Literature and Cinema: Their inter-relation

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Introduction

Literature and cinema both have a powerful impact on those who wish to realize themselves truly. As we know, literature is an expression of life; it is a mirror of life. It is the written record of man's thoughts and emotions. It is the history of the human soul. Its main objective is to know the human soul rather than human actions. On the other hand, the cinematography is the representation, and it is the dramatization of human thoughts and emotions. Both literature and cinema have the same expression. They have the same relation as what the two sides of the coin have. If one is the theory, the other is practical.

Literature is a supplier of power. It influences, guides, and shapes people in their voyage through life. As we are always under the influence of literature, we can see that there are the factors that modify the people. It is up to us as to how we assign ourselves to society. It is up to us to influence the individual around us. If we study, experience, and know the culture of the present as well as of the past, only then we can understand the philosophy of life. Literature is the art which is closest to thought and feelings. It is distinguished from other forms of art (e.g., painting and music) as it emphasizes thought content. On the other hand, cinema is the art; it is a skill that is completely based on creating a mood rather than arousing any thought. Literature delves its readers in a pool of imagination, which is different from the real world. In contrast, cinema shows its readers the world of fantasy without delving their minds into their world of imagination.

Literature is an art to which one can develop through writing, and cinematography is an art that one can develop through the representation of that writing with the combination of sound, music, actors, and visual art. Both literature and cinema are interdependent. Without the script, there cannot be the production of cinema. Literature is the first step for cinema. It is the script and the dialogues which one produces to develop the process of filmmaking. The purpose of cinematography of a literary work of art is a source of motivation for the audience to
enjoy themselves once there is representation on the screen, the quality of production increases than it does in the literary written form.

To write a book is different from writing a screenplay. Yet, there are various directors of the film who have successfully brought a common platform for both the lovers of books and movies. There are some Bollywood films that are an adaptation from novels:

**Guide**

The film has Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman as actors, which is representation from R.K. Narayan's novel *The Guide*. If viewed objectively, it appears that the books, as well as the film *The Guide*, attempt to represent the different aspects of the human predicament. Both the novel and the film describe and delineate the plot in their style. The former "… floats gently as a lily pad on the surface of Indian life and yet suggests the depth beneath. It manages to describe a saint who is neither born nor made but simply happens." (Trivedi, p.20)

In the novel, Narayan adopts a microcosmic view of societal problems. He portrays his characters anecdotally and coincidentally. Through his approach, he tries to amuse and delight his readers.

R.K. Narayan uses the flashback technique in the story, which helps Raju to get his personality. The use of this technique arouses the interest and curiosity of the readers. This technique is retained in the movie also.

The significant structural change in the film is the ending. The novelist uses the open-ended style. In the end, it has been left for the readers to imagine whether the rain comes or not. The ending of the novel is ambiguous:

> The morning sun was out by now; a great shaft of light illuminated the surroundings. It was difficult to hold Raju on his feet, as he tended to flop down. They held him as if he were a baby. Raju opened his eyes, looked about, and said, 'Velan, it's raining in the hills. I can feel it coming up under my feet, up to my legs-' He sagged down'. (247)

The director of the film uses the lighting & sound effects in the climax. In the movie, when the rain starts pouring, Raju passes away. Rosie, Gaffur, and his mother are there to complete his journey of the mortal world. They also witness his resurgence from the human world to the immortal world. In the film, the protagonist grows higher than the protagonist of the novel. The protagonist of the book is presented as a normal human being. It is done for the public to get inspiration and the interest in how a mortal human being can be regenerated into immortality through his actions.
3 Idiots

Rajkumar Hirani's 3 Idiots is a film representation of Chetan Bhagat's best-selling work, *Five Point Someone*. The story was about three average students who tried to compete in the system, but they failed in their attempts. The story is, in fact, a commentary on the education system. Chetan Bhagat focuses on academic pressure through the lives of three best friends. It was a story where the guys learned a few things about life. The setting of the book *Five Point Someone* is the Indian Institute Of Technology, the top engineering college in India, similar to MIT in America.

The story revolves around Ryan Oberoi, who is a brilliant but free-spirited student. He believes that real education comes from critical thinking and experiences of life, not from the memorization of formulas given in the books. Ryan and his friends feel very happy at their admission to the prestigious IIT. But they don't know about the pressure there which they have to bear. The trio ends up having a five out of ten, which ranks near the end of their class. They keep on struggling in getting their career successful; by becoming five-point, someone. The plot of the film is the same as the book itself. The book provides the facts, and the film gives these facts a form of life. Still, there is one main difference between the two, which occurs at the ending. The book ends after graduation of the three friends, and the film goes beyond it. At the end of the film, it shows how their average intelligence in the college shapes their future.

Maqbool

Maqbool by Vishal Bhardwaj is an adaptation from Shakespeare's tragedy *Macbeth*. The film Maqbool is set in the Mumbai underworld. Abbaji, an underworld don, is the King, Duncan I of Scotland of *Macbeth*. Macbeth (Maqbool) and Banquo (Kaka) are two of his subordinates who look after his business. Lady Macbeth (Nimmi) is a mistress of Abbaji and not a wife of Maqbool.

In Vishal Bhardwaj's Maqbool, Shakespeare's plot and characters, are reshaped and reordered and are set in Mumbai's underworld. This film is a sharp satire on law and order in India. Maqbool is considered a 'cross-over' film because it demonstrates an Elizabethan Shakespearean play. Besides this, it is a postmodernist literary work of art. It represents the devastated Scotland of Macbeth. It also shows Maqbool's living in Mumbai's immoralities' lands.
The plot of *Macbeth* is set in the Elizabethan age, which displays the aristocracy of Scotland. The story revolves around Macbeth, who became a victim of his ambitions. On his return, back from a battle, Macbeth met three Witch sisters. The witches' prophesized that he would one day become the king himself. The defeat of Macbeth was his own doing. He murdered the king of Scotland (Duncan), for Macbeth wanted to become the king himself.

Maqbool, on the other hand, is set in the backdrop of the Mumbai underworld. Although *Macbeth* was composed by Shakespeare around the 1600s when the aristocracy was prevalent in Scotland, Maqbool was made much later in 2003 in India. Yet, the film becomes a great work of art that combines a classical tragedy with the modern-day scenario.

**Haider**

Vishal Bhardwaj's critically hit movie Haider is the adaptation from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Haider is set against the backdrop of the civilian abductions during the 1995 Kashmir insurgency.

Both play, and the movie is more than just stories. Apart from being human psychology, both have strong references and commentary about the prevailing social conditions.

Haider, like Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, is a perfect combination of thriller, a tender love story, a historical document backed by amazing cinematography, music acting, and writing. Like Hamlet, the character of Haider is also torn between the scattered situations and shattered relationships. Haider also suffers from an existential crisis. He is unable to make his decisions promptly. His confusion can be seen when he speaks these words to Arshia(Ophelia), "To trust the surging beats of the heart/ to kill or to die/ to be or not to be."

**Conclusion**

Both literature and cinema have a powerful impact on the people who wish to realize it fully. One can get the ideas of life and theory in a better way if both literature and cinema are combined. The two works together to help us in better understanding of each other and ourselves. Both literature and cinematography – though different forms of art – together make our life and world lively and practical.

**References**


