignments. A screenwriter can also be approached and personally offered a writing assignment. The literature and film told the stories on both grounds. The aims are mutual, both is holding the audience/readers psychologically. The written form found reflection on screen with mobilized characters but screen version and literary work has independent direction in cinema. The literature and film are interconnected, the film can be interpret and analyzed like the written work of literature, well as the literature has multiple layers of meaning. These two forms of knowledge influenced on the readers/ audience. Each field has its own significance and limitations. In making of film, Photography, scenes for effects and other infrastructure were used to make it more effective while the literature has scope in written or oral form. The narrative techniques which used in film are different and in literature this goes in different manner. This affects the understanding or creates difficulties. The film is not only connected with the literary text but it gives the opportunity to participate in the development of that literary text. Hence the enrichment of literature is possible through the powerful media of adaptations of literary genre like fictions and other works into films. This research paper shows the accommodation of literary conversion into films with few examples.

Keywords: literary, adaptation, film, fiction, conversion media.

I. INTRODUCTION

Adaptation of literary work / genre is now a day becoming trend in the domain of literature and the world of cinema. Screenwriters are rarely involved in the production of a film. Sometimes they come on as advisors, or if they are established, as a producer. Some screenwriters also direct. Although many scripts are sold each year, many do not make it into production because the number of scripts that are purchased every year exceeds the number of professional directors that are working in the film and TV industry. When a screenwriter finishes a project and sells it to a film studio, Production Company, TV network, or producer, they often have to continue networking, mainly with directors or executives, and push to have their projects "chosen" and turned into films or TV shows. If interest in a script begins to fade, a project can go dead.

As the flavor and taste of readers/audiences changes, there are major works has been converted into films. The adaptation of literary work into film created new form/ genre in the film industry. The literature is always found basic motivation to produce entertaining socially awakened themes. The film genre gives more sensory experiences and it directly attached to the human psyche than reading a text of literature. The film has sounds colorful background the characters with emotions and movements. It is created with the help of dramatic scene dialogue delivery and other significant instruments which gave realistic picture of event happened in the text. It is more attractive to the audience. On the contrary literary work has its own plot setting/ acts. The process of transformation of novel or any other work into films has taken large amount of efforts. The writing of actual screen plays, songs related with condition/ acts and other required things combined and the birth of film took place. In literary work the writer uses the language to depict interior of character while film has action/ activity to expose such scenes by the characters. In the fiction author has done limited role for creation of world picture while in films all the elements are displayed in more convincing way. The literary work has limitation to experience personally while film watching is communal and collects stamping experiences on the audience because the no. of techniques are employed to make the content more effective and highlighted the theme. In literature the powerful imagination power and touchable language gives verbal images in right manner to encompass the characters and their actions but in films the external features developed the understanding of characters/ images created by the director. It supports to interpret and may generate the specific arguments among the audience. The characters in the film or literary work seeking to insert the thoughts in the reader with their own style of behaving and their actions/responses to the incidents arranged in the film or literary work. Such creations are made to compare with original literary work or film.

Many movies are conversion of novels, short stories even the great epics like Mahabharata Ramayana etc. The Indian cinema has adopted number of literary works like Amrita Pritam, Khushwant Sing from pre independence era to post independence period. The world famous authors like Shakespeare; Ruskin Bond found space in the Indian films. Such creations are made to compare with literary work or film. Most produced films are rewritten to some extent during the development process. Frequently, they are not rewritten by the original writer of the script. Many established screenwriters, as well as new writers whose work shows promise but lacks marketability, make their living rewriting scripts.

When a script's central premise or characters are good but the script is otherwise unusable, a different writer or team of writers is contracted to do an entirely new draft, often referred to as a "page one rewrite". When only small problems remain, such as bad dialogue or poor humor, a writer is hired to do a "polish" or "punch-up".

Depending on the size of the new writer's contributions, screen credit may or may not be given. For instance, in the American film industry, credit to rewriters is given only if 50% or more of the script is substantially changed. These standards can make it difficult to establish the identity and number of screenwriters who contributed to a film's creation.

There are some figures having mastery in this job and contributed in the adaptation of film George Melis created Cindrella was based on the story of Cinderella's brothers and King John was made by the writing sources of William Shakespeare. Edwing Milong plays were converted in the first Hollywood movie Sequae Man. Conan Doyle's detective character Sherlock Holmes was conversion of first detective and horror cinema.

There is some remarkable novels by Indian novelists which are converted into film Satyajit Ray film Pather Panchali won international fame was based on literary work of writer Bihuti Bandopadhyaya. Guide is written by R.K. Narayan Devdas Parineeta by Sharadchandra Chattopadhyaya these literary work based cinemas were the live examples of changing the vision of society towards literature. Utsav is made by Girish Karnad, it is fine adaptation of an ancient Sanskrit Play Mricchakavika.

Pinjar is the touchable movie has definite background of political event of partition. The cinematic adoption of the novel was done it is released in 2003. The film won national film fare award by Indian Government the Protagonist is Puro and his struggle for survival in the communal riot at the time partition. Omkara is directed by Vishak Bhardwaj taken on Shakespeare's Othello. The movie is set in the rural and less educated area of Uttar Pradesh. The gangster's gang wars were picturized for dominance. Both movies are fine adaptations of novels. One from foreign writer and second is Indian writer. They have their independent writing style and themes. These novels focused on the pathetic condition of women by the male dominated society. The reflection of existed social frame is drawing by the writers/ directors. In their own works.

Calling Sehmat is debut novel printed in 2008 at Konark. It is an attempt to bring focus on the fighters for nation and saved people of India. The novel based on the war circumstances occurred in 1971 between India and Pakistan. Sikka devoted his eight years to fictionalize. Then it is printed in 2018. The Harinder Sikka's writing of Calling Sehmat is poignant tale of love, loss, guilt, heartbreak sorrows and sufferings imbibed in the character. Such novels also found prominent place by the Indian cinema. The novel is adopted by film director Meghna Gulzar and titled as Raazi.

II. CONCLUSION

The society has been changing due to great impact of cinema and literature. Literature and cinema are the mediums to shape and teach the society. The readers/ audience found differences or similarities in the text and film. There are various forms of literature which are rebirthing into cinema, the innovations acquired by the literature in the form of cinema made the society aware about various issues existed in the society. Now a day's films are becoming more popular and preferable; its reason is reading of text make the reader ready to find words which are unknown to understand or grasp the meaning of text, the different experience is occurred while watching movie. It is the manifestation of characters externally where the characters presentation visualizes its action with the support of dialogue/language. George Bluestone in a book Novel to Film proved the superiority of literary text as compare to the adaptation of cinema. He stated that adaptation is secondary; in original text reader has scope to develop the sense of minute observations about story, plot setting and characters style of writing etc. which lack the film. Premchand is known for his literary excellence in Hindi his statement on first meeting of Progressive Writers association influenced Indian cinema 'Our literary taste is undergoing rapid transformation. It is coming to grip with the realities of life.' The literature has specific complex structure and variety of narrative techniques/ systems were employed. The cinematic art is shaping to provide the actual/ realistic sense to text. Hence this binary art proves its superiority in the world of literature.

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