



Study of portrayal of male lead characters in Anurag kashyap films

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Abstract

The study is focused on understanding the portrayal of male lead characters in films directed by Anurag Kashyap. It explores the characters, relations between the male lead characters and other characters. It also compares males of the Indian society with these characters in context of five films Gulaal, Ugly, Gangs of Wasseypur - 1, Gangs of Wasseypur - 2 and Raman Raghav 2.0. This is a qualitative research based on observations, case studies and interviews. Portrayals of male lead characters of these five films are multi-dimensional in terms of writing and presentation, shades and traits. It brings out different shades of human nature. The characters in the films are the replica of common man in the society. It brings out different facets of human nature. It helps the audience to relate, understand and infer their own judgements. The research brings out the motifs of male lead characters and complexity of human nature, which is surrounded by love, hatred, revenge and mostly importantly the churning within which leads to the human transformation.

Keywords: Cinema, human nature, Anurag Kashyap, Male lead characters

Introduction: Indian Cinema

Cinema is the greatest gift of technology to the art. The moving pictures make it lively. Indian cinema has a rich history of evolution over a period of hundred years. Many legend Film directors have created movies which will stay relevant forever. To name a few who have contributed to enrich the Indian cinema like Rituporno Ghosh, Shyam Benegal, Mehboob Khan, Yash Chopra, V Shantaram, Raj Kapoor.

Indian film making business has been now recognized as industry. As per Economic times article (Oct 2017) Film industry in India has a total revenue of Rs. 13800 Cr. It is expected to grow at 11.5% year-on-year to hit \$3.7 billion by 2020. The producers are also productizing the ideas to make it saleable to the larger market. The storyline which is likely to have appeal to larger audience may get into production. But there are directors who belong to a different school of thought and create their own niche.

Significance of the study

The research so far is more inclined towards the female characters in Indian film industry. The male characters which have out of the box story line approach have not received enough attention. Film director Anurag Kashyap's cinema has set a benchmark by selecting the story lines which people can relate to and the characters conceptualized depicts unexplored dimensions of our contemporary traditions and code of conduct in our society without being judgmental.

Objectives

- To understand the evolution of Indian Film industry in terms of story line and male characters enacted in recent past.
- To Study the lead male characters of cinemas directed by Anurag Kashyap.
- To study and understand the connect between males of our society with the lead male characters portrayed in

Anurag Kashyap's cinemas.

Goals

Understand the various perspective which the director like to put forth by keeping the lead male character at the center of the story line with equal relevance of the surrounding characters. It also explores the intensity of many entangled emotions, feeling, desires, aspirations of lead male character in Indian Cinema. It brings forth the social dissonance through the lead male character.

Literature Review

Bainbridge and Yates (2005) ^[1] et.al states that representation of masculinity takes different forms in different eras like Rajesh Khanna was the first male actor to gain the status of

'superstar' for the tragic roles. Amitabh Bachchan who is popular for his 'angry-young man' image that became popular during the 1970s and 1980s.

Dudrah (2006) ^[6], Dudrah and Desai (2008) ^[6], Gabriel (2010) ^[7] et.al explains that the rise of a new generation of actors who diversified the type of 'manly' identity they projected in the film with actors like Shahrukh Khan, Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn and Sunny Deol coming into the industry during the end of the 80s and afterwards.

Gabriel (2010) ^[7] highlights that towards the end of the 1990, the romantic lover gained more prominence and was played by most actors during that time parallel to the character of the vigilante that was still popular.

Blum (1984) ^[4] elaborates that Method acting consist of wide variety of training and rehearsal techniques. It seeks to encourage sincere and emotionally expressive performances, as formulated by theatre practitioners.

Sports Movies-An Inspiration to Youth (Tilak, 2019) ^[9] A Sport Film revolves around a sport setting, event, or an athlete. Often, these films will center on a single sporting event that carries significant importance. There are two types of people, one who live a normal average life and one

who inspires the mass. In India, a number of films have utilized the theme of sports for successfully highlighting various issues and problems of the society—with a deep influence on the target audience. These sports films have ample scope for the younger generations to be influenced and build leadership qualities in them. Further, films with sports genre which are still far less in number than general films are rarely discussed in academic forums or research panels. This paper looks at how sports films as a separate genre can impact peoples' life and thereby effect far-reaching changes in masses' attitude over a period of time.

Movies and soap operas have always influenced audience's thoughts. The visual representation of different characters, cultures, tradition etc persuades the minds of audience even if it is accurate or not. Many divisions of the society have always been stereotyped in these mediums. Going back in time, transgender were always misrepresented in these mediums. They were represented mostly as comic figures or as criminals. (Dr. Geetali Tilak, 2019)

Research Methodology

Qualitative study can truly bring out the true inferences of the based on the opinions and views of the people. The perception of people and what people feel cannot be measured numerically.

Qualitative Research is also used to uncover trends in thought and opinions, and dive deeper into the problem. Researcher used observations & Interviews method for the analysis.

Table 1: Sample Size

Sr. No	Movie Name	Lead Male Characters
1	Gulaal	Dilip Singh
2	Ugly	Rahul Kapoor
3	Gangs of Wasseypur	Sardar Khan
4	Gangs of Wasseypur 2	Faisal Khan
5	Raman Raghav 2.0	Ramanna and Raghavan

They can relate to the persona of common man in the society; It helps in better understanding the society at large. Gulaal movie shows Dilip as an innocent man who turns violent. Ramanna is portrayed as a psychopath and a serial killer in Raman Raghav 2.0. There are all kinds of shades present in these five characters considered for the purpose of the study.

2. Methods

The analysis of the Movies is done with a systematic methodological step which consist of

A. Film overview&

B. Interview of people associated or interested in film industry

A. Film overview

2.1 Gulaal

The drama of the film lies in the elections for General Secretary of the university and how the lead character Dilip Singh is used by the different characters in the film. The main conflict is between two Rajput leaders Duggi Banna and Karan. Karan had ambition to replace Duggi Banna due to his own agendas and personal conflicts with him.

Dilip Singh—belonged to Bikaner, a small city in the state of Rajasthan. He is very shy. He is the kind man who always

stays from conflicts, fights and arguments. Student politics was something which Dilip had never heard of. honesty and simplicity are the virtues of this man. He just came to the university for the sake of studying. But the destiny had something else in store for Dilip. Series of events & circumstances lead him on a different path. Dilip moves on to become general secretary. He faces the dilemma of what is right and how people around him are using him for their own benefits like Kiran, Anuja and Ranasa. He was betrayed by people whom he trusted the most.

2.2 Ugly

Kidnapping is the central theme around which the story revolves. Kidnaping of a 6-year-old girl named Kali when she was accompanied by her father, Rahul. He and his wife, Shalini have been divorced and she now lives with her new husband Bose as well as Kali. Rahul meets Kali only on Saturdays'. She goes missing while accompanied by Rahul. Story revolves around many characters like mask seller, Bose and others in search of missing girl. Shalini, Chetanya, Bose brings out the trust, friendship, love and betrayal emotions to the story.

Rahul- He is stuck in the dilemma of who to trust and whom not to. Since the circumstances makes it so. Many people have been around him in this very phase of kali's kidnaping, but he does not know who is trying to help and who is just taking the benefit from the situation.

2.3 Gangs of Wasseypur

It is a story of three generations and is spanned over several decades. The story is relating to Wasseypur which is known for the notorious character of the place. The spans out in several decades with the involvement of three generations of the characters scripted.

The story revolves around characters like robbers Qureshi and Shahid Khan and his son Sardar Khan who has only motive to kill the mine owner Ramadhir. The story narrates the journey of robbery to mine worker who lost his wife due to certain working restrictions in the mine and taking revenge of the death. It further leads to a new turn in the story and intention of taking revenge by sardar Kahn. Nagma Khatun, Durga are the important charters in Sardar Khan's life and showcases the grey shades of his character.

2.4 Gangs of Wasseypur part II

Sardar Khan is killed by the two gunmen and survived by his wife and four sons. The suspense of the story revolves around the killing of who killed Sardar Khan and thereafter taking the revenge of his death. Danish Khan the elder son of Sardar takes the responsibility of his revenge. His younger son Faisal Khan is lost in his world of marijuana. However, Danish is also killed by Sultan and thus finally Faisal takes the charge of all.

Faisal Khan -Plans to take the revenge of his grandfather, father and his brother and kill Ramadhir Singh. The soul of the film lies in Faisal's turnaround from a silent guy to a don. Faisal did not want to come into father's business previously but the murders of his father and brother and the pressure for revenge makes him step into the killing business.

The intense emotions are displayed by the characters like Mohsina, Fazlu showcasing trust, love and betrayal.

2.5 Raman Raghav 2.0

Raman Raghav was a serial killer in the era of 1960s. He had a unique way of killing people.

Rammana is very much influenced by the knack of killing people. He also desires to adopt his way of chopping people. Raghavan had a power and ability to suppress people since he was a cop. He used it to his advantage. The unusual situation brought these characters together. This made them a pair which further go into destructive things.

Ramanna and Raghavan- The likeminded people with a lot of similarities and parallel stories around them makes us think of the similarity between the two. One incidence narrated in the story wherein a man comes across to Raman and simply asks him whether he is homosexual. Raghav was spied by Raman who was having sexual intercourse with Simmy few months ago. At this juncture Raman remarks to himself that Raghav is trying to find himself in the woman, but he is the only person who can satisfy him and no women can do that.

Table 2: Interview of people associated or interested in film industry

Sr. No	Question	Profiles of people	Actor, Story Writer	Director, Story Writer	Assistant Director (AD)	Writer and Editor
1	Describe Anurag Kashyap's Cinema		Liberal, no-spoon-feeding the audience	objective cinema	genuine film experience	versatile, original, classic and unique
2	Do the male (lead) characters of his films relate to the males of the Indian society		No. since it is portraying above normal	strong and intense characters portray but possible due to female characters in the movie	Yes, I think that male lead characters relate to males in the society	Yes, I think that male lead characters relate to males in the society
3	Which traits or qualities do you think these characters possess		strong and bold nature, unique behavior	Unique in some way	Intense emotions	darker side of the society
4	How do you interpret such character's impact on the society		influencing the male characters or turning about the story curve sharply	audience absorb, contemplate upon and judge the harsh reality	No serious impact	Characters urge public to search for something.
5	Which of these characters interests you the most and why		Faisal who take revenge through thorough planning	the passion in Mukkabaaz	Rahul Bhatt, who is a failed actor	Faizal khan character from gangs of Wasseypur
6	Have you ever come across such characters personally or around you? Share your experience		audience of Kashyap would relate the characters for themselves	Traces of different shades of character can be found in common man	Not came across	Yes, I know a person who has the same qualities of the character of Ronit Roy from 'Udaan' movie
7	your opinion on portrayal of males in Indian cinema		different from those mainstream cinema	But people consider mainstream as a bulky muscular hero which they can never be.	Male portrayal is getting more accurate	From chocolate boy to fighter to man with abs and good muscles

3. Results

Human behavior is multi-shaded, unpredictable and full of imperfections but have great aspiration for sense of achievement and perfection. The human psychology revolves around this. The Kashyap's movies keep this at the core of the story for the movie. This is what makes it more realistic and gives "a feeling of one amongst us" about the lead male character in the movie.

The findings of the Study

- These movies bring out the other side of human nature. It manifests the hatred, opportunism, guilt and the transformation of person with the changing situation.
- Use of method acting by the actors who can bring the different dimensions of the character enacted. This makes it more realistic and appealing to the audience of the movie.
- The actors put in the best of their ability and immerse themselves in the mental agony to feel the feelings. They have also gone through the psychological ups and downs to transcend the core of the character within themselves.
- Every character has their unique place in the movie and are in sync with the other characters to take the story forward and bring out the core content of the movie.
- The character is the representative of people amongst us in our day today life. It brings out the emotions like Confusion, betrayal. It also showcases a sense of hidden

or open violence in them.

- The harmony and dissonance amongst the lead and surrounding characters are very well crafted.

4. Conclusion

The distinct attributes of males in our Indian society are clearly visible in the characters developed in Anurag Kashyap's movies. The struggle, dilemma, anger, passion, love, hope, hatred are the emotions and feeling which builds the lead male character of Anurag Kashyap's movies. The right blend of it makes it more effective and appealing to the audience.

Future Scope for Research

The research can further extend to the study of socio-economic status and emergence of contemporary social issues which compels the male character take the lead role in the movie directed by Kashyap. The targeted audience, their challenges and issues of day to day life also may help to better understand their aspirations, hopes and dilemmas and their state of mind. This may help to derive the understanding of what makes a Kashyap's movie as a product more saleable and commercially successfully as well.

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