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Shakespearean Adaptions in Indian Cinema : A Review

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Abstract: *The plays of William Shakespeare in Indian Cinema have been an outstanding and pioneering journey. Indian adaptation of both Shakespearean tragedy and comedy can be fathom as merge of 'videsi and desi', a fusion of east and west. Shakespeare plays are graphic of the success and failures of human responses to order. These pictures are very well fascinate and displayed on silver screen. This paper deals with recent three Shakespearean adaptations in Indian cinema. The Bollywood director Vishal Bharadwaj's movies Maqbool Omkara, Haider. These movies achieved great success in Indian cinema. This research paper aims to explore the Indian theatrical phenomenon, laying emphasis on the Indian adaptations of Shakespeare's plays.*

Key Words: Adaptation, Indian cinema, Bollywood, criminal, General Nature, Revengeful, outstanding, pioneering.

In Bollywood Shakespeare has found many admirers, who have turned his plays and stories into Bollywood blockbusters. Cinema in India is an important as a religious cult for the people. There are three movies in Indian cinema based on the major fascinating works of Shakespeare which need to be mentioned. To introduce Shakespeare and his powerful stories, directors attempted to bring Shakespeare. The adaptations were made culturally to appeal them to Indian audience. The paper is an attempt to analyze and cherish the adaptation of the director; Vishal Bharadwaj's the three films Omkara, Maqbool, Haider as examples of the classics Othello, Macbeth and Hamlet. The stories are popular and have a universal appeal. Dr. Samuel Jackson highly praises Shakespeare's works as just representations of general nature.

The world famous literary works, Bard of Avon has for decades inspired the Indian Cinema. Adapting Shakespeare's work to Indian ethos is the latest thing in Indian cinema. Shakespeare plays have become synonymous with Indian cinema over the years.

Widely the paper discusses about two area. Firstly in what ways Vishal Bharadwaj has memorized the flavors of Shakespeare and secondly in what way he changed as we have noticed that Othello became Omkara, Macbeth became Maqbool and Hamlet became Haider.

Maqbool- Miyal Maqbool- Macbeth; Nimmi- Lady, Macbeth; Jahangir Khan (Abbaji)- Duncan of Scotland; inspector pandit- witch (weird sisters); inspector purohit- (weird sisters) kaka- banquo; riyaz boti- Macduff; Guddu- felance; sameera- abbaji's daughter (Malcolm) riyaz boti's wife- Lady Macduff; riyaz boti's son Macduff's son. Mughal-macdonwald; Asif-Cawdor. It is a classical tale of greed and ambition is transplanted to Mumbai's criminal (Irrfan Khan) underworld.

The film Maqbool was released in Hindi language in 2003 and is directed by Vishal Bharadwaj's. The film is based on the story of Macbeth from the Shakespeare's play. The film explores multiple dimensions of the close connection and personal in indebtedness.

Maqbool (Irrfan Khan) is the right hand of Jahangir Khan (alias Abbaji) a powerful underworld don. The movie obtains speed with two corrupt and personal police men (played by Om Puri and Nasserudin Shah). Anticipating that Maqbool wants to become Mumbai underworld don.

Nimmi (Tabu) is a mistress of Jahangir Khan (Abbaji) but she secretly loves Maqbool and Maqbool loves Nimmi too. Nimmi also uplift Maqbool ambitions and convince him to kill Abbaji in order to take over as don. Maqbool is confused between his love for Nimmi and his loyalty to Abbaji. At last he decides to kill Abbaji in cold blood while he is in bed at night, with Nimmi next to him.

Just as planned Maqbool takes over as don. But Nimmi and Maqbool haunted by guilt, seeing Abbaji ghost they unable to wash the blood from their hands. So the murder of Jahangir Khan (Abbaji) evokes pity in us as they are also delightful human being. The movie also adopts Banquo's son who is very young in the movie. King Duncan son is replaced by Sameer a woman.

The twist in the movie is the love angle between Guddu and Sameera. During the wedding ceremony of Guddu and Sameera Jahangir starts paying attention to another woman who is a dancer. Nimmi turns malicious provoking Maqbool into killing Jahangir Khan. So, the murder of Jahangir Khan is not just vested in spiritual predictions alone in the movie. It is also driven by his human flaws.



Another major adaptation Bharadwaj does is to have two ageing police officers instead of the witches. They are also called Pandit Purohit. (Om Puri and Nasserudin Shah), which are mystic as well as popular surname in India. At last, Nimmi dies after giving birth to a baby boy. This boy is left in the hospital temporarily as Maqbool and Nimmi flee the hunt initiated by Guddu against them. The drama has an intense fight between Macduff and Macbeth ending in Macbeth's death. Guddu and Sameera visit the hospital and plan to adopt the child becomes the reason for Maqbool to give up the fight. Maqbool son now becomes the heir apparent to Guddu's empire.

OMKARA- Omkara 'Omi' Shukla- Othello; Keshav "kesufirargi" upadhyaga- cassio; Ishwar 'Langda' Tyagi- Iago; Dolly Mishra- Desdemona; Billo Chamabaha- Bianca; Indu Tyagi- Emilia; Rajan 'Rajju' Tiwari- Roderigo; Bhaisaab- Duke of Venice.

Omkara is a 2006 Indian crime drama adapted from Shakespeare's play Othello, co-written and directed by Vishal Bharadwaj. The characters in Bharadwaj's movie share the same first letters as their counter parts in the Shakespearean play. The movie Omkara can be said to be on the global theme suspicion kills. Vishal had liberally borrowed themes from Hindu epics- such as Ramayana and Mahabharata (politics of power) rather than Othello.

The movie set in the rural area of the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Omkara of Omi (Ajay Devgan) is a political goon in love with Dolly (Kareena Kapoor) a lawyer's daughter. Omkara has two trusted right hand men namely Ishwar "Langda" Tyagi (Saif Ali Khan) and Kesu (Vivek Oberoi). Ishwar is a sharpshooter- smart he is married to Indu (Konkana Sen), Kesu is an educated and loyal whose mistress is a local dancer named Billo (Bipasha Basu).

Omkara (Othello) chooses Kesu chief Lieutenant over Langda. This single incident sets off Langda to bring down Omkara (Othello) and Kesu by showing suspicious in Omkara of Dolly and Kesu having an affair. Langda teams up with Rajoh, who is revengeful over Dolly's refusal to marry him, and they create circumstantial evidence that makes Othello began to suspect Dolly.

Dolly upsets her father's aspirations, promoting him to say.....

Brabario to Othello Look to her, Moor, if thou hast eyes to see. She has deceived her father and may thee.

(Shakespeare 481)

At last, the death of the Desdemona or Dolly in the Indian context is identical making a statement of the inhumanity of perceiving and treating a woman which is still prevalent in the patriarchal society way back in the 15th c of Shakespeare or the Modern times of 21st c.

HAIDER (2014)- Haider- Prince Hamlet; Arshia Lone- Ophelia; Ghazala Meer- Gertrude; Dr. Hilal Meer- King Hamlet; Roohdaar- Ghost (Hamlet); Khurram Meer- Claudius; Pervez Lone- Polonius; Liyaqat Love- Laertes; Salman 2- Guildenstern; Zohoor Hussain- Fortinbras.

Haider brings out the best in the director Vishal Bharadwaj. It is a crime Drama film and co- writer by Basharat peer and Bharadwaj. The film is a modern day adaptation of William Shakespeare's tragedy Hamlet and curfew night of Basharat peer set amidst the insurgency hit Kashmir conflicts of 1995 and civilian disappearances.

Haider, a young student and a poet, returns to Kashmir at the peak of the conflict to seek answers about his father's disappearance and ends up being tugged into the politics of the state. Shahid Kapoor, playing the role of prince Hamlet is named as Haider Mir. Shraddha Kapoor is playing the part of Hamlet's beloved Ophelia named as Arshia; Tabu playing the role of Hamlet's mother Gertrude called Ghazala and Kay. Kay Menon as Hamlet's uncle, Claudius. Movie has successfully adapted play's well known twists and turns into the lives of character in the movie. After his father disappearance, in order to search for him, Haider leaves his studies and comes back to Kashmir. It was the time when in urgency was at height, his father, who was a doctor by profession was found guilty of helping militants was carried away by the armed forces. He is disappointed and dejected to finds his mother in an illegal relationship with his uncle, whom he later discovered to be a traitor and responsible for his father ill-fate.

The film is all about revenge. Hamlet wanted to take revenge of his father's death in the same way Haider decides to take revenge against his uncle and armed forces resulting in ruining his personality. In his excursion to revenge he is being effort into the wrong hands and in the wrong way.

'Revenge is a wild justice' as Bacon says same is portrayed in the movie, Haider.

Conclusion: Film as a social and cultural construct is a skill very few directors have. The world cinema has the advantage of dedicated production houses and infrastructural luxury. Bharadwaj said in an interview, post the year 2000 has started what we can doubtlessly call the golden age of Indian cinema. This is an obvious result of the rapid development in filmmaking techniques along with other peripheral advancement and hugely leap in the development of the communication



system in the internet age. Bollywood today readily finds at its disposal a widespread global audience.

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