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SCRIPT TO SCREEN: A JOURNEY OF CHETAN BHAGAT

Katara Jigneshbhai Dilipbhai*

ABSTRACT

“History repeats itself but golden words are not repeated!” This has been the maxim followed by human beings all over the world proving that mankind believes in paradoxes in every aspect of life. The words of Shakespeare, Milton, Jane Austen and many upcoming legendary writers have morphed into countless forms in all kinds of culture, be it visual stage plays, television, comic books or films. They are the ‘rare golden words’ but being encashed and passed on cultural rich legacy from generations to generations. To sum up this entire journey of ‘Script to Screen’ one is observant of similarities with a difference and differences with similarities enriching Odyssey of literary works and their cinematic adaptations. The literary writers like cultural factors and archetypes haunt the human world like an overflowing river of aesthetic and artistic creativity in their endeavor so that ‘art becomes eternal’ and binds the past and present, the words and the motion pictures worlds, the occident and the orient. In this postmodern world one realizes that the defined boundaries do not exist anymore. From one’s self to the globalized world, everything has become interrelated!

KEY WORDS: Script, Screen, Writer, Artistic, Creativity.

INTRODUCTION

The literary writers and the literary canon is centuries old and Cinema too has celebrated its hundred years. After this long, eventful journey that has been embarked upon by both these creative forms, one looks back in awe at the magnificence and the magic that both forms have created, be it individually or communally. The power of the pen and the eye of the camera, both have played a significant role in shaping society and redefining its norms. Be it Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*, the Moor in *Othello*, Harry Potter in *Harry Potter* series or even ever loved Ryan in *Five Point Someone* popularly recreated as Rancho in the movie ‘Three Idiots’. All these and many more characters have been a part of the reader’s or the audiences’ virtual world.

* Katara Jigneshbhai Dilipbhai, PhD Research Scholar

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The magic created by cinema and the enigma created by literature have enthralled people of all ages and influenced society in various forms.

HUNDRED YEARS OF INDIAN CINEMA

Indian Cinema is a century old and has proudly celebrated its existence in all possible ways and forms. Cinema today is not just limited to the Tinsel Town but has its popularity spread worldwide. Its audience has moved from being just the 'common man' to people belonging to all walks and frames of life. Cinema has pepped up their lives, added glamour to it, made them ponder over life or even at times reflected their own lives. In this research, all three movies that have been selected happen to be Bollywood movies. '3 Idiots' that talks about India is made by a Bollywood director and has its star cast from Bollywood itself. For people in India, cinema is not just a means of entertainment it is an integral part of their existence, a means of spreading awareness, an escape from their melancholic, mundane lives. The three hours that an Indian spends in the company of his or her favorite film star are an escape for him into a fantasy world where that entire he has ever wanted for himself is seen coming true on the 30 feet by 70 feet screen. Indian Cinema continues to retain its magic over the lives of Indians and has proudly celebrated its long 100 year journey. Indian cinema has an identity that is unique and unmatched. One has moved from the black and white silent films to the colored, 3D, 4D and 5D movies but our cinema continues to retain its basic essence that is: entertainment. Father of Indian cinema, Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, popularly known as Dadasaheb Phalke, directed and produced the first silent movie 'Raja Harishchandra' in 1913, and laid the foundation for the beginning of a massive feature film industry that now shines in India and abroad.

A new revolution began in 1931 when India's first talkie 'Alam Ara' directed by Ardeshir Irani, was released. As time passed, the industry prospered with the help and contribution of film personalities like Debaki Bose, Chetan Anand, SS Bose and Nitin Anand. 50s and 60s were considered as the 'Golden Age of Indian Cinema'. Filmmakers like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Guru Dutt, Bimal Roy, Mehboob Khan, K. Asif, Raj Kapoor, K.V. Reddy, L. V. Prasad and Ramu Kariat made waves in their respective film industries and they went on to make classics like 'Pather Panchali', 'Madhumati', 'Do Bheega Zameen', 'Shree

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420', 'Awaara', 'Pyasa', 'Mother India', 'Mughal E Azam', 'Mayabazar' among many other films. The 70s completely changed the way films were made. Changing social norms and changing economies influenced movies and the companies that made them. The narrative style, the story structure, content and the characters too underwent a vast change. It was the age of the 'angry young man', again an inspiration from British protest and Problem plays. The eighties was an era of women film makers. Vijaya Mehta ('Rao Saheb') Sai Pranjpye ('Chashme Baddoor', 'Katha', 'Sparsh'), Kalpana Lajimi, ('Ek Pal'), Prema Karanth ('Phaniamma') and Meera Nair ('Salaam Bombay'). It was also the age of 'Umrao Jaan'.

The industry moved a step ahead and 90's captivated the audiences with their action packed performances. This was an era of mixed genre of romantic, thrillers, action and comedy films. Indian cinema finally found global mass appeal at the turn of 21st century. Today, 100 glorious years of Indian film industry have been celebrated and by now, various stars have graced the silver screen with their unique acting skills. As the world became a global village, the industry has reached out further to international audiences. The emergence of new age filmmakers like Mani Ratnam, Ram Gopal Varma, Madhur Bhandarkar, Anurag Kashyap, Anurag Basu, Deva Katta, Nagesh Kukunoor, Rajkumar Hirani, Dibakar Banerjee, Vishal Bhardwaj and others have redefined cinema and helped it in achieving a new milestone. Indian art cinema has also not gone unnoticed either. Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Ritwik Ghatak, Aravindan, Satyajit Ray, Shyam Benegal, Shaji Karun and several other art film directors have made movies that gave India, an international fame and glory. A revolution has taken place in terms of defining glamour, entertainment, commercial values, budgeting, marketing and box office reports. To mark the Centenary celebrations of Indian Cinema, The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has also instituted a centenary award which will be given to a path breaking film every year at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa started from the year 2012 onwards.

Film adaptations have been made since the early days of cinema, but the last decade or so has seen an increase in their popularity. Unfortunately, in many cases, a film adaptation can be done poorly leaving audiences puzzled about the director's need to trample all over someone else's beloved story. However, the demand behind the adaptations cannot be denied,

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neither the fact that when they are done in the right way, they can yield some entertaining, memorable and lucrative artistic achievements. The benefit of any adaptation, especially the ones of popular works is that they already have a foundation of fans. This can also be a drawback because the expectations for a film adaptation can run very high, setting a movie up for a huge success if it delivers vice-a versa. Discussing about the controversial *The Da Vinci Code*, which was criticized by critics all over the world, it is clear why this book's movie adaptation was the second highest grossing movie worldwide of 2006, a feat that surely would not have been accomplished if it were not for the popularity attached to the film before its release due to Dan Brown's book of the same name.

CONCLUSION

As per the analysis done in this work, the movie compliments the novel and encourages the author to develop such novels for future transmutations. The incessant beat of '3 idiots' continues till 'Half Girlfriend'. The contemporary exasperated era remains in technology driven futile world where books are dueling for their existence. The cinematic adaptations resuscitate the existence of texts by popularizing them even outside the national boundaries. '3 Idiots', as a fervent adaptation, serves a platter in front of famished viewers leaving them inquisitive to read the novel as well. The success of transmuted work '3 Idiots' inspires not only the contemporary authors but also one of the popular directors of Tollywood to such an extreme that he directed the movie 'Nanban' which is remake of '3 Idiots' in 2012. Meaning of 'Nanban' also resembles the theme of movie which is 'friends'. To sum-up, this research does not only examine two different art forms but also the impact that they engender on society. The text relishes a sensitizing stream of thoughts ahead of readers and the movie version catalyses its movement. The transmutation of *Five Point Someone* does encourage, attract and motivate the novelists to produce such literary works and helps in saving the life of papers. In the end everything can be summed up in the words of Ronald Perrier "The Study of literature casts light on the meanings in the film, and the study of the film can illuminate the full value of the literature."

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