



Shakespeare and its readpatons of his few plays in Bollywood celluloid-A study

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I. INTRODUCTION

Cultures like the Indian culture are a vast mixture of different races, ethnic behaviour, traditions, thoughts, and ideas ranging from minor differences in dialects to central philosophical notions about love, marriage, career, belief systems, and so on (Thompson, 2013). Such so-called modern cultures are the main dimensions of contemporary society. A significant factor influencing such diversities is the entertainment sector, especially theatre, movies, documentaries, etc. These are the most popular methods of discussing and spreading knowledge and information, including several societal behaviours and logic.

Some of the essential innovative practices or upcoming trends that affect the production and direction of these cinemas and movies include an increasingly dramatic effect on Literature on Storyline and themes (Zinnatullina *et al.*, 2019.). The modern era of Indian Cinema, especially Bollywood has been seen to accept several forms of ideology and philosophies that are seen not only in Indian culture but also in other such long-lost cultures and societies. Acceptance of such vivid cultural philosophies, ideologies, and principles and readaptation of these into modern-day lifestyle patterns and societal causes has been one of the most significant changes in the basic making of Bollywood movies.

II. MAIN BODY

2.1 Influence of Shakespeare on Bollywood Celluloid

The impact of literature on modern Cinema usually tends to influence the movie's storyline and the director's thinking and direction process. The primary effect of literature on the cinematic approach is the prevalence of different viewpoints, ideologies, and principles and their required readaptation and representation amidst modern causes and issues (Zinnatullina *et al.*, 2019).

William Shakespeare, one of the renowned literary scholars and icon, has also left similar marks on Indian Cinema, especially in Bollywood. Modern Bollywood movies tend to foretell various Shakespearean ideas, logic, and problems under the premise and disguise of modern movies like Haider, Maqbool, Omkara, Ram-Leela, Qayamat Se QayamatTak, English Vinglish, and so on. The central theme and plot of such films tend to be influenced by Shakespearean literature and thought processes. Critical Analysis of the story, storyline, content, dialogues, props, costume, and performance of such movies reveal that the director has tried to readapt such Shakespearean ideas into modern-day issues and problems (Shurgot, 2015).

2.2 Maqbool

Maqbool is a 2004 Indian crime drama film directed by Vishal Bhardwaj. the main stars of Irrfan, Tabu, Pankaj Kapur, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Piyush Mishra, Murali Sharma and MasumehMakhija.

Effect of Shakespeare

The movie is an adaptation of the play "*Macbeth*" by Shakespeare which shows the damaging psychological and physical effects of a politically ambitious person who craves power and attention (Kliman, 2004). Macbeth foretells the consequences of the acts driven by passion and politics, as seen in the play, centred around the question of Macbeth's ambitions (Keller, 2005). It also shows the indirect consequences of such acts on the family, as seen in Lady Macbeth's reference to the child who died during a foolish military action in the first act.

Critical Analysis of the movie

The film's plot is based on the events and characterization of Macbeth with a backdrop of Mumbai. The story revolves around Maqbool's ambitions of leading the underworld of Mumbai and his struggles against Jahangir Khan, an influential underworld don. This is a reincarnation of Macbeth, his overriding ambition and greed, along with the



influence of his domineering wife, Lady Macbeth, ultimately leading him to seize the throne and murder King Duncan. Analysis of the movie reveals that the director has highlighted the mental and physical devastating associated with such ambitions that appeal to the audience (Ayesha Ali, 2020). Hence, the movie is counted as the first film and instalment of Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy.

2.3 Omkara

Omkara was released in 2006 as the second instalment of the Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy. It was co-written and directed by Vishal Bhardwaj and consisted of an ensemble cast of Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Konkona Sen Sharma, and Vivek Oberoi, and Bipasha Basu in the lead roles. The film is set in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Effect of Shakespeare

Omkara is based on Shakespeare's play "*Othello*", which is based on the contemporary Ottoman–Venetian War (1570–1573) fought for the control of the Island of Cyprus, a possession of the Venetian Republic in 1603. The Tragedy of Othello encapsulates the essence of love, jealousy, and betrayal, which leads to ultimate tragedy (Shakespeare, 1991). The play's main characters include Othello, a Moorish military commander, Iago, Othello's ensign, and Desdemona, a Venetian beautiful. The central plot of the story revolves around Othello and Iago's jealous and romantic affair with Desdemona, who is ultimately murdered at the hands of Othello. Various themes like demonic possession, the mind-body problem, and the existence of the Soul have been portrayed in the play (Snyder, 2015).

Critical Analysis of the movie

Analysis of the movie reveals that similar to the tragedy of Othello, the movie revolves around the central plot of Omkara Shukla, Ishwar "Langda" Tyagi, and Keshav "KesuFirangi" Upadhyay, whom all seem to be interested in Dolly. Omkara's jealousy and mistrust led him to believe that Dolly and Kesu are having an affair, which later becomes the cause of the death of Dolly, who is, similar to the play, murdered at the hands of her husband on the wedding night. The movie tends to forecast similar vibes of jealousy, love, and betrayal, making it a classical Bollywood romance story (Harish, 2018).

As influenced by Shakespeare's use of local dialect and behavioural style in the play, The movie also reveals a strong influence of the Khariboli dialect, other than Hindi, and the use of a rustic village setting (The Times of India, 2006).

Therefore, Omkara is a classical readaptation of Shakespeare Literature into the Bollywood style of romance and theatre, making it a fantastic movie for the Indian audience. This movie also reveals India's religious and romantic values in general.

2.4 Haider

Haider is a 2014 Bollywood movie directed and produced by Vishal Bhardwaj. The lead role actor of the movie is Shahid Kapoor, and the lead actress is Tabu, along with Shraddha Kapoor and Kay Kay Menon as supporting roles and Irrfan Khan in an extended cameo.

Effect of Shakespeare

Haider is a modern-day application based on William Shakespeare's play "*Hamlet*". The play depicts the classical tragedy of Prince Hamlet, the prince of Denmark and his revenge against his uncle Claudius. The latter has murdered Hamlet's father to seize his throne and marry Hamlet's mother. The play depicts philosophical expounding ideas like relativism, existentialism, and scepticism. Hamlet reflects on the contemporary doubt promoted by the French Renaissance philosopher Michel de Montaigne (MacCary and Mac Cary, 1998). Psychoanalytic criticism of the play suggests that it depicts Sigmund Freud's "*Oedipus Complex*", which is said to be the primary cause of neurosis and chronic distress associated with revenge activities (Auchincloss *et al.*, 2012).

Critical Analysis of the movie

The movie is set amidst insurgency-hit Kashmir conflicts of 1995 and civilian disappearances when a young poet named Haider returns to Kashmir to look into his father's disappearance. The movie's central plot includes Hilaal Meer's final wish for Haider to take revenge on Khurram for his betrayal, which caused Hilaal's death. This is an idea borrowed from Hamlet's tragedy of prince Hamlet's sorrow and suffering and his obsession with revenge. Analysis of the movie shows that it deals with the internal anguish of a person traumatized by thoughts of revenge and his moral principles, which is psychologically represented by the Oedipus complex. The movie is also based on Basharat Peer's memoir *Curfewed Night* (The Indian Express, 2014).

These factors made the movie a critical acclaim box office hit. Haider is the third instalment of Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy after *Maqbool* (2003) and *Omkara* (2006).



2.5 Goliyon Ki Raasleela: Ram-Leela

Goliyon Ki Raasleela: Ram-Leela, known as Ram-Leela, is a 2013 tragedy romantic movie written and directed by Sanjay LeelaBhansali. It depicts the classical intra-cultural love story between Ram and Leela, who belong to opposing sections of the society. The lead roles in the movie are played by Ranveer Singh, who acts as Ram (a virtual counterpart of Romeo), and DeepikaPadukone, who serves as Leela (a virtual image of Juliet).

Effect of Shakespeare

Ram-Leela is a classical readaptation and reconfiguration of William Shakespeare's tragic romantic play "*Romeo and Juliet*", which revolves around two young Italian star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families (Levenson and Shakespeare, 1987). The play reveals the classical romance and literary context of 1526. Shakespeare's use of long poetic, dramatic structure highlights the switching between comedy and tragedy associated with intra-cultural love affairs. This reveals the general mindset and philosophical differences of the people during that period (Zhatkin and Futljaev, 2019)

Recreating the same idea and thought process in an Indian Background has been the sole motive and purpose of the director while directing Ram-Leela.

Critical Analysis of the movie

Ram-Leela narrates the star-crossed romance between the two eponymous lovers, who belong to warring factions but fall in love. It is a classical readaptation of Shakespearean Literature of the romance genre, which tends to focus on the people's classical intra-cultural behaviour and attitude toward love and inter-cultural relationships. Analysis of the movie shows that Sanjay LeelaBhansali has tried to highlight similar conditions in the Indian society as in Romeo and Juliet (Panjwani, 2014).

Apart from this, the movie also highlights the conditions of women. Similar to Shakespeare's nature of the play, which shows the oppression of women, the constant ambiguities of the movie point out the non-isomorphic flows that characterize some regions of our country. This tension is also found in the depiction of women in the film. Bhansali's adaptation equally shows women are oppressed in our country. This can be seen from the representation of the girl in the item number, the word, the revelation of the state of the widows in the movie, etc. Also, the presence of characters like Dhankor Baa and Leela, who are regarded as virtual counterparts for Lady Capulet and Juliet in the play, tend to focus on the same conclusions of females being oppressed by Societal laws and the World of men (García-Periago, 2021).

Therefore, Ram-Leela not only provides a new understanding of Romeo and Juliet and, ultimately, Shakespeare but also highlights the contingencies and complexities of modern-day India.

III. CONCLUSION

The creation and popularity of Bhardwaj's Shakespearean trilogy in modern Indian Cinema prove that literary scholars like William Shakespeare have dramatically influenced Bollywood. This influence has helped modify and restructure the basic notion of film-making. Modern Film-making, as inspired by Shakespeare, is tens to portray ongoing social events, issues, problems, and myths while rectifying the wrongs that have been showcased till now. Shaping modern problems and issues, including the different attitudes of the ordinary people, with the hint of cultural importance and literary context is the fundamental aim of modern Bollywood celluloid. This tends to leave an impact on the audience as well as change certain opinions in a milder tone.

IV. SYNOPSIS

The effect of visual communication used in several modern multimedia communication has a better impact on human attitude and habits. Entertainment in the form of such products is a well-known phenomenon today. The current report tends to analyze the role of Shakespeare and his plays as a readaptation into the Bollywood celluloid. This shows the impact of Shakespearean literature on modern film-making. Critical Analysis of various modern Bollywood movies has demonstrated that many directors have tried to recreate or reemphasize Shakespeare's message or ideologies in current issues and cultural problems. This shows the importance of such deeply conversed values and how these should be addressed in modern conflicts.

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