

CHETAN BHAGAT AND CINEMATIC ADAPTATION

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ABSTRACT

Chetan Bhagat is one of the few new age writers of India. His books have been a huge influence on today's youth. For the people who are too lazy to grab a book and read for hours together these books have been adapted into movies. This trend is being followed for ages in Hollywood, in recent times, the adoption of books into movies has rapidly increased. Of his nine novels, five have been converted into movies. He has also written a screenplay for one of Salman Khan's biggest hits, 'Kick'.

When Chetan Bhagat is not working on his novels, he moonlights as a screenwriter, columnist or motivational speaker. He has also thrown his hat in the Bollywood ring, having plotted his way to success through his screenplays and stories. Bollywood, as the Hindi film industry is popularly known is the largest contributor to the Film industry and language. Cinema industries such as Bengali, Bhojpuri, Marathi and Gujarati. Although, this industry is the largest in the world. In terms of the number of films it produces. It's not only Bollywood, even most of the successful Hollywood films are based on literary works. But film makers satisfy the hunger of a large heterogeneous audience with the element of entertainment. The idea of screen adaptations is dates back years ago when people had limited options for entertainment and recreational activities. The study is based on movies made in Bollywood which have been inspired by the writings of novelists. This is a qualitative research in which Chetan Bhagat's novel Five Point Someone, 2 States: The story of My Marriage, 3 Mistakes of my life, Half girlfriend and Revolution 2020 have been taken up by Bollywood film makers to make movies 3 Idiots, 2 States, Kai Po Che, Half Girlfriend and Revolution 2020 respectively. Chetan Bhagat, pioneers the way towards new era where he has been picked up by the Bollywood maker consistently. Whatever might be the reason, he is capable enough to shatters the all critics opinion on the ground of his success.

Keywords : Screenwriter, heterogeneous audience, entertainment, recreational activities, qualitative research etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cinema has from time to time fallen back on literature in search for stories to present on celluloid. Book lovers will argue with the statement, 'never judge a book by the movie,' while cinema lovers will stick to 'stories are brought to life,' but the fact remains, literature will always find a way to the silver screen. To adapt a story on screen is a daunting task, more compounded if the story happens to be a classic. It is the director's vision which can do justice to the story. Filmmakers like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, and Shyam Benegal have seamlessly transformed the words on pages to dialogues.

Behind every successful film there is an army of creative people whom we do not see on the silver screen. One of the most important elements of the film is the story or the script, and the man/lady who pens the story is called the scriptwriter. Satyajit Ray is a legend for the Indian Cinemas, he is considered as one of the greatest filmmakers in the 20th Century. Within his lifetime he gave us a plethora of epic films, documentaries, short films, etc.

A film adaptation is a pre-existing work that has been made into a film. Adaptations are often of literary or theatrical works, but musical theatre, best-selling fiction and non-fiction, comic books, children's toys, and so on have also been regularly adapted for the cinema. Film adaptations are becoming increasingly popular. The Production Code Board estimates that something over 50 percent of the movies examined in 1955 were adapted from novels. Moreover, of the top ten all-time money-making films, five were adaptations.

Chetan bhagat, presently, a leading and popular Contemporary writer in Indian Fiction is one of the bestselling novelists today. Since his works refuse to easy categorization into canonical Indian English Novel, he is labelled as best-seller Novelist. In order to cater a huge audience, film makers from all over the world have adopted literature writings for movie making. The key purpose of these screen adaptations lies in giving visual appeal to the black and white words of the author's writings. Furthermore, there are restricted readers for different genres and subject of novel and literature respectively. Audiences are very important to grasp the content of media say as print, electronic and digital. Media these days is working and providing content keeping in view the target audience because it is the audience that makes the content popular to read and share. Cinema is the important medium to entertain and educate

spectators by providing them valuable information. Cinema falls under different genres like romance, action, thriller, comedy, off-beat, cult, classic, animated etc. considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience. There may be two simple reasons why film makers choose novels or literature to make movies. First, novels have in-built audience e.g. Chetan Bhagat's series which has been adapted by film makers to make a movie and showcase on big screen. The second reason is that the story is told which means the content is there; it just needs to be adapted but the process is not easy as it sounds. It has been observed that literature adaptation is not a new concept in Indian Cinema. Since the inception of Indian Cinema, film makers are taking references of literature and novels as the story line of their projects. In fact, the first ever full-length Indian silent feature film was an adaptation from a mythological character Raja Harishchandra. Since then, Indian filmmakers have directly or indirectly taken references from various mythological and social stories in order to make their films.

Bhagat's first novel *Five Point Someone* was published in 2004. The novel has been popular, taken up by masses and Bhagat became the famous overnight. This novel is dealing with the complexity and unheard challenges of the educational institutes in India. When the people read it, they can easily correlate it with their lives experience. Thus, Chetan Bhagat became a brand of novel writings. So filmmaker saw him as an opportunity and sooner in 2009 film adaptation of *Five Point Someone* converted into movie *3 Idiots* by Rajkumar Hirani. The movie was one of the highest-grossing Indian films to have come out of Bollywood. Starring Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor, R Madhavan and Sharman Joshi, it was based on the life of students in IIT. Boman Irani played a quirky professor. Thanks to some parts of the film being shot in Ladakh, the mountainous region became a fixture with subsequent Bollywood films.

Three years on, inspired by the success of '3 Idiots', Shankar directed a Tamil film, 'Nanban', in 2012. His second Novel *One Night @ Call Center* published in 2005, which is dealing with the contemporary issues like urbanization and metropolitan lives. This novel depicts the plundering situations of the people lives. Like, they have becomes modern in their outlook but still struggling in their traditional thoughts and mindset inwardly. This was also an interesting concept by Bhagat which was again adapted into movies by Atul Agnihotri named *Hello* in 2008. It had a motley star cast including Sohail Khan, Sharman Joshi and Gul Panag. This story of lost love, thwarted ambitions and emotional drama failed to set the cash registers ringing.

Kai po Che is the third film based on Chetan Bhagat's novel *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* (2008) directed by Abhishek Kapoor, and the movie was subsequently released in 2013. The phrase *Kai Po Che*, which translates to "I have cut", is a victory chant associated with kite-flying, a popular sport in Gujarat. The kite metaphor in the novel/movie refers to the three mistakes Govind makes along the way. Although, this novel has highlighted some national issues of 2002 Godhra riots in Gujrat and cricket obsession in India. Nevertheless, Bhagat has interwoven a thrilling love story in between all these issues. It starred newcomers Sushant Singh Rajput, Rajkumar Rao and Amit Sath in lead roles. And despite newbies, the movie did substantially well. According to boxoffice.com, the total domestic collections reached Rs 480 million. Set against the backdrop of Gujarat, the film had a right combination of cricket and politics. In the same series *2 States* is based on the novel by the same name published in the year 2009. This Indian romantic comedy film was directed by Abhishek Verma. This novel is a memoir based on the inter-caste marriage scenario in the Indian society. Film makers again find it interesting and made it into movie in 2014. Even though this topic was raised earlier by various novelist but the way Bhagat has instilled the commitment in love relationship and respects for their elders through his characters no one else has done. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Karan Johar, '2 States' was based on Bhagat's novel of the same name. The movie starred Arjun Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, who played the author and his wife, respectively, when they were in college. Based on the north-south cultural divide, it was a blockbuster hit thanks to Alia's carefree acting and effervescent charm. Ronit Roy as Kapoor's alcoholic father also made an impression. And the next one is *Half Girlfriend* (pub. In 2014), and was directed by the Mohit Suri released movie with the same name. His *Half Girlfriend* is again converted into movies in 2017. This novel has given the cultural shock to patriarchal society by giving the Live-in relationship a thought and acknowledgment. Arjun Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor came together in this movie. The film had an interesting start at the box office, but later failed to sustain the momentum. The acting of the lead pair was also nothing much to write home about, and it got panned by the critics.

Book readers love to imagine characters and create an entire movie in their head. Good books give readers a chance to experience different worlds. It is what keeps them engrossed and interested. Once the book is over, it is always fun to watch a movie which is indeed based on the novel. Isn't it?

Chetan Bhagat is one of those successful writers of India, whose novels inspired some of the greatest Bollywood movies with the best of actors starring in the main roles. He is not just an Indian author, but also screenwriter, columnist, television personality and motivational speaker.

The reading creates attention to each line and you fall in love with the soul of the character but in movie the beauty captivates the audience. The book plays positive role in making a person creative by improving their imagination but that lacks in the movie and makes you curious, creative, imaginative and terrified. We find many similarities and less differences because in film some elements of entertainment are required to make film popular among audience with songs, and comic dialogues both are totally different medium of expression and have changed action to deal with the same story from this research it has seen that it's not only movies which are popular among audiences, Booklovers are still alive who are fond of reading books. Literature plays a very important role in every aspect which gives meanings and words to expressions and feelings.

2. CONCLUSION

This paper will help to study the Film theory and to elaborate the cinematic adaptation of Bhagat's novels in details. Films and literature share a very close relationship and one witness this ongoing relationship since the time of Independence. Films and literature are indeed connected to each other. Sometimes people who watch a movie are willing to read the novel or vice-versa. Thus, Chetan Bhagat not only introduced the new genre of novel writing but he also laid the foundation of unique writing style, diction, themes and portrayal of bold characters etc. This uniqueness made him popular and well known writer for Bollywood. His writing style is so simple, lucid and contemporary that anyone can relate and visualize it. He also laid the foundation of Popular, Campus and Cult Fiction in the Indian writing of English. People can read his novels while they are travelling, sitting on the park and even during their monotonous time as a recreational thing. This has definitely help Bhagat to reach core of the masses. Even though he has not considered being a literary writer and had criticized on the ground of language usage. But he dared to divert the main stream of literature to a different tangent which is not right for the literature lovers.

3. REFERENCES

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