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The Art of Script Writing: The Process of Visual Written Document

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Abstract: A screenplay is a written document that serves as the blueprint for a film, television show, or video game. It's a specialized form of writing that describes the characters' actions, dialogue, expressions, and movements in a specific format. 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. A question that often arises for screenwriters is where to start a screenplay? Many people start writing a screenplay with a specific structure in mind. But screenwriting can start anywhere, like when you have a great idea or you come across a unique character or a story, you can write a screenplay for it. A screenwriter can develop a script based on a unique idea, a central character or a sequence of events. A writer can choose to write a screenplay on any genre like comedy, serious, adventure, and mystery, romantic and can complete his screenplay. He has to think of various main characters, antagonists etc. for the screenplay on the topic he has decided and come up with the right ones. The most successful character development has emerged in movies like Natsamrat, Sairat, Magadheera, Chatrapathi Ghajini. Characters have a special importance in a film script. Many times there has been a difference of opinion on whether the characters in a film are important or the plot of the film. But the writer's opinion is that the plot of the film is important and the characters are created according to the plot. However, it is not surprising that characters are given a secondary place. In a screenplay, more importance is given to what the characters do than what they say. The characters are expected to contribute to the screenplay through their actions. For this, the screenwriter has to create characters according to the needs of the story. The writer considers the following key factors while creating the main character. How the character will look. In this, the writer has to consider the character's dress or appearance, whether the character is male or female, the character's physical characteristics such as weight, height, age, complexion, voice, hair texture, health, language, etc.

Keywords: scriptwriting, feature films, television, character, dialogue.

I. INTRODUCTION

Screen writing plays a vital role in present day film making in the film industry. Screen writing or scriptwriting is the art and craft of writing scripts for feature films, television productions or video games. In mass media feature film took first place

among all other scripts as they turned into big market in the world. Screenwriters are responsible for researching the story, developing the narrative, writing the screenplay, and delivering it, in the required format, to development executives. ‘When it comes to developing a story, I find that it always helps to write you know. The best piece of advice I ever received was to write what I have seen, what I have experienced, and what I have lived in life. Filmmaking is about truth, and writing scenes and moments that truthfully resonate with the audience can be a difficult task unless you are personally familiar with the material you are exploring.’¹ The plot offers nothing new and the screenplay remains dreary for the most part. ‘The idea of the director Ram Gopal Varma is only to prove that a film maker could make a film without budget. But he forgot to say a film could not be made without a strong concept.’² For writers to write a good quality screenplay, some prior preparation is necessary. For this, the writer should ask himself some questions and answer them through the screenplay. This definitely improves the quality of the screenplay. Creativity is present in everyone and can be developed further through practice. Before writing a screenplay, screenwriters should consider some of the following questions in relation to the story of the film and use them in the screenplay with answers that are appropriate for the screenplay. What is the name of the main character in your story? Why did you create or are you going to create this character? What kind of context or story do you want to convey to the audience through this character? When and how will the audience connect with the film emotionally? What will be the atmosphere for your story? What will be the form of the film? What does the main character or hero/heroine of the film want? And does the film’s final scene get it or not? Work on the story for the film for at least six months before writing the screenplay.

Many film-making thinkers have made different interpretations on this subject. Paul Schrader says screenwriting is creative process in which three elements are involved—idea, character, and structure. According to Louis Nowra the director’s script is the screenplay. Screenwriting is not an art, it is a collaborative process. After the scriptwriter has completed writing the script, the script copy is given to the producer, director, actors, production houses etc. The script copy is preferably typed on A4 size paper with sufficient margins on both sides. Generally, it is 60 to 80 pages or 105 to 120 pages. The script should be typed neatly so that the audience does not have any trouble reading it. Before writing the script or after writing it, it should be registered with the Screenwriters Association so that no one steals it.

II. THE ART OF SCRIPT WRITING: THE PROCESS OF VISUAL WRITTEN DOCUMENT

A screenplay is a written document that serves as the blueprint for a film, television show, or video game. It's a specialized form of writing that describes the characters' actions, dialogue, expressions, and movements in a specific format. 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. A question that often arises for screenwriters is where to start a screenplay? Many people start writing a screenplay with a specific structure in mind. But screenwriting can start anywhere, like when you have a great idea or you come across a unique character or a story, you can write a screenplay for it. A screenwriter can develop a script based on a unique idea, a central character or a sequence of events. A writer can choose to write a screenplay on any genre like comedy, serious, adventure, and mystery, romantic and can complete his screenplay. He has to think of various main characters, antagonists etc. for the screenplay on the topic he has decided and come up with the right ones. ‘Great dialogue does not come from having a good ear for dialogue. It does not come from having some innate gift or talent for writing dialogue. It comes from this: knowing your characters so well that you know what they will say and how they will say it when faced with specific people, situations or events.’³

The most successful character development has emerged in movies like Natsamrat, Sairat, Magadheera, Chatrapathi Ghajini. Nagraj Manjule, a prominent Indian filmmaker from Maharashtra, has, in a short span of time, already made people take notice of him with his first few films. In 2013, he came out with Fandry, a film which openly talks about caste discrimination in rural Maharashtra. But the director hit a home run in 2016 with Sairat⁴, a tale of young love originating in

rural Maharashtra, set against the underbelly of the troubled caste politics of the state. Natsamrat⁵ 2016 is about a veteran Shakespearean actor who faces the tragedy of old age, an ungrateful family, and his fleeting legacy. Mi Shivajiraje Bhosale Boltoy⁶ is a 2009 Indian Marathi-language film produced by Sanjay Chhabria along with Ashwami Manjrekar and directed by Santosh Ramdas Manjrekar. The film follows an underdog who fights against the evil in society, to re-instate his identity and keep his pride. Kalabhairava character in Magadheera⁷ film 2009 is most interesting character. When the film begins with Kalabhairava leaping off to his death after watching lady love fall to her own death, the audience connected to the story and singed to the chairs to watch film. The only reason for the success of Chatrapati⁸ film 2005 is the characterization of protagonist Prabhas. He arrives with Chatrapati as a force to reckon with in Telugu film industry. He is extraordinary in action sequences. Ghajini⁹ 2005 was inspired by the American film Memento, which itself was adapted from the short story Memento Mori. Surya is great in this film. He is pretty romantic in the flashback episode. His histrionics as victim of short-term memory loss are of high standard. His body language is terrific.

Characters have a special importance in a film script. Many times there has been a difference of opinion on whether the characters in a film are important or the plot of the film. But the writer's opinion is that the plot of the film is important and the characters are created according to the plot. However, it is not surprising that characters are given a secondary place. In a screenplay, more importance is given to what the characters do than what they say. The characters are expected to contribute to the screenplay through their actions. For this, the screenwriter has to create characters according to the needs of the story. The writer considers the following key factors while creating the main character. How the character will look. In this, the writer has to consider the character's dress or appearance, whether the character is male or female, the character's physical characteristics such as weight, height, age, complexion, voice, hair texture, health, language, etc. What will be the social behavior of the character? In this, the writer has to consider the character's marital status, the character's family background, the character's geographical location i.e. which area he/she belongs to, the character's profession, religion, his/her knowledge or inclination in the field of politics and sports, his/her social status i.e. what is his/her place in society, his/her expertise in a certain subject, his/her ability in that field or his/her ambitions, etc. Some unforgettable characters in Indian cinema who remain in our memory forever after their portrayals. Such characters leave an impression on the minds of the society for many years. The screenwriter should study such great characters closely and try to make such characters as the core of the story in his screenplay. Some of the unforgettable characters in Indian cinema include the following characters. Gabbar Singh in the film Sholay, Mokyabo in the film Shahenshah, Shahenshah in the film Shahenshah, etc.

For any film, the characters of the hero and the villain are created. The hero is most often presented in a positive way, while the villain is shown in a negative way. The villain is also an important character as much as the hero and these characters are necessary for creating the conflict in the film. If the hero and the villain are portrayed in such a way, the action and reaction continue the story of the film in such a way. The screenwriter has to have the skill to create both characters and show them on the screen with this ability. The hero is the main character in a film. Since the hero always acts in an active manner in a film, the audience's perspective towards him is always better than that of the villain. Therefore, it is natural that whenever the hero is on screen throughout the film, the audience has many expectations from the hero. The writer has the task of presenting the hero in a good manner to meet the expectations of the audience. Therefore, the writer should create a capable and realistic hero or heroine. While creating a hero, the writer should either create the villain first or develop the villain's character and only then create the hero. It is essential for the screenwriter to have a clear idea of the motivation behind the hero's struggle in the film being created and what is the true purpose behind it. If the character's motivation and purpose are clear, then the character's journey through the struggle and other elements that hinder the achievement of this goal, such as romance, thriller, pathos, etc., can be planned and used carefully to make the film attractive, meaningful and entertaining. It would not be surprising if we say that the villain in a film is as important as the hero in a film. Because the villain is the main obstacle in the way of the hero

finding his purpose and purpose. The opposition of the villain to the hero creates a struggle, and this struggle is important for the progress of the film plot. Although the villain is a negative character, the writer tries to create him in the same way as he did for the hero. The writer needs to be careful that the villainous character is not too unbelievable, unrealistic, and boring. A villain does not have to be a person. A villain can be any person, animal, bird, monster, etc. who plays a negative role. Almost all films in many languages are based on love. In these films, many scenes of love between the main hero and heroine of the film are depicted. Sometimes the love between the hero and the heroine is the main part of the film, while sometimes scenes based on love are helpful in making the film more interesting. The writer who writes about love always feels that such scenes are attractive and touching, but at the same time, the writer takes care that they should also be close to the truth. The love between the hero and the heroine should be based on such ideas as emotional and pure. There should not be any hint of physical love anywhere in it; otherwise it will not take long for the hero to become a villain. The writer should constantly take care of this and a good message should be conveyed to the society through this love relationship. The love that is found through the wheat fields, violence and the like cannot last forever and the love found in such a way is fleeting. The writer should keep this in mind while writing love scenes for the hero and the heroine. The editing process is a very important process for a film to become successful. While editing the script, the writer should make sure that the content of the story is presented in a way that is consistent with the script. The editor should consider each aspect carefully and if the script deviates from the story, the editor should make the necessary changes and inform the screenwriter. Rewriting is a process that is essential for the development of a screenplay. The writer has to make changes to the script as per the demands or recommendations of the film director, producer, artist or editor. Changes in the dialogues, characters, events or plot of the film are either written or the writer himself/herself is enabling the changes through the rewriting process. The story of a film is the script of the film.

III. CONCLUSION

The act of screenwriting takes many forms across the entertainment industry. Often, multiple writers work on the same script at different stages of development with different tasks. Over the course of a successful career, a screenwriter might be hired to write in a wide variety of roles. Film maker faces many problems when he is turning his script into screen. Many film makers explained why these challenges have to be faced during script to screen process. Films are great contemporary media in the society to impact the minds of people. Movies are mirrors of the lives of the society and also major source of entertainment. The importance of films is increasing in regular day life of common people. Film Industry expands the opportunities in investment sector and employment as well. Indian cinema is not only one of the largest industries; it is also oldest film industries in the world in terms of box office collections and in number of screens. World film makers are now keeping an eye on Indian film industry, because of its technical equality in making Indian movies. In recent times some Hollywood movies have been arising based on historical and cultural stories of Indian backdrop. Many movies from Indian cinema are releasing in various counties in present days.

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