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• वर्ष : ९० • डिसेंबर २०२२ • पुरवणी विशेषांक १३

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इतिहासाचार्य वि. का.राजवाडे संशोधन मंडळ, धुळे



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Cinema: The Modern Genre of Literature

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Abstract :

Traditionally poetry, drama and novel are considered as the genres of literature. Cinema cannot be a literary genre is what some academicians feel. Nowadays film studies are included along with literary studies in many universities both in India and abroad. Cinema or a film like the traditional genres of literature appeals to the human mind and entertains them providing pleasure and/or some moral values using fictitious characters, plot and imaginative scenes. Filmmaking, unlike the traditional genres of literature is a team effort. The present paper makes an attempt to focus on the origin and development of cinema, difference between cinema and literature and interrelations between cinema and literature. While discussing these points, cinema in India is kept at the center.

Origin and Development of Cinema :

Cinema was originated in France one hundred and twenty five years ago. Today it has spread to every corner of the world. The power of cinema is, it has taken all the arts together and spread its charm all over the world. Most of the population of the world today is influenced by cinema.

Cinema in India started with religious subjects. It should not be forgotten that in its infancy cinema adopted literature as its nurse and attained its essence. It started its journey on the basis of different schools of literature. Earlier, cinema made films based on mythology. In 1912, Ramchandra Gopal Torne's film 'Pundalik' got immense success. The film was based on a play

written by produced by Rama Rao Kirtikar. Later, Dadasaheb Phalke's 'Raja Harishchandra' was screened. Harishchandra is considered to be the first film in Indian cinema. 'Pundalik' before this, due to the cinematographer being foreign, could not get the first place in Indian cinema. At the initial stage, films were made keeping mythological characters in the center, 'Bhakta Prahlad', 'Shivmahima', 'Vishnu Avatar', 'Ramayana', 'Uttar Ramayana', 'Sant Tukaram', 'Sant Namdev', 'Bhakta Prahlad' became famous films. In 1931, Ardeshir Irani's film 'Alamara' is the first produced with music and playback singing. Thereafter, the nature of Indian cinema changed very fast. The audience looked forward to more and more music and playback singing films. Apart from mythological events, social and historical films were produced, based on the works of famous literary works of the writers like Amritlal Nagar, Upendranath Ashok, Premchand, and Vridanvan Lal Verma which could not get much fame. The reason for this was the trend of the audience towards the entertainment. After that, we see that the directors focused their attention on the social problems of the time leaving the religious subjects. Films on patriotism also started being made. These films created an atmosphere against the British and aroused the yearning for freedom in the public. Along with this, some films made the countrymen aware of social evils. Literary works also played an inspirational role in the freedom struggle. After independence, the hue of nationalism started appearing in the cinema.



Along with this, entertaining films also started being made. The decade of the sixties was the era of building a new India. At this time, cinema had started adopting new environment leaving the rustic style. Hindi cinema was divided into two parts in the seventh decade. Parallel Hindi cinema and mainstream Hindi cinema. Parallel films had a grim reality of life. At the same time mainstream Hindi films were bringing ideological and practical openness in the society. Hindi cinema started knocking at the international level in the nineties. By the time of twenty-first century, Hindi cinema has got so caught up in the maelstrom of violence and obscenity that even today it is revolving around it. Since cinema came into the society as a major source of business. So, keeping in mind the interest of the audience, the filmmakers started serving obscene scenes and romantic stories in the name of fantasy entertainment, keeping in mind the entertainment trend. In this way, we can say that literature is the mother of cinema, but the child in the form of cinema is seeking its own separate existence after becoming an adult.

Art is a mirror of society. Film is an audio-visual art medium that expresses human emotions more effectively. Since the film is audio-visual, the art world in it feels more close and alive to the audience. Audiences from all walks of life can enjoy this art form effortlessly as it requires no prior preparation or special knowledge to enjoy this audio-visual medium based on modern technology. Not only this, but in recent times, it has become possible for audiences with different languages and cultures to enjoy movies with the help of 'dubbing'.

Cinema has also influenced our economy, while literature has nothing to do with the economy of the country. Today no nation is untouched by the hypnosis of cinema. From this it can be estimated that how fast the development of cinema has happened. After the advent of cinema in India, it developed progressively.

Today on an average one thousand films are made in India every year. India ranks first in the world in the field of film production. Bollywood or Hindi cinema has become the identity of Indian cinema today.

Difference Between Cinema and Literature :

The litterateur is not dependent on anyone in the making of literature, but the director is mostly dependent on other people in the process of making cinema. The writer is not bound by the time limit but the director has to be punctual. He has to work within the stipulated time limit, whatever has to be done keeping in mind the duration of the film i.e. two and a half to three hours. It means that there is a lot of time pressure on the director. Literature is a economically cheap medium but cinema is a very expensive medium. Readers of literature have to understand very well that there is a difference between literature and cinema. Cinema cannot be evaluated on the basis of literature.

Filmmaking is a team effort. In fact, various skilled technicians and artists come together to shape the film. It is produced using various techniques including dance, drama, music, literature. The director is the leader of various arts, artists and technicians. This is why a director needs to have a good understanding of the technical side of film and other arts as well. Film is said to be a director's medium, because every artist and technician works according to his instructions. The director has to play an important role at all levels such as story, screenplay, lyrics, music, scenery, costumes, photography, sound recording, and compilation. Literature is free from all such technical aspects.

There is a great distance between the readers of stories, novels and the audience of films. The writer conveys the subject to the reader through language. But it doesn't necessarily feel alive or juicy. On the other hand, the audience in a film sees a recorded scene and immediately becomes



attuned to it. The reader can enjoy the scenes in the story-novel according to his taste. The audience of the film, however, sees, in fact lives, these scenes in the motion of the film itself. Film is a living art involving various arts. The director keeps the momentum going by innovating it moment by moment. That is why the excitement is created in the minds of the audience. The scenes in the story-novel move at a relatively slow pace. This conflicting role creates a gap between the writing and the actual scenes in the film. The story of the production is the same. The plot of a novel cannot be taken as it is in a film. As per the requirement of the film, the director changes the scene to make it more exciting. This is why there is often a difference between the plot of novels and the plot of movies.

The characters in the author's work are his psyche. As they are created and shaped by his genius and poetic creativity. However, the characters in the film do not come in such detail as the film medium has a time-scene limitation. In this context, the opinion of Prakash Jha, the leading producer of Hindi cinema, can be taken into consideration. 'There is a huge difference between writing a character for the book readers and presenting it to the film audience, which I think is a big challenge. It is a challenge to portray the characters on screen as they are written in the story and as they are seen by the readers. There is very little scope in the film to paint the story. But in a book, you can add any number of pages,' he says. However, in some respects, film is a slightly better medium than literature. E.g. If the scene of the lovers sitting under the waterfall is to be presented in words, the writer has to describe the waterfall, the surrounding area, the lovers in detail. Conversely, when the same scene is actually seen in the film, the director can shoot directly with the waterfall and the lovers under it. In short, we have to admit that both film and literature have their own strengths and limitations.

Interrelations Between Cinema and Literature :

Literature plays a unique role in a film that is a perfect amalgamation of many arts. In fact literature is the main supporting factor of the film. Marathi films have been enriched by literature from the very beginning. Many stories, novels and poems in Marathi literature have been made into films. Directors are always seen to be inspired by literature to make films. The Golden Lotus winning film 'Shyamchi Ai' was based on Sane Guruji's novel. In this film, poet Yashwant's famous poem 'Aai Manhoni Koni' was used very skillfully. Shivaji Maharaj's biography has provided the basis for many historical films in Marathi cinema. Bhalji Pendharkar has to be mentioned mainly in this concern. His films 'Netaji Palkar', 'Bahirji Naik', 'Jai Bhawani', 'Chhatrapati Shivaji' 'Maharani Yesubai', 'Pawankhind', 'Swarajyacha Shiledar', 'Thoratanchi Kamala', 'Maratha Tituka Melwawa', 'Ganimi Kava' etc. are historical in nature. When an author's literary work is transformed into a film, its original form, original purpose, and expression change. A literary work expressed through language changes internally and externally when it comes to film. The important reason for this is that the medium of film is 'camera'. Through photography, the author's story is brought to the screen in a pictorial manner. This is why it is called 'film'. In the film, the event, the occasion, their connection is very important. Through fine literature, acting is expressed through words. But as it is expressed through body language in the film, it becomes more alive through the performance of the artist and the director has to perform the task of making the performance come alive. While making a film, what the director wants to say has to be conveyed in the true form through the artists. This is why the film is the creation of the director.

**Conclusion :**

Cinema is imagination-oriented, for the expression of feelings, such scenes are created which are not possible through words. Sometimes it becomes a challenge for the filmmakers to bring the atmosphere created by the same literature through words in visual form. The environment created by the writer of words is created by the readers through their own imagination in different emotions and scenes, while the environment created by the filmmaker is the same for the audience. The filmmaker is not able or does not want to convert the material taken from the literature through his experience, because he wants to serve the literature in the form of a film and the literature does not fully respond to the mold of the film and hence a separation arises in the interrelationship of literature and cinema. In such a place, literature knows its limits only by its size. Explaining the

interrelationship of literature and cinema, famous film critic Vimalendu says that "the relationship between literature and cinema has also been like that of two neighbours, both of them keep working for each other, but it is never sure that there is love between them."

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