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**HORROR IN LITERATURE AND CINEMA****MAHESH KRISHNA MALI**B.V. Matoshri Bayabai Shripatrao  
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**DR. PRABHANJAN MANE**Research Guide,  
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Kolhapur**ABSTRACT:**

Horror is genre of fiction which is intended to, or has the capacity to frighten, scare, disgust or startle its readers or viewers by inducing feeling of horror and terror. Horror is frequently supernatural, though it can be non-supernatural. One of the defining traits of the genre of horror is that it provokes a response, emotional, psychological or physical within readers that cause them to react with fear. The gothic tradition blossomed into the genre modern readers call horror literature in 19th and 20th century. Many aspect of gothic or horror literature inspired early horror cinema and started strong tradition of horror films. 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 present paper will tries to find out how horror is created in literature and presented in film.

**Keywords:** Horror Fiction- it is a story in which the focus is on creating a feeling of fear.

**Gothic literature-** it is a genre that emerged in 18 the century which is characterized by expression of terror, supernatural element.

**Horror cinema/movie-** Horror cinema/movie is a kind of genre that incorporates horror, death and at times romance

**Film Adaptation-** film adaptation is the transfer of a work or story into a feature film

Literature is an older form and it has been seen as an art. Literature is a more established and valued as a work of art. The literary medium has huge crowd and benefactors. Similarly film is a large medium with wide scopes and areas. Though literature and films are different genres, 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.





They both are works of art and share the common field of imagination and creativity on the part of the creators. 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 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.

The horror or Gothic elements are always haunted the human psyche the world over from past to present. The advancement of science and technology or the scientific and rational thinking has not killed the interest in belief. The human mind has an attraction for the supernatural for an imagination. Children's imagination about ghosts and other supernatural things are one of the aspects of producing horror. One common element in peoples mind is fear about death. Many writers and scholars tried to define horror.

Dominic Strinati in the work *An Introduction to studying Popular Culture* defines,

*'Horror as a genre that signifies the requirement for concealment if the ghastliness indicated is deciphered as expressing tense and unsettling desires which should be confined.'*

Various writers have attempted to form a definition of horror. The definitions and meanings of the horror genre differ. The genre of horror is a deferred in kind; it is difficult to be characterized by a single definition. The precise one that characterizes horror is through its categories and its subgenres.

The seeds of the gothic theme can be traced into old times when men derived pleasure in instigating terror upon his fellow beings. Many artists of the past found the use of inducing pain and terror upon the readers using many ingenious artistic methods. The writer presents grotesque images driving home the truth about the inevitability of death and human misery. Horace Walpole, the 18th century writer wrote the novel *The Castle of Otranto* (1765) which is considered as the early book on gothic fiction. He is regarded as the father of the gothic genre. Anne Radcliff is the most prominent among the gothic writers. Her novel *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1797) is one of the most important gothic fictions in English.

There are different types of horror for example rural horror, cosmic horror, apocalyptic horror and crime horror. The rural is not just identified with rural areas such as towns or countries. It is arranged in places that are distant from civilization, which likewise incorporates a nearby legend, fantasy, or superstitious notion. It is also known as Redneck horror. Another type of horror is the cosmic horror. It is generally portrayed by Howard Phillips's work Lovecraft. In this book, they composed of a civilization originating from outer space, which ruled the Earth before mankind. It includes components of sci-fi and delineates feelings when an individual discovers something he would prefer not to think about.





Apocalyptic horror is also known as the end of the world horror. It deals with the apocalypse triggered by different elements. Crime horror amalgamates the components of horror, detective and crime story. Erotic includes the sensory or sexual symbolism with loathsomeness hints or components of the plot. In erotic horror, vampires are the renowned archetypes. Another type of horror is the occult horror. Its emphasis is on supernatural elements, religion curses, exorcism and mysterious sciences.

The writer uses different supernatural element to create horror. These elements are ghosts, witches, telepathy, clairvoyance, super hearing, zombie, telekinesis, pyro kinesis, mysterious circumstances etc. These elements are the prominent features of the horror fictions. The landscape play very important role in creating meaning in gothic fiction. The setting in most gothic stories is remotely located alienating the characters and their lives from civilization. The action in the gothic novel tends to take place at night or at least in a sunless environment. Monsters, specters, demons, corpses, skeletons, evil aristocratic monks and Nuns are figures used in horror fiction. They are used to create the atmosphere of fear, excitement, mystery, horror, tension, suspicion, curiosity, worry, anxiety etc.

All literary works of horror fiction with supernatural elements or interest which have been produced since earlier times until the present vary accordance with human beliefs, traditions, culture ant time. Another important thing is authors influence and inspiration based on the background and experiences. The genre of horror fiction has developed all over the world because it is an expression of all humanity across the borders of continents as well as times.

The past visiting upon the present is one of the recurring themes in the gothic fictions. At the same time the fear of possession by evil spirit or force is a central cause of fear in many gothic novels. The element of death play vital role in the gothic fiction. The catastrophe of death is usually accompanied by terror and psychological consequences. Women are presented as the main victims in the gothic tradition.

At the end of the 19th century, the new medium cinema was invented. Film is a machine art which is depending on mechanical equipment's for both its creation and exhibition. It relies on our illusion and our acceptance that pictures are essentially moving when off course they are not. It is an art and a recording medium like print. It can record music, drama, paintings, operas, or any other arts. It is not an individual creation but a group of production.

Gothic genre began to turn its attention to explore the possibilities of depicting horror visually to the reader and viewer. Film makers began to think that cinema with its immense graphic potential is the perfect home for the horror spectators. Many classic gothic novels were adapted into the screen successfully. Film adaptation of literature is continuous process which seeks the help of machine. The seeds of adaptation are rooted in that work of art. The adaptation of literature is import from different aspects. The film maker thinks about the original work of art and the targeted work of art that is film adaptation. The novel and films





are their own strength. There is transformation and certain changes must be made during film adaptation of horror novel. These changes can be categorized into two layers, one would be the technical necessities and other would be purposeful changes.

Novel and film tells long stories from the point of view of the narrator. Though, novel and film may share the same story but the strategies are different. They do it with a great wealth of details. The difference between two media is novel is a linguistic narration while film is pictorial narration. It is natural to make film out of novels because the narrative technique of novels and films has a lot of common elements. Novel gives a lot of background information through descriptive passages. All these cannot easily be portrayed in film where a story has to be told in limited time. Although film has a shorter duration it has the advantages of visualization. Everything is narrated through pictures and aided with dialogue, effects and music.

The novelist tells a story through word pictures, the film maker has to tell the same story with real pictures. He has to assemble sets and creates his scenes in three dimensions with characters and dialogues. Visualization is a key factor of the technique of cinematic narration. The film maker has to visualize how tell a story in pictures that the viewer can comprehend. It involves conjuring an image, to turns dreams into reality and made the imagination visible.

Novel is the verbal expression of the novelist and it turns on our imagination. On the other hand, film is a verbal and audio-visual expression of the imagination of the director. Some finds pleasure in reading the novel and some other finds it in watching films. Films encourage readers to watch the film version of the novel and vice versa. Many people have read the novel after watching the film. There are different techniques of creating horror in film than novel.

Cinematography is one of the essential tools of film making. It plays very important role in making horror films. The horror film maker using his camera artistically to took different types of shots such as wide shot, tracking shot, extreme close-up shots etc. Close up shots on characters faces make the audience feel the emotions and terror. Editing is one of the useful techniques of cinematography. It is very effective in horror films as well. Editing means the juxtaposition and rearrangement of sounds and images to create a new perceived meaning.

Lighting is a key feature of horror movie. Different types of lighting techniques are used in horror films. It includes lighting-up lighting, spotlight, dark light, projected shadows, close ups underexposure etc. The effect of lighting is to distort images to create mystery, tension and suspense.

The film moves forward through dialogues of the characters. The dialogues in the horror movies are limited because the characters are naturally spending most of their time making out with each other, screaming, and running, hiding and following in the forest. Acting is important part of the film which is absent in novel. Acting in horror films requires wide range





of facial expression and body language to evoke fear. Film actors exaggerate facial and bodily expression.

Sound and music play very important role in the movie. The sound designers use different sound effects such as animal and bird cries, sound of night insects etc. The screaming, sound of different animals and birds, wind blowing and storm create a sensational effect on the spectator which produce horror and also increases fear in the mind of spectators. Atmosphere or surrounding is enhances the horror. The director uses night or isolated places in movie which adds the fear. Suspense and thrill is key feature of horror movie. Now some science fiction movies also come into the categories of horror fiction.

Costumes have very special effect in the horror films. It includes various mask used by the characters, cloths as well as property of the scenes. Fearful costumes and appearance of ghost, wild animals, and witches create fear and increases horror. The costumes used in the movie remains in our mind for long time such as King Kong, Dracula etc. Make-up is also an essential element in horror genres to create appalling and gruesome effect. Costumes and make-ups in horror films are important to give a fighting image of the antagonist. Props in horror movies are the instruments of terror and essential to the storyline. The characters in the films are not real but the whole acting, make-up, costumes, setting and mise-en-scene provide such a real experience.

Horror films don't require many locations because the action is usually centralized in a single horrifying place. The film maker pick a big house, old mansion, factory or any huge building for the setting of the movie. Sometimes other planet or dungeon, deep forest, cabin in the wood and haunted house is also used as setting. The director introduces nightmare in horror film. Nightmare is that thing in the future the hero or the character is afraid of. It is so powerful that it prevents them from getting what they really want.

Horror film maker uses fake blood formula in the movie. People always fear to see blood or bloodshed. The scenes of murder, bloodshed, violence, burning etc. create a psychological impact on our mind. It leaves the audience with terror and fear.

The presence of child in horror fiction for adults is one of the important features of horror or gothic fiction of the 20th century which is also reflected in horror films. Many horror movies are filled with traps. The characters in the film are caught in the dangerous trap from which they are unable to rescue. It creates suspense and enhances horror and terror in movies.

All these elements contribute to make typical horror in film. When we read a novel we have singular linguistic experience with our own imagination but in the movie it is added by using audio- visual devices. So, the horror produced in horror movies is more powerful and terrifying than novel or story.





The researcher hopes that comparing horror created in the literary text and horror presented in film 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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