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Film Literature: An Emerging Genre of Contemporary Literature

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Abstract:

Literature is an older form and it has been seen as an art. It is a more established and valued as a work of art. The literary medium has huge crowd and benefactors. Literary works especially stories, plays and novels enjoy wide readership. With the introduction of Printing press literary works reached to the greater public. Effective presentation of plays attracted many public. The arrival of cinema is one of the important milestones in the history. The stories or novels were adapted into films. Majority of the literary works are adapted into films. Film is the most important visual medium of the 20th century. The word 'contemporary' signifies living, belonging to or happening in the present. In the context of the contemporary literature it means writing during a specific time period generally it refers to the literature after the World War II to the present. It deals with different genres and subgenres. Films become the powerful means of entertainment and occupy the place as film literature. The film can create world of magic, fantasy and romance. Film Literature is an emerging and growing branch of study. It has great advantages to the students in academic life as well as making career. This paper attempts to highlight the significance of film literature in contemporary literature.

Contemporary literature- the literature which is produced after World War II to the present time is generally considered as contemporary literature.

The term 'contemporary literature' refers to the type of literature written after the World War II to the present time. It can be classified according to nations, languages, genres and also variety of systems. It can be listed by decades and different literary movements such as confessional poetry, cyberpunk, new formalism, new wave science fiction etc. Literature of any language and countries changes with the societal changes and society changes with the scientific and technological innovation. The historical event of World War II affected the life of people all around the world. There were drastic changes in the power structure as well as beliefs of the people. Literature is the reflection of the society and many creative writes tried to write in different way.

Contemporary literature reflects political and social viewpoints of the society and it is presented through realistic characters. There are socio-economic, political messages and connection to contemporary events. Modern writers are in search of new themes in society and influenced by scientific developments, innovations, strength and weaknesses of the people, religious conflict etc. In general, the World War II and subsequent events are considered as the beginning of contemporary literature. The horrors of the war and its impact on society, violence, corruption and terrorism are the pathways to this type of literature. These works of literature aims to speak about the injustice in the world and search for civil rights.

Though, contemporary literature known for literary production after World War II, this period extends up to the present day. It was enriched with new genres due to discoveries and innovations in the field of sciences such as internet, television etc. It was also era of cinema, music and acceptance of new culture. With fast changing society, contemporary literature is also changed in content and structure. It reflects current trends in life and cult, personal point of view or innovative narrative resources.

Contemporary literary genres are made up of stories, novels, plays, poems and movies. All these genres are imaginary but it presents the life of people and human experiences in a concrete and abstract way. Graphic novels, children's literature, science fiction, blog literature etc. are some of the emerging trends in contemporary literature. With the advent of cinema and film adaptation in early 20th century, film studies or adaptation studies became the popular branch of literary studies. With the advent of science and technology and fast changing world, film literature is becoming an emerging genre or branch of literature.

Film literature is a new genre of literature which studies adaptation of literature in film or other subsequent media. Literature forms one of the six classical arts and film or cinema is seventh arts. It combines all the six arts such as painting, dance, singing, sculpture etc. Literature and films are different but both are works of art and create an illusion of reality and tried to provide a sort of message for the ethical development of the audience. Both create a well-developed story using their respective techniques.

There are certain characteristics of literature and film. Although, both arts are different, the primary aim is to give pleasure to the readers and viewers. They are works of arts and share the common field of imagination and creativity. Film has influence of its society and culture, so it is called as a cultural product. Film is entrenched within the culture and thus a complex and stimulating relationship exists between culture, film, audience and ideology. The film is considered as an art which is pervasive and influential while film stars considered as cultural icons.

Film is a machine art which is depending on mechanical equipment for both its creation and exhibition. It relies on our illusions and our acceptance that pictures are essentially moving when off course they are not. It is an art and recording medium like print. It uses camera and can record music, drama, painting, operas

sculpture and any other arts. It is not an individual creation like literature but a group production.

The films could deliver the language of literature. The members of the middle and upper classes as well as lower classes began to watching films. This situation encouraged film makers to turn more to literature for stories and characters. The film producers and directors turned to literature for inspiration and subject matter and the best among literary master pieces are adapted into box office hit films. They began to present great classics in the form of the films. It is easy to consume entertainment to the young and old. So film adaptations become popular trend and film industries.

Adaptation of literature is continuous process which seeks the help of machine. The seeds of adaptation are rooted in that work of art. While making adaptation directors think about the original work of art and make necessary changes according to the medium. Screenplay is an important step in the process of making film. The screenplay is a kind of blueprint which manages the different shots and scenes. It also suggests camera angles or acting tips. Cinematography is important concept in film making which includes *mise-en-scene*, montage and voice over etc. The term *mise-en-scene* means the arrangement of all visual elements in a theatre production. Montage suggests a process of cutting away unwanted material until the final film emerges.

Adaptation is considered as an all-inclusive transposition of a previously existing product. This reversal can be a change of medium, genre or the setting. The story is told from a different perspective. The transposition is also considered as a change from real to fictional. Adaptation is also known as a process of re-creation. For instance, the film adaptation of myths and folklores are considered as a way of preserving a heritage in an audio-visual technique.

Film scholars Corrigan and White states that, 'film is a work or art, richly layered with cultural practices'. This new form of art is creative and rooted in particular culture. It has elements of realism as well as fantasy; it entertains and also gives some messages to audience. It has powerful elements of story and sound which provide a setting and meaning to the story. The film narrates stories of everyday experiences such as birth, hope, good, evil, love, marriage, peace, death and violence. Thus, the film medium is liked and enjoyed by every person because it narrates stories which they could associate. Mainly, it narrates our personal stories such as the community and the contemporary world.

Film mediums have significant importance and the film adaptation is considered as a cultural process. It is indicated that film adaptation influences readers behavior and it gives a new perspective for the readers. The film is considered as a creative and entertaining medium for the spectators. Films genre has similarity with literature especially with novel, short stories drama because its story. Apart from that there are plot, setting, characters; structure and theme are the common elements which make up the screenplay in the film. There are some other film techniques also such

flashback, back story, flash forward etc. are used to narrate the story.

Film literature includes various film genres such as Action film, Animated film, Comedy film, Drama, Fantasy film, Historical film, Horror film, Science fiction film, Thriller film, Western films etc. A film offers the audience with a combination of movement, sound and provides an enjoyable experience for the viewer. The film presents the audience with a story or narrative. It re-enacts the communication of characters the cause and effect connection in a film is established mainly by the characters' actions that make events to change. In other words, the characters are considered as the mediators of cause-effect relations.

There is debate among the scholars that how films are considered to be a literature? The reading of literature is an individual experience which is monocular. On the other hand watching a film is multi-sensory experience emphasizing its mediacy. Literature gives verbal experience whereas films give visual experience. Though literature and films are different mediums of expressions, there is a link between them so that film is considered as a branch of literature. They are the thematic and artistic expressions of human mind. Films are considered as literature because they can be analyzed, explained and interpreted in the same way as written literature is studied. So we can say that Film literature contains all the elements which are present in written literature.

Film studies, as a branch of literary study emerged during the late 20th century. It studies film history and development, adaptations, theories and practices as well as the basics of film productions. Many universities have either introduced diploma and degree courses in film studies, or included it in syllabus of under graduate or postgraduate. It can be strongly suggested that film literature or film studies has great advantages to the student's academic life as well as making career because film literature is an emerging and growing branch of study.

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