



Critical Analysis on Archetypes and symbols used in films

Joshua L

II MA ENGLISH

PG Department of English

Don Bosco College

Yelagiri Hills

joshuagingee2000@gmail.com

Sam Surya S

Assistant Professor

PG Department of English

Don Bosco College(Co-Ed)

Yelagiri Hills - 635853

Abstract:

“Film is a great tool to play with human emotions and thoughts” films are simply part of our daily life, different people from different culture from different part of the world can think same thing because they are connected to cinema. In early days in films the writers mainly focused on the stories related to the history and war, the setting of the characters is not given in a proper, the time and situation is irrelevant, later archetypes were introduced in the writings as well as in films it made huge change in exploring cinema and it makes stories into

next level. In the beginning archetypes were used as images, symbols, and character type in literary works like poetry, later it extended in film writing the writers using archetype to draw a natural and unnatural mythic character, in today's cinema archetypes plays an important role in character setting, themes, conflicts, plots, in films through this research paper I am going to analyse the archetypes that used in Tamil movies and features of the archetypes in film writing.

Key words: Archetypes, characters, symbols, cinema, myths, nature, films

In early days, the setting of the story and theme in Tamil films are only revolves around the Hero, all other characters are used as sub characters and these sub characters doesn't make any difference in the movies because the writer himself wrote the story that glorifies hero character. But in today's cinema archetypes are used in myths and storytelling across different cultures, not only through characters but also through the unnatural things. For example, in recent movie named ANDHAGHAARAM Directed by V.Vignarajan the movie about the interconnection between life and death as well as, the director used telephone as the medium to connect, here the telephone used as an archetype to connect spirit to human and that made film as a best crime thriller. Like many films used different types of archetypes.

Mythological archetypes in Karnan:

After the huge success of PARIYERUM PERUMAL Director Mari selvaraj come up with another new form of film with new making style filled with symbols and myths from ancient Indian, medieval European and folk mythology to depict podiyankulam and its people. The donkey with its front legs tied, it hasn't given up, though. Once in a while, it lifts up its front leg but can't free itself. Here the donkey used as an archetype that connected and it represents the village and the main protagonist, here the donkey plays a major role in the film because when the donkey frees up the tie the hero frees up the tie and the entire village frees

up the tie and that frees up denotes the wanted freedom that burns inside them throughout the ages.

Though the donkey and horse used most of the metaphorical load in the film, we can get the traces of animals throughout the film, human and animals plays the major role as the archetypes. Eagles, elephants, horse, chickens, cows, snails, used in the film. And also the director uses some untold cultural archetypes in the movie, Buddhism ideas conveyed throughout the film.

Colour Archetypes:

From the mid of 20th century the colour palette used in Tamil films as an archetype to resembles the character of the person and his life but in the time many of the audience not able to catch the essence of the story, many films failed in the attempt of using colour as an archetype. For example, Selvaragavan and his use of colours in movies like pudupettai he uses each colour for each character the red denotes the evil and the green denotes the good, blue denotes the survival it may failed in the beginning but later it decoded and celebrated by the audience.

The colour palette of a film helps in justifying the genre of the film in movies like Eeram, 13-b, it differs from the other ghost movies because of the colour that used in the film. The colour archetypes not only denotes the genre of the film in movies like pisasu, psycho, Irul, the colour denotes the psychological character of the protagonist in these all movies. Darkness used as an archetype, the darkness represents the fear and the mental state of the protagonist.

“EVERY SYMBOL AND COLOUR IS AN ARCHETYPE”

Nature as an Archetype:

Nature plays an important role in all the parts of human life, very few Directors used nature as an archetype, like a film Peranbu Directed by Ram the film comparing the seasons of nature with the seasons of life of a human emotion. In the same way the another film named “Into the wild” directed by Sean Penn in this movie the main protagonist is nature because the hero of the movie simply search for life through nature, when the archetype is the nature the true emotion comes away from the all sides.

“The nature can symbolize the unconscious mind and inner exploration, the nature is a mysterious and often scary and when we go into its depths, we learn a great deal about ourselves, our fears, and our capabilities”

An archetype is a universal symbol that can be anything like theme, action, colour, myth, setting, through archetypes the film goes into next level, because most of the writers and film makers used archetype as a key to convey their thought to the readers and audience in an easy manner, though most of them not aware of archetypes that used in films, in some way it goes into their thought and make them to think about the archetypes. With the help of an archetypes that used in films we can learn and have some idea about different culture, different themes, different people.

Work cited:

Symbols that define karnan’s world,

By Ashutosh mohan

April 10, 2021

<https://www.filmcompanion.in/>

Karnan .Dir. Mari selvaraj. kalaipuli s thanu

Dhanush, rajisha vijayan

9th April 2021

Pudupettai.Dir. selvaragavan. K.muralitharan

Dhanush, sneha, Sonia agarwal

26th may 2006

Pisasu /psycho. Dir Mysskin

Peranbu. Dir Ram P.L thennapan

Mammooty, anjali, sadhana

1st February 2019

Into the wild. Dir sean penn

Emile Hirsch, Kristen stewart

21st September 2007

