

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF LITERATURE IN BOLLYWOOD**Gowhar Bashir****Maulana Azad National Urdu University Hyderabad****ABSTRACT**

The aim of this paper is to reveal the role of literature in film industry. The adaptation of English literature in Hindi cinema can change its shape altogether. The movie like “John Carter” is full of ironical devices. The movie “Transformers 1, 2, and 3” is science fiction that led us to perspire. However, Indian cinema is still in the era of “Prem Ratan Dhan Payo” where all the characters are characterless. Bollywood directors are not capable of bringing a masterpiece even by using a beautiful, incredible, astonishing, civilization, i.e. Harappa. The Mohenjo-Daro, by Aushotosh Guawarikaar is just a distortion of history and the dishonor of art. It lacks all the devices that a piece of art requires and in turn, it lacks the coherence and rhythm with the actual history and happenings. Therefore, the Bollywood is in need of those writers and directors who are equipped with the knowledge of literature and who can help Bollywood to escape from mythological to scientific era.

Keywords: *English Literature, Hollywood, Bollywood, Films, Science Fiction*

Introduction

Indian cinema is far behind from the Hollywood. When we analyzed the Hollywood, we checked out that most of the movies are science fictions. This means Hollywood is in turn developed scientifically. From the Scientific American report, United States, Britain and other European countries are highly scientific developed nations compared to third world countries and this weakness also appears in third world countries films too. When analyzed the movies of Bollywood we found no movie like the time machine or transformers. However, Bollywood considers two movies, science fictions, i.e. Krish and RA-one, but when consulted them they are more mythological than scientific. Science fiction is not Bollywood’s writer or director’s cup of tea because they even don’t know what science fiction is and how to frame a sci-fi that is very beyond from them. These are not my words, but are the work of Bollywood industry for the last several decades, which speaks out loudly its demerits and merits too.

The movies like Splice, Cube are some of the science fictions which are directed by the great Vincenzo Natali. The director Natali mentioned in his Wikipedia profile that he is under the influence of Samuel Beckett. However, when we searched out the Samuel Beckett we came to know that he was the great novelist, playwright. He is the man who served the English literature immensely and got a noble prize in literature. The movies of Natali are indirectly related to the Samuel and indirectly to English literature, i.e. why they contain all those techniques what a full flagged playwright requires or what a successful novel should contain. Science fiction often shortened sci-fi is a genre of speculative fiction typically dealing with imaginative concepts such as futuristic science and technology, space travel, time travel, etc. science fiction often explores the potential consequences of scientific and other innovation and has been called a “literature of ideas”. Science fiction is rational and is based on rationality.

Bollywood is mythological and is based on myths. The movies like “Tarzan the wonder car, Doodh Ka Karz, Nangina and Karan Arjun” are some living examples. Bollywood spends crores over the films like “Sultan, Bahubali” but no new concept or idea has discussed that can motivate the younger

generation to get involved with science and to contribute in science and technology. The great Indian scholar and philosopher Sir Syed Ahmad Khan advised his disciples to write those poems which motivate the people for the development of the nation. The movies like “Kiss the Girls” and “Red Dragon” are the films based on the novels and both are psychological novels written by the two masters of English literature. The novels were the best sellers and in turn when adopted as the movies they became the blockbusters. They were successful novels and later on successful movies because they had everything that they required and it is because they were written by professionals not by a layman. The layman could weld only two three events, but the student of English literature puts all the ingredients what a movie requires. A psychologist can't write the psychological novel as unaware about the literary figures and techniques, but the student of English literature who has all the knowledge of the subject can write the psychological novel.

“Kull the Conqueror” is a novel based fantasy movie. In that movie it has been shown how fantasy changed into reality and it has been shown rightly as it is based on the novel, whose author is a professional writer.

Research reveals that movies reflect their societies and also it can help the society or nation to develop and to think positively as movies are three dimensional so they can affect the audience more precisely than the audios and books as they are of two and one dimensional only. Indian movies exhibit only certain fixed concepts. The first is to criticize the rape, which is a dominant issue in India and the second is to support the police and the last but not least is the romance. Majority of Bollywood movies are based on these concepts. These concepts in turn reflected back from the society of India because societies are in turn under the impact of cinema. The great institutes of India like IIT, IIM, IISER etc. were meant to produce intellectuals of that particular field for what the institutes are meant, but instead of that they either produce bankers or IAS, IPS and IFS officers. Nobel laureates remained just a dream for India. However, if Bollywood would have the writers of English literature background and they would have produced some science fiction movies then the picture might be different. The students of IIT then might have striven for the advancement of the nation's technology and for the Noble prizes not mere for the jobs of banks and of police administration.

The best part of the sci-fi is that they are rational that means they are based on scientific reality so they are long lasting. Mythological movies are based on myths, but once the myth is proven wrong, the movie lost its taste and rhythm. When the movie is based on wrong concept, then it seems weird to watch that even with a little interest, for e.g. what is the fun to watch a movie in which snakes act on flute tune particularly when we know that snakes have no ears thus can't feel any sound. On the other hand, the movies like “Python and Anaconda” is full of melodrama, but we couldn't deny that concept altogether because today we know that genetic engineering makes possible those concepts of having a snake of huge size, thus science fiction is long lasting.

On the other hand, when Bollywood goes far beyond from the issues of rape and police, it lands on the hatred issue of India versus Pakistan. The movies based on Pakistan hatred does not address the single political issue of the two countries that can help the governments of two countries to settle down the disputes, but instead of that, these movies only fuel the hatred between the people of two nations, who are a neighbor to each other and have the same language. The actor who is the subject of these kinds of movies is Sunny Deol, of course he is talented actor and has much talent to show rather than to get clinched with one theme. Another role of Bollywood is to distract the college students towards sexuality by offering them

those college movies which stress on sexuality in college not on education for e.g. “B.A Pass, Yariyaan, Mohabbatein, Student of the year” etc. However, Hollywood’s thriller movie based on comic, i.e. “Amazing Spider man” even motivates a student and attracts them towards scientific world and its blessings.

Philosopher’s point of view: the philosopher Aristotle said about the tragedy that the plot of tragedy should have reasonable length and size. A beautiful creature or object is neither too long nor too short, but just in proportion. However, if it is too short the mind will miss many things in it to comprehend it fully and if too long the mind with its limited perspective, cannot take in all the events within the time required by the story. It should be of length which can be easily embraced by the memory, but it should have length enough to unfold its sequences of events-the beginning, the middle and the end-naturally and full. This is the piece of advice which a writer and director of a particular piece of art, i.e. movie must keep in mind during the making of tragedy film. Therefore, it is mandatory that the director and the writer must have studied the literature.

The techniques like Peripeteia and Anagnorisis are the ingredients of the complex plot. They are given to the films by literature. The Peripeteia is generally explained as “reverse of the situation. By a reversal of the situation is meant very nearly a reversal of the intention; a move to kill an enemy recoiling on one’s own head. Similarly Anagnorisis is the recognition or discovery like killing an enemy and discovering him to be a kinsman. The discovery of these false moves taken in ignorance is Anagnorisis- a change from ignorance to knowledge. Both Peripeteia and Anagnorisis pleases because there is the element of surprise in them. A perfect plot should be arranged on the complex plan. However, to arrange a plot in this manner it requires knowledge. Therefore, one should have to study thoroughly the literature in order to bring the masterpiece with the help of a plot which contains Peripeteia and Anagnorisis. The Hollywood’s movie WANTED is an example. In Wanted Anagnorisis is the main device, as hero hunted for the killer and finally when he killed him he would come to know that whom he killed is his father.

The roman philosopher Quintilian believes that if someone possesses a natural gift of speaking or writing, he can give it an extra edge by adding the knowledge. While the mason is free to hew his stones or shape his bricks to suit his design, the speaker or writer cannot alter the shape of his words; he has either to take them as they are or to reject them altogether. There is no middle way for him as for the mason. So the only choice left to him is to look to their order: where to place his nouns, where verbs, and where the rest. Quintilian believes in the concept of ornamental grace. He said style is much more than a clear way of saying things. It carries with it an element of fine surprise whereby familiar things appear in a new perspective. It makes an immediate appeal to the emotions, so necessary in an art of persuasion that speaking or writing is. It results from various devices like, similes, emphasis, innuendo, sententiae and by some other devices as well.

The innuendo is an expression that says a little, but suggest much and the sententiae on the other hand is an expression that says a great deal in the briefest and pointed manner. The total of these devices is that of novelty, variety, elegance and emotional pleasure. However, according Quintilian the devices should do their work without making their presence felt as Quintilian believed “the highest art is the concealment of art”. Art steals its way into our hearts by using these devices.

The writer or an author of any sort of art must be aware of literary devices as it helps him in bringing an unusual piece of work. Therefore, the writer and the director must study the English literature and become familiar with those tools what he requires to frame the masterpiece. The burlesque, bathos, cliché, climax, flashback, for shadowing, are some other examples of literary devices.

Conclusion

At conclusion I sum up with the words that, those who wants to be the writers or the directors of the films, they should have the knowledge of English literature. Until they don't know the various literary techniques which a person could learn from literature, they can't write the masterpiece or directs as director. To build a masterpiece, one needs knowledge from A to Z and should have an ingredient of experience. The mixture of knowledge and experience could mould the student of English literature into the "writer of writers" and "director of directors" and he can give the world an awesome piece of art in the form of film or in the form of a novel.

Today there are many writers like Chetan Bhagat, Nikita Singh, Preeti Shenoy, Durjoy Dutta etc. they write and already have written many novels, but their novels clearly show that they lack the knowledge of literature and of literary devices as they were not the students of English literature. It seems they learned writing from watching the Bollywood movies, thus in their books you may find only the Bollywood script and nothing astonishing. Therefore, one must pick English literature as a field of study if he aspires to be to be a writer or director in the film industry. We cannot advance the society until we do not motivate the people towards the advancement, for e.g. the company provides its employees different perks in the form of salaries, bonus and festive advance, in order to motivate them for the work and for the betterment of the company. In the same way we have to give those films to the nation which motivates them for transformation from mythological to scientific living and for the advancement of the nation. The writer or director must have studied the Plato, Aristotle and other philosophers so that they can come to know what the great thinkers have suggested regarding the framing of art. Plato said that art should be of that nature which can transform the society from bad to good. However, Aristotle led stress over the pleasure of art and said that the primary function of the art is to please the audience. Hence, it is mandatory for the writer and director to have studied the English literature.

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