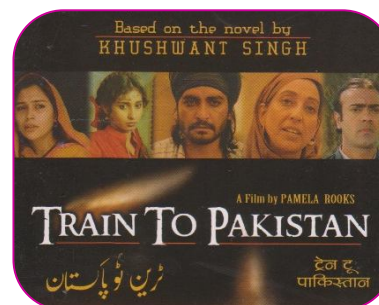




A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE FILM AND THE NOVEL "TRAIN TO PAKISTAN"

Dr. Nilima P. Kale

Assist. Professor, Department of English,
Dagdojirao Deshmukh, Arts, Commerce & Science, College, Waluj,
Aurangabad.



ABSTRACT

Films make a wider audience than literature as they move across the wall of class, literacy, religion and even language. Not only do they mirror reality, they also put up actuality. Its impact more than text makes very important work through the language and melodrama of the medium which make public aware of detailness and indistinctness that lie within. Film, cinema, movies, motion pictures covers a wide range of topics. It covers many aspects of the study of film and has complex interaction and relations. The studies of film include a wide variety of types, social issues, gender issues, politics and partition etc. Adapting a film from the novel or short story is a recreation which requires task and selective interpretation.

KEY WORDS: class, literacy, religion and even language , politics and partition.

INTRODUCTION

Literary works being adapted into film is a rich source of material for movies. Though the medium are working together but their features are dissimilar. I have therefore chosen novel "Train to Pakistan" by Khushwant Singh. Khushwant Singh was born on 1915 in Hadali pre-partition Punjab, now in Pakistan. He was one of the India's most widely read and controversial writer, witnesses, all major Political, Social and Cultural events in modern Indian history. Singh started his career as a lawyer in Pakistan but soon he left the idea of becoming a successful lawyer. He writes with openness and truthfulness and gives different records and details about his professional success and failures as a lawyer, journalist, also describing his literary journey and his development as a fine writer. "In 1947, I was forced to leave Lahore where I had set up my legal practice. To make sure I would not be able to resume practice elsewhere, I gave away my law books, my black coats, gown and tales. (talks)As far as law was concerned I burnt my boats with my own hands. And I joined the diplomatic service." (p103) Khushwant Singh was a Member of Parliament from 1980 to 1986. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1974 by the President of India and in 2000 he was conferred the "Honest Man of the Year Award" by the Sulabh International Social Service Organization.

Before starting his career as a novelist Khushwant Singh studied M.R. Anand, R.K. Narayan and Rja Rao, M.R.Anand writes about the exploitation of the lower class by upper class in his novels while R.K. Narayan writes about superstition among the Indian. He created his own creative world 'Malgudi'. Khushwant Singh experienced it all and started writing in the direction of his first novel Mano-Majra, which later became popular as "Train to Pakistan" Mano-Majra won Grove Press Award in 1954. It also paid the attention of numerous readers from India abroad.

Khushwant Singh's novel "Train to Pakistan" (1956) based on this novel a partition based movie was directed by Pamela Rooks in 1988 by the same name set in the partition of Indian 1947. The characters were Nirmal Pandey as Juggut Singh (criminal), Mohan Agashe as Hukum Chand, Rajit Kapoor as Iqbal, Smriti Mishra as Nooran, Mangal Dhillon as Sub-Inspector, Divya Dutta as the Muslim Prostitute girl. The film is set

in Mano Majra which is a silent village on the border of India and Pakistan. The film shows love affair of Juggut Singh (Nirmal Pandey), with a Muslim girl, Nooran (Smriti Mishra) the villagers are a mix of Sikhs and Muslims who live in harmony and work together. The Sikhs own most of the land, and the Muslims work as laborers. In 1947, when the Partition of India was taking place, the Muslims in India moved towards the newly formed Pakistan and the Hindus and Sikhs were migrated to refugee camps in India. One day, a train arrives from Pakistan with bodies of all the travelers who were killed when they tried to depart from Pakistan. This incidence changes the village forever and it was very difficult to save the peace in the small village 'Mano Majra'. In the movie Hukum Chand rightfully says that "The problem of my District was not that the Sikhs hated Muslims, but that they loved very much Muslims." The anger is seen when Hukum Chand (Mohan Agashe) moans at the report of the sack full of skulls of the Muslim of Bihar and even when he hears about the plan of some group of Sikhs to kill the Muslims who intended to depart for Pakistan.

In the novel Khushwant Singh gives us cinematic descriptions of the nature and sceneries of village in Punjab. In the movie too this pictorial images of novel created impact on us through their indistinct images. "Train to Pakistan" discussed about the after effects of India's independence, which brought the partition of India and Pakistan. Khushwant Singh mainly focused on writing in relation to the lower class people who became the main victim of partition. A huge mass of victims transferred from one place to another. This relocation also caused killing, raping and looting. The entire story of the novel revolves around the village Mano-Majra in the area of Punjab. The life of the village is simple and quite peaceful, which is harmonized by the whistles of trains. But all of sudden, the peace of the village is disturbed when this train brings the countless carcass from Pakistan. However, changing the sequence of some of the events of the novel to suit as per the need of the film Rooks has not found any major changes to be done in the story for dramatic purposes.

On the other hand Malli with his fellow criminal robs and murders Lala Ram Lal. Jagga's absence from the village draws him in the circle of doubt. Iqbal, a socialist reaches Mano-Majra but being a stranger he along with Jagga arrested in Lala Ram Lal's murder case. Malli is also arrested but after some time he is released. In the village some criminal minded people provoke the others to send a 'Train to Pakistan' with full of carcass. But when Jagga is released and he comes to know about the villagers plan so for the sake of his beloved Nooran, who is residing to Pakistan, turn over the plan. He sacrifices his life and let the train go to Pakistan untouched. However Rook's casting Nirmal Pandey as Juggut Singh, the tall and brawny Sikh criminal whose corporal love for the Muslim girl Nooran converts him, is experienced here. Divya Dutta Muslim girl earning her livelihood through prostitution reminds us the only important thing for a common man was to earn bread in the frightful condition. The trust in her for Hukum Chand like that of Nooran for Jagga above the bigotry of the caste reminds us about the fearless relation between the two castes before the partition.

In "Train to Pakistan" Khushwant Singh highlights the love between Juggat Singh and Nooran. On the other hand he also shows greater love between two communities i.e. Sikh and Muslim. Hukum Chand in "Train to Pakistan" falls in love with an immature girl Haseena, younger than his own daughter also Madan-Champak love affair in "I Shall Not Here the Nightingale", he try to create love and harmony among all society and also show the personal lives of freedom fighters which deals with the political problems before independence i.e. the conflict between the two generation, in favor of British and opposing the British. The novel expresses creatively how the movement of trains, which used to set as tone of the village they were very habitual of its sound but suddenly became a symbol of despair, darkness and destruction. Khushwant Singh brings about the traditional technique to discuss these issues in his novels and became experimental at some places. Khushwant Singh's novels are very much close to the reality.

However, his novels are full of historical elements with absurdity, cynicism and satire with simple, spicy and sometimes challenging language to highlight the episodes. Most of the time he used words from the Hindi language that add interest in between the story. Symbolized language and the characters help readers understand the central idea of the novel. These directions have shown immense interest in making

films where they address problems and hardship faced by main characters, which always have been a symbol of submission tries to overcome it, and trying to gain confidence, power. These movies not only try to bring forth the problems that are faced in society but also give in general the confidence to protest against violence and challenge the social norms. On the whole, it can be said that these Hindi films, dealing with some ideas in general try to give a positive fight.

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