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- महाराष्ट्र राज्य साहित्य व सांस्कृतिक मंडळ या नियतकालकाच्या प्रकाशनात अनुदान दिले असले तरी या नियतकालिकेतील लेख लेखांच्या विचाराशी मंडळ व शासन सहमत असेलच असे नाही.
  - या अंकातील लेखातून व्यक्त झालेले लेखांच्या मतांशी संपादक, संपादक मंडळ, प्रकाशक व मुद्रक सहमत असतीलच असं नाही.





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## Teaching English Literature through Film Adaptations

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### Abstract:

Literature forms one of the six classical arts and it has great importance and significance in human life. English literature has reach heritage because of its wide reach all over the world. British people have introduced English language through their colonial imperialism in different countries of the world. Though, every colonized nation has its own language and culture, they started to learn new language English. People from the different nation learned English language as international language. It is learned as second or third language of communication in each country. People also start to write literature in English apart from their native language. Native people have problems in teaching and learning as well as understanding literature from other language particular English. Different pedagogies and techniques are invented and developed to teach English language and literature. Teaching language is different from teaching literature because of its different aspects. Cinema a new and powerful medium of entertains emerged in late 19<sup>th</sup> century and developed in 20<sup>th</sup> century. Film producer or director turned towards literature for good stories and started adapting literature into films. Literature and films have remained closely related to each other since the inception of cinema. Both are complementary and interdependent on each other. Many masterpieces of literature are adapted into films, so teaching literature became easy and effective with these film adaptations. Now, it become one of the techniques of teaching English literature. The present paper tries to study how film adaptations are used as a tool of teach English literature and its effectiveness.

### Key words:

**Film Adaptation** – Film adaptation is the transformation and modification of literary works into film.

**Pictorialize** – It is an international style and aesthetic movement that dominated photography during the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Pedagogies** – teaching methods of techniques

### Introduction

English language in India is taught as compulsory subject in Secondary, Higher Secondary classes and also in Under Graduate programs in many universities. Beside that English literature is also taught as part of the general English courses to graduate students who are specializing in humanities. The literary texts such as poems, plays, short stories, novel etc. are used as material to teach English language. English is foreign language in India and there are some difficulties of teaching English language and literature. There is lot of discussion about the methods of teaching English literature in classrooms. There is extensive study on methods of teaching English language to suit for the students, but there is very little discussion or research to guide teachers to teach English literature using proper and effective methods. This paper tries to discuss some of the methods of teaching English literature and how film adaptations helps English teacher for teaching literature effectively.

English is a foreign language in India, so students and teachers of English literature does not have much knowledge of the English culture which is reflected in English language as well as in literature. While teaching English literature teacher has to compare and contrast the foreign culture with our own culture. The purpose of teaching English literature in Indian classroom is to improve the English language as an international language and also introduce the culture of other nation. Teacher has to use different techniques and methods of teaching English language and literature.

Lecture method is commonly used method of teaching English literature by English teachers in many classes. This method is teacher centered and here the focus of teacher is to give more information to students. This method is totally relying on textbooks, blackboard, chalks and workbooks. It is unable to create more interest among the student. It has some advantages as well as disadvantages such as it involves one way communication, depends on the skill of teaching, students become passive listeners, difficult to understand the students reactions and it requires highly skilled teacher. The teacher can improve this method by using audio-visual aids such as power point presentation to stimulate and focus student's attention.

Another method of teaching English literature is through the Discussion Method which increases student's participation and interest. It also increases student's acceptance and commitments. Teacher can utilize student's knowledge and experience. It is more effective compare to the Lecture Method. Other method, Project method is one of the modern methods of teaching learning used in English language and literature. In this method





the student's point of view is given more importance while designing the curriculum and content of the studies. This method is based on the principle of learning by doing. Students actively collect information from various sources and complete the given project. Beside these methods, there are some other techniques of teaching literature. Teacher can use Role Playing model for teaching drama or one act play. It gives hands on experience to students. Inquiry based learning is a teaching strategy which is based on student's investigation and hands on project. Here teacher is supportive figure and students play an active participative role in their learning process. Teacher can devise some literary games or quiz competition on literature.

Use of audio-visual aids is recent technique of teaching. This method is intended for teaching everyday language at early stage of second/foreign language learning. It is based on behavioristic approach which held that language is acquired by habit formation. This technique can be useful in all disciplines of knowledge. It is interesting technique which helps to keep attention of the students for longer time. Teacher's own film videos, YouTube videos as well as other videos from online sources are also used for teaching. This technique is very helpful in teaching English literature. Films are considered as one of the audio-visual aids which may be described as aids that facilitate the understanding of the written and spoken word in a teaching learning situation. They appeal to the senses such as eyes and ears which are sources of learning. What we learn through senses remain in our mind for longer time. The effectiveness of learning through senses or through audio-visual aids is more effective. These audio-visual aids are of great value in the teaching of English language and literature in India.

Literature as an older and basic form of expression is more established art valued. Its varied forms of expressions are one of the reasons for its wide publicity. Poetry, theatre and fiction all fall under the umbrella of literature. Narrative devices are used to convey human experiences in all the forms of literature. The form 'novel' was emerged during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and become one of the popular forms of literature today. As a mainstay of the literary world, novels provide excellent material for film and television adaptations. A novel is a piece of literature that is structured around a story. If one wants to make it more complicated, they may add subplots. Characters in a book might be fully fleshed out or just referenced. The author's unique writing style is evident in each work. In terms of format, there is nothing specific. As a result, the options for a novel's plot and characters are almost limitless.

Films or cinema is one of the scientific inventions of man through which he could explore new ideas along with changed approaches to human life and its desires, emotions, and feelings. Through the invention of cinema, man could visualize his vision. The visualization has made the art of cinema distinct from literature. Rather it has helped the audiences and its taste bearers to connect with the story more closely than literature. As literature takes its readers to a journey of imagination and takes them away from the real world whereas cinema displays an imaginative world before them to view, feel, and even think over it. Basically, the spectators view the film through the filmmaker's imagination. In contrast, the readers do not read the novel from the view point of novelist rather they perceive what they felt and thought that help them to make their own perception. Literature is an art that advances through writing whereas cinema brings a new life to those writings through music, sound, actors and visual aids.

With the inception of cinema as a new medium, the early film producer or director turned towards literature for the story. They started to adapt the familiar and popular literary works into film adaptations. Morris Beja in his book *Film and Literature* (1979) estimated that, "roughly 30 percent or more of all films produced each year were based on novels and the sixteen out of twenty highest grossing films ever were adaptations drawn from novels." Another film scholar, Charles Bane made an observation that the most recent edition of Enser's *Filmed Books and Plays* (2017) include Eight thousand films released during the period 1928 to 2001 were based on novels or plays. Dudley Andrews mentioned that "half of the blockbuster films had adapted from the literary work". This shows the popularity of film adaptations from literary sources. The novels are particularly adapted to films due to the novel's global acceptance. According to Balzac, the novel should be regarded, as a potential raw material to be transformed at will by the writer of the screenplay. He says that the screenplay has the capacity to approach reality, to approach the thematic and the formal design of the literary model and version. For instance, Tolkien's *Lord of Rings*, Stephen Mayor's *Twilight*, J K Rowling's *Harry Potter* are classic literary works. The readers or fans of such books are a major reason for film adaptations. Films derived from literary works, particularly novels, are also considered visual literature. Films employ both the visual and verbal forms in their spoken modes, but literature exclusively uses semantic formation in its writing. Both are narrative formats. Films use tools and methods that are unique to their medium of expression, the audio-visual medium. So film adaptation becomes common and popular in 20<sup>th</sup> century.





According to Judith Buchanan adaptation is pictorializing of literature. It is the simplification of literary texts. It is a visual representation of words on a screen. Adaptations are exclusively cinematic, involving only films that are based on novels or plays or stories. Literary adaptations are one-way translations from text – especially ‘classic’ texts – to screen. Literary adaptations are not exactly like that is in the book. Adaptations are exclusively inter-medial, involving the transfer of narrative elements from one medium to another. The main distinction between novels and films would be that the writer employs words, but the filmmaker uses visuals or pictures (not literary images). A scenario is described in a novel (book), whereas a scene is presented in a film. Though the changes are seen to be little on the surface, they are overly complex. Narration, description, dialogues, internal dialogues, figurative dialects in the form of images, metaphors, and other literary methods are used by a writer. In a movie, the director primarily employs two modes: visuals and sound. These two modalities are likewise subjected to exceedingly difficult technological procedures.

Literature and films are two distinct mediums that have the same goal: elevating the human mind's capacity for imaginative exploration and comprehension. The advancement of human civilization is aided by both movies and literature. Similarly, they are complementary in nature, as sounds and letters in the human language. The arts of film and literature complement one another in that they both provide sources of inspiration and insight. Films may be adapted from a variety of materials, including plays, novels, music, and paintings. Everything from stagecraft to lighting to movement and gesture to character development to personality to topic and point of view to rhythm and repetition to color and counterpoint may be found in these many sources.

Films or film adaptations are a very common type of audio-visual aids. It can help the learner in a number of ways. By the use of films student's interest is heightened. More learning is accomplished and the retention of learnt material is more permanent. Films depict motion and motion implies continuity by seeing the English movies. Spoken English of the learner can be improved considerably. Moreover we can see the situation and also bear what is being said in that situation. It helps in the comprehension of language material. Thus, the film adaptations are definitely having great importance as far as teaching and learning of English language and literature in India is concerned.

### Conclusion

Though, there are different methods and techniques of teaching English literature, teaching literature became easy and effective with the use of film adaptations. In literature, the writer uses words to write literary works on the other hand the filmmaker uses visuals or pictures along with sounds. A scenario is described in a novel or book, whereas a scene is presented in a film. Narration, description, dialogues, internal dialogues, figurative dialects in the form of images, metaphors, and other literary methods are used by a writer. On the other hand, in the movie, the director primarily employs two modes: visuals and sound which appeals to our more senses and become more effective. Now days many film adaptations are easily available on YouTube, Amazon, IMDB etc. The literature learned through the use of film adaptations remains in our mind for long time and creates a good impact.

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