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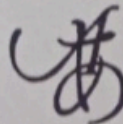
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21. Comparative Study of Film and Literature

Mr. Mahesh Krishna Mali

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Matoshri Bayabai Shripatrao Kadam Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kadegaon, Dist. Sangli, Shivaji University Kolhapur.

Dr. Prabhanjan Mane

Research Guide, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Literature forms a part of one of the six classical arts and film is the seventh art as it derives from all the six arts to become the sum total of all of them and more. Although both the genres of film and literature are different and cannot evoke parallel responses, yet there are certain characteristics that they both share as both are participatory rituals that primarily aim at imparting aesthetic pleasure to the participant (readers/viewers). They both are works of art and share the common field of imagination and creativity on the part of the creators.

Literary works especially stories, plays and novels enjoy wide readership. With the advent of the printing press these works reached a greater reading public. Effective presentation of plays along with development in stagecraft and technology offered literary works vital chance to reach to more and more people. The arrival of cinema in fact provided impetus to adaptation of literary works like stories, novels and plays. The moving pictures became more effective than the written words. Though new works are written, the older works, the Classics continue to exercise their charm. They beckon the literary artists, directors, actors to give them a new form or medium either on the stage or on the screen. The smaller screen of the television appears to have overtaken the bigger screen. Can any Indian forget the impact of TV serials begun with Ramayana, Mahabharat, Humlog, Tamas and the others? Their sources range from epics to novels.

Similar is the journey of many films in modern times, both in India and the foreign Countries; taking birth from plays or novels. Certain plays too have been made into films or TV Serials. These are not mere transformations from page to stage or screen. They undergo a number of changes depending upon the nature of the new medium. Changes in presentation, interpretation and even content are bound to take place. The author is likely to lose his supremacy to the director, the actors or other aspects.

Both the genres are different, but as both are the works of Art, they aim at achieving the common purpose of providing aesthetic pleasures to the readers/viewers. Both create illusion of reality and tried to provide a sort of message for the ethical development of the audience through the depiction of a well-developed story using their respective techniques. Writer of the novel uses his creative imagination in words and develops the story whereas the film uses the techniques of cinematography, sound and editing to do the same. The genres of literature and film explore the nuances associated with the aspect of cross-cultural crisis by their own means and strategies.

Film is the most important visual medium of the 20th century's. The film can create world of magic, fantasy and romance just as early as it can expose the dim reality of actually lived life. Adaptation are very popular in the present time as almost every third movie in the film industry is an adaptation of a popular novel mainly because of the appeal it provides in terms of its popularity and its story line to the makers.

Literature is an older form, and as such, the authority behind the books has been stronger. Literature has been seen as an art, film as mass medium. Film critics often side with the novels as well, keeping their own literary roots. The major difference between books and films is that visual images stimulate our perceptions directly, while written words can do this indirectly. Film is more sensory experience than reading. Beside verbal language, there is also color, movement and sound. A book has a moral and a social responsibility. Film also has a social responsibility. It is not just about raising questions but also about finding answers.

The relationship between film and fiction has often resulted in increased recognition for novels. Films contextualize books in a visible and audible atmosphere and invite us to discover their relationship to explore issue on multicultural perspectives. The issues of gender, love, identity, migration, violence, humanism etc. are discussed in film adaptation.

The researcher hopes that comparing the relationship between literary texts and cinema will certainly open new domains in the field of literature. It will provide new insight into film studies. This study will be useful for future film makers as well as students of film studies and literature.

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