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**Western influence in Indian cinema**

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**Abstract:**

Indian cinema has been highly influenced by the Western part of the world. The purpose of this paper is to see how Indian cinema has been influenced. The paper also investigates how filmmakers organized cinema. The study also includes Script and dialogue writers like Jawed Akhtar, who contributed a lot to touching the hearts of Indian people through their dialogues and themes to maintain Indianness. It examines early postcolonial films like Neecha Nagar (1946), Achhut Kanya (1936), and Raja Harishchandra (1993). It also examines contemporary films like Lagaan (2001), Swadesh (2004), The Legend of Bhagat Singh (2002), and RRR (2022). These movies show us the decolonization of Indian cinema by accepting Indigenous narratives and questioning the Western colonial mindset. The paper also studies the influence of such movies on society. The paper also explores how Indian cinema has boosted patriotism through Indian cinema.

**Keywords:** Indian Cinema, Western influence.

**Introduction**

Indian People are fond of movies. Indian cinema plays a major role in shaping people's culture. Indian cinema is one of the biggest film industries in the world. It includes Bollywood and so many other regional film industries. Earlier, the influence of the West was felt in movies, but as time passed, movies began to have an Indian flavor. Movies in the past represented the slave mindset that people used to have, but Some producers and directors have contributed a lot to make Indian people feel proud of their culture and tradition through their movies. This paper explains how Indian cinema weans itself off Western influence. It examines and analyses movies of postcolonial times and contemporary movies. The study compares movies of different times. It also investigates different characters and themes in movies.

**Research Objectives**

- To analyze how the Indian film industry was influenced by Western ideas
- I want to see how Indian cinema gradually got rid of colonial influence.
- To investigate the role of Filmmakers in bringing Indianness to movies.
- To explore the impact of films on society.

#### **Hypothesis**

- Indian cinema is being influenced by Western ideology.
- Indian film industries have played a significant role in instilling patriotism.

#### **Colonial Influence and Its Decolonisation on Indian Cinema**

Western themes, storytelling style, and Western culture have influenced the Indian film industry. Contemporary movies have an influence not just on movies of the past but also on Western culture, but earlier Indian cinema had a strong influence on Western thought. *"Early Indian cinema, while drawing from Indigenous traditions, also heavily borrowed from Western theatrical and literary forms, often adapting British plays and novels into films."* (Chakravarty 25)

#### ***Raja Harishchandra* (1993) by Dadasaheb Phalke.**

Dadasaheb Phalke is considered the father of Indian cinema. He was highly influenced by the silent film *'Life of Christ.'* This film is from the West. It has colonial narrative structures and editing techniques. This film used all of the filmmaking resources from Britain. Hindu Indian mythological story influenced the film *Raja Harishchandra*, and it became enormously popular. Women played a major role in it: "The women roles were presented convincingly. As the heroine of the film, Salunke has a convincing appearance." (Rahman 527)

#### ***Achhut Kanya* (1936)**

*Achhut Kanya* (1936) is an important movie in Indian cinema. It has positive message for better society. It has story telling techniques and visual narrative style of England. Colonial filmmaking traditions has influenced it. This movie is against caste system that is integral part of Hindu culture.

#### ***Kismet* (1943)**

It has an anti-hero theme like a Hollywood crime movie. Indian movies do not prefer anti-hero themes. This film shows the exploitation of Indians from colonialism.

#### ***Neecha Nagar* (1946)**

It is an important film in Indian movie through colonial perspective. It shows colonial policies and regulations of England. It show exploration of poor by rich people.

#### ***The Legend of Bhagat Singh* (2002)**

This movie shows patriotism and love for country. It highlights struggle of freedom fighters Bhagat sing, Sukhdev, Rajguru and many more. It shows people living peacefully with Indian culture. Movie shows fearless fight..

#### ***Swadesh* (2004)**

This film has inspired many Indian people to stay in India and contribute. "Swades is an extension of the word desh, which means 'our own land.' Desh is a common term used often to refer to communities with identities" (Hansen, 2004, p.43). This movie also shows the brain-drain concepts. This movie shows love for our own country over a foreign country.

It is

full patriotism. The hero wants to return from NASA to serve Mother India. It also shows the rich culture of India, love for mothers, and love for the people of India. People get inspired to fix the problem of India staying within India. It also indicates that India is full of potential if talent is nurtured. In the beginning, the hero SRK in this movie feels hesitation to settle in his own country, but then he gets settled.

Mohan is expected to melt 'like ice in water,' as the elderly woman Fatima tells Kaveri amma, by returning to the homeland and spurning the comforts of the United States of America before he can prove his Indianness. Surprisingly, although Mohan derives his 'otherness' from being a citizen of the United States, the United States, the 'other,' is depicted positively as a developed nation that offers comforts and opportunities to all who choose to migrate to it... (Ranganathan 50)

#### **R (2002)**

RRR is a very well-recognized movie. It shows the superiority of Indians over oppressive Britishers. *"RRR is a movie with big action, compelling twists, and endearing characters. By embedding real history and struggle within this epic saga, it takes on an elevated flair that stays with the viewer long after the credits have rolled."* (Robinson) Indian heroes are shown more courageous, fearless, and virtuous. The movie is able to decolonize Western superiority. *"West needs to understand the nuances of representation from the subcontinent and its diaspora"* (Pranjal)

#### **Role of Filmmakers in Indian Cinema**

Filmmakers have played a major role in Indian cinema. *"Indian cinema, both popular and parallel, has been the vehicle of anti-colonial sentiment expressed in a variety of ways."* (Sengupta) They have made movies in such a way that they succeeded in getting the attention of people. Filmmakers have used Indian themes to represent Indian culture. They have shown unity in diversity. Movies show differences between the past and present. *"While the film places the origins of the nation-state in the colonial framework, there is a clear distinction between the colonial past and modern present."* (Aggarwal) Filmmakers have gone beyond the colonial mindset....

It is crucial for filmmakers to move beyond one-dimensional depictions of colonialism and embrace the country's multifaceted identity. This would require a shift away from negative stereotypes and a focus on the resilience, strength, and cultural richness of its people.

(AVANCA-368)

#### **Role of script and dialogue writers to introduce patriotism.**

Today what we see strong patriotism India and credit goes to script writers and dialogues writers. *"Colonial rule left a legacy of stereotypes and biased portrayals of Indian society. Scriptwriters are instrumental in subverting these narratives by creating complex characters and stories that reflect the true diversity of Indian life"* (Sengupta-) Language played significant role instil nationalism. *"I feel that language is stronger than religion":* Javed Akhtar.

### **Conclusion**

Indian cinema has been an integral part of Indian society. Indian culture has influenced Indian cinema strongly to get rid of Western influence. Indian cinema has seen significant changes in its process of making films. The study tests the hypothesis that Films have been free from Western influence to an extent, and the process of getting rid of Western ideas of Indian cinema is still ongoing. It was also found from analysis of movies that the patriotism that we see in India at present also influenced a lot to make people patriotic. Indian cinema has brought varieties of Indian themes that mitigate Western themes.

### **Future Scope of Research**

In future, researcher can investigate role of regional cinema like Tamil or Malayalam etc. Research also can be done on role of OTT to decolonise Indian cinema industry.

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