

Tragic Effects of English Novels and Plays taken into Films

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Abstract: *In print media, novel is the best tool to transform the society. Through tragedy, a person passes through catharsis effect that is much more beneficial to a person in the time of money minded society and busy hours. Similarly Visual media is also a better tool for entertainment and bringing change in the society. Benefits of print media is many folds. It benefits within a single period of time under a single roof the whole family and whole society alike. It joins together literate and illiterate both persons, students, office workers, businessmen, house wives, engineers, doctors, labourers, farmers, and tailors, repairers and many more.*

Effect of both films and Novels are uncountable. The study becomes more important as it takes into account the effect experientially through visual media that is produced through print media effective branch Novel. Present paper includes English Novels that contain tragic effect, come in the category of tragedy, their publication year, novelist name, important characters names, setting and climax. Within the same time, it also mentions the year taken into films, names of directors, names of heroes and heroines, setting, and messages to the society. Novels and Plays can change attitudes and behaviour of the people. There are two kinds of novels taken into Films. The paper includes novels written by Indian novelists and foreign novelists.

Keywords: Novel, transform, Print Media, Visual Media, film, Tragedy

I. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the best tool that takes into account any evil and suggests the way to check it sooner from the society. It also suggests causes and sources of spreading the evils. It warns the coming generation to be away from the hazardous effects. Some of the major problems taken into account through literature are- Dowry System and its eradication, Infanticide and its preventive majors, Gender Discrimination, Aging Problems, Nuclear Family, Spirituality, Child Labour in Charles Dickens' 'Oliver Twist', Preservation of History and Culture in Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey", Challenging Norms and Inspiring Movements in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin", Empathy in HarperLee's "To Kill a Mocking Birs", Khaled' Hosseini's "The Kite Runner", Cultural Identity in Jhumpa Lahiri' "Namaskar", Anita Desai's "Bye Bye Blackbird and Fire on the Mountain", Anita Desai's Cry". and "The Peacock and Voices in the City", Arun Joshi's "The Foreigner", Intellectual Growth in Aldus Huxley's "Brave New World", Novels are the best literary genre that are written to bring a change in the society etc.

Greek Concept of Tragedy: Greek Tragedy were serious in tone, but many of them had happy endings. In Greek, word Tragedy means 'a goat song'. "A Tragedy involves disastrous events, calamity, misfortune, typically describing a conflict between the protagonist and superior force (destiny) having a sorrowful and disastrous ending that arises the feelings of pity and terror" (Dayal, 19).

Aristotle Definition of Tragedy: Aristotle defines Tragedy as a, "the imitation of an action, serious, complete, and of a certain magnitude, in a language beautifies in different parts with different kinds of embellishment, through action and not narration, and through scenes of pity and fear bringing about the 'Catharsis' of these emotions."

The Tragedy taken into Films and Cinematic world or in visual media have serious or complex Plot. Although Aristotle defines Plots of Tragedy into two kinds: (i) Simple Plot, (ii) Complex Plot.

In Complex Plot, Peripety and Anagnorisis or Discovery or recognition are the main elements. Peripeteia means working blindly to one's own defeat, false step taken in the dark. Tragedy of errors that is known as highest kind of

tragedy evolves Anagnorsis or Recognition as the realization of truth, opening of the eyes. In Tragedy of suffering, effect depends on the depiction of physical suffering like torture, wounding, murder etc. on the stage.

Plot of Tragedy should be framed that it arouses the emotions of pity and fear among the spectators.

"Tragedy of suffering, in which the effect depends upon depiction of physical suffering, i.e. torture, wounding, maiming, murder etc... on the stage. The plot should be framed that it arouses the emotions of pity and fear among the spectators which is the function of poetry" (Tilak, 81).

Tragedy involves Complex Plot rather than Simple Plot.

According to Aristotle, "Perfectly good as well as wicked persons; are not suitable to be the heroes of the tragedies".

Drama requires a militant and combative hero. Aristotle further says that a tragic hero must be a person who occupies a position of lofty eminence in society. He must be well reputed, highly individual. In Greek plays, the tragic hero has the following characteristics:

A Tragic Hero should have the following qualities:

(i) Hubris: Excessive pride, self confidence. The fact that a character dies as he ignores warnings.

(Hubris is the characteristic of excessive confidence or ignorance that leads a person to think he does no wrong that causes flaw in his character. Hubris is a negative characteristic or traits of a person.)

(ii) Hamartia: Hamartia comes from Greek word 'Hamartanein' meaning inherent defeat or shortcoming in hero of a tragedy, who is in other respect a superior being favoured by fortune.

Hamartia is a literary term that refers to a 'tragic flaw' or error that leads to a character's downfall that brings about character's downfall of the hero of a tragedy.

A Tragic error of judgment that results in Hero's downfall. Some traits that cause Hamartia: arrogance, rebellion, greed, hypocrisy, aggressive ambition, vanity, lustful feelings, vengefulness.

(Hamartia is a Greek origin meaning 'fault', 'failure' or 'guilt'. The term was used in Aristotle's Poetics with reference to Greek Tragedy. It arises from Greek verb 'hamartanein' meaning 'to miss the mark' or 'to err'. It was used by Aristotle to describe the error of judgment that causes tragic hero's downfall. The term was coined by Aristotle as a tool of literary criticism to describe dramatic work like Oedipus Rex. Hamartia refers to character's downfall due to his excessive pride, greed, jealousy.)

Hamartia leads to a reverse of fortune. Macbeth's tragic flaw or Hamartia is his ambition.

Romeo's flaw is his repulsive nature.

Hamartia is a flaw in the character of a hero.

Examples of Hamartia in Literature:

(a) Tragedies like Othello (1603)- jealousy, Macbeth (1606)-unchecked ambition and Hamlet (1609)- use Hamartia.

(b) Aristotle examines Hamartia in Oedipus Rex (429 BCE)-, a tragic play by Shakespeare. Oedipus unknowingly kills his father and marries his mother. Discovery of which leads his mother to commit suicide and Oedipus to blind himself. He becomes king and solves his mother by solving a riddle that no one could solve.

(c) Hamartia in Shakespeare's tragic hero:

Romeo and Juliet: adolescent passion, impatience

Hamlet: fear of direct confrontation

King Lear: excessive pride

Julius Caesar: quest for power, excessive pride

Brutus: poor judgment

Cressida: Unfaithfulness

Timon: Inability to recognize true nature of his friends

(iii) Peripeteia: Hero's experience of reversal of fate due to his error in judgment.

Peripeteia is a Greek term comes from the verb 'peripiptein' meaning 'to fall around' or 'to change suddenly' or 'sudden change'. It indicates a turning point in a drama that leads the plot steadily to denouement. It results in negative reversal of circumstances. It means to surprise the audience. Peripeteia is a drastic change in circumstances as a wealthy man suddenly become a poor. 'Sophocles' 'Oedipus Rex' uses Peripeteia.

Anagnorisis is a Greek word meaning 'recognition'. It is discussed by Aristotle in the Poetics as an essential part of plot of tragedy. It involves revelation of true identity. Oedipus Rex by Sophocles uses Anagnorisis. Odyssey by Homer also uses Anagnorisis.

Function of Tragedy: Tragedy gives incidental pleasure as it directs and controls the emotions to goals considered right and proper. Tragedy gives 'pure' pleasure. Main source of Tragedy are unity of plot, diction and the spectacle. Pure pleasure results from the exercise of our emotions, sense, and thoughts on the tragic action. "A genre that expresses serious action is known as tragedy. Tragic Plays equally highlight significant problems regarding human condition (Arora & Agrawal, 13)."

Aristotle emphasizes dramatic unity: Unity of Action, Unity of Time, and Unity of Place. Unity of Action means the events in a tragedy must be consistent and quite clear. "Unity of action is very important.

Catharsis is important feature of Novel. While watching Tragic Scenes, a person goes through purgation effect. Under this process, his soul is purified. High tragic effect in scene creates fear, awe, wonder, extreme pity and sorrow. As a result he drops tears, feels his hair stand. "Catharsis is regarded as transforming experience and it is applied in every field whether it is literature or drama, religion, medicine or psychology. Catharsis is emotional release. It refers to purgation or figurative cleaning of the emotion especially through pity and fear described by Aristotle as an effect of tragic drama on its audience, (Roy & Gami, 120) Most important types of conflict in the Drama area the following:

(1) Character Vs Characters: This is external conflict. It is hero Vs villain, cops Vs robber, male Vs female, traditional protagonist Vs antagonist. In this type of conflict, a single character is in conflict with the another single character, or the single character is in conflict with more than one character. There is direct fight against the another person.

(2) Character Vs Society: This type conflict is external conflict. This type conflict includes systematic corruption, adults, teenage perspective, opposite government, traditional norms, modern age characters.

In this type of conflict, society puts pressure on character to change the mentality and follow the establish norms of the society. On the contrary, the protagonist resists to bend the society, or change the society.

(3) Character Vs Nature: This type of conflict includes wild life, natural disaster.

(4) Character Vs Technology: In this type of conflict, there is clash between God's power and power of technology.

(5) Character Vs Supernatural: In this type of conflict, the hero finds himself against the things that can't be explained by logic or science. This type of conflict arises roaring action, extreme fears, inapplicable events. The conflict includes the protagonist faces against fate, religion, ghosts, gods, demons, or aliens. Supernatural elements are not according to the usual course of nature. They are miraculous and the spiritual.

Super natural means something that is not according to the usual course of nature, that is miraculous and spiritual. We find plenty use of omens, portents (*Warning of calamitous event is likely to happen*), and superstitions, and supernatural like ghosts.

Superstitions exists in Julius Caesar when Caesar instructs Antony not to forget in haste to touch his wife in the race as when barren women touched in holly race may remove the curse of sterility.

The Conflict in '*Arms and the man*' is between opposing beliefs and Ideas: the Romantic or Idealistic Notions of War and Love held by Raina and the realistic picture of war drawn by Bluntschli, as well as the practical side of love and marriage as expressed by Louka.

The central Conflict in '*A Streetcar Named Desire*' by Tennessee occurs between two people representing disparate social backgrounds, incompatible natures, and opposing approaches to life.

Climax in Important Dramas:

(i) Main climax in Shakespeare's '*Hamlet*' is when Hamlet stabs Polonius described in Act III, Scene IV, He brings himself in the unavoidable conflict with the king. The plays has another climax at the end of play IV, Scene IV, when Hamlet resolves to commit himself fully to violent revenge.

(ii) Climax or turning point in '*Paradise Lost*' occurs when Adam and Eve succumb (to stop fighting against something) to Satan's temptation and eat the forbidden fruit. This act of disobedience brings their downfall and eviction (*Expulsion/forcing someone to leave a place*) from the Paradise.

(iii) Climax in Christopher Marlow's *'Doctor Faustus'* is in Act III, Scene I, when Faustus signs a pact with Lucifer in exchange for twenty four years of immense power, but the desire to repent begins to plague him as the fear of hell grows in him.

(iv) Climax in *'Romeo Juliet'* takes place Act V when Romeo kills himself, Juliet woke up and she saws Romeo dead. She kills himself.

(v) Climax in *'Merchant and Venus'* arrives in Act IV, Scene I, when Shylock prepares to cut a pound of flesh nearest to Antonio's heart.

(v) Climax in *'Murder in Cathedral'* occurs with the temptation by four tempters who offer Becket various items ranging from money to unlimited power.

(vi) Climax in *'Othello'* by William Shakespeare occurs at the end of Act III, Scene III when Othello kneels with Iago and vows not to change course or to soften his feelings towards her until he has achieved bloody revenge.

(vii) Climax in *'Tempest'* by Shakespeare occurs in Act III, Scene III, when Ariel reveals Antonio, Alonso, and Sebastian as sinners who conspire to remove Prospero from dukedom. Prospero causes a banquet to be set out before them. Just as they are about to eat, Ariel appears in the shape of a harpy and accuses them of their treachery against Prospero. Alonso is overwhelmed with remorse.

(viii) Climax in *'King Lear'* by Shakespeare arrives in Act- III, in which King Lear in the stormy night with his fool, Kent and Edgar disguised as a beggar and calling himself *'Tom'* are sheltering in a hut. The erosion of Lear's power begins, the depth of conflict between Lear and his daughters is revealed and the conspiracy that unites Goneril, Regan, and Edmund is established.

King Lear is a tragedy because in coming to old age, the king divides his power and land between two of his daughters. He becomes destitute and insane as his eldest daughters reject him at their home. His banished daughter returns with army, but loses battle.

(ix) Climax in *'The Rape of the Lock ()'* by Alexander Pope occurs when the Baron snips away one of Bilinda's lock.

(x) Climax in *'Arms and the Man (1894)'* by G.B. Shaw occurs when Sergius is discovered to be love with Louka, and accuses Raina of having an affair with Bluntschli.

(xi) Climax in *'A Street Car named Desire (By Tennessee occurs in Scene X-The Rape when Stanley says to Blanche)'*. "We've had this date with each other from the beginning." the scene shows increasingly antagonistic relationship. Suspense builds as Blanche interacts with Stanley,, makes a frantic phone call, declares repeatedly she is caught in a trap and tries to run away.

(xii) Climax in *'The Price (1968)'* by Arthur Miller occurs with the theme of guilt and responsibility to oneself and to others by examining the strained relationship between two brothers. two brothers lunging each other with sibling wrath, turn motives and facts upside down and inside out who are really in the wrong: the looser or the winner.

(iv) Denouement or Catastrophe: The word Denouement comes from French word *'Denouer'* in mid 18th century meaning *'Unknotting'*. It literally means the action of untying, verb meaning *'to untie'*. The last syllable is a nasalized vowel. The word was first borrowed in 1752. It is the conclusion after the climax of a narrative in which the complexity of the plot are unraveled and the conflict is finally resolved.

1. Citadel (Citadel): Citadel (1987) is a tragedy by A.J. Cronin. The book won National Award in 1937. It was set in fictional Welsh mining town called Drineffy. The story narrates Dr. Andrew Manson who is Scottish Doctor in Drineffy. The novel reveals contrast between National Health Service and system of Doctors practising for their own profit, contrast between doctors help the sick and reality of private practice system.

Citadel is 2012 Irish psychological horror film written and directed by Ciaran Foy.

Tragic Effect: The Novel explores the balance in work and life through materialism, ethical lapses, and the struggle

2. Rebecca (Rebecca): Rebecca is suspense novel by Daphne du Maurier published in 1938

Rebecca was a film made in 2020 directed by Ben Wheatley and Star Lily James. In the film, a young woman marries a wealthy widower and moves to his estates. The young woman should adopt the shadow of wife Rebecca who haunts the house.

Tragic Effect: The novel explores narrator's struggle to find place in the world dominated by the memory of Rebecca. In a fit of anger, Maxim shot Rebecca and put her body in a Sailboat then he sank it.

3. Cracking India (Earth): 'Cracking India' is a novel by Bapsi Sidhwa set in the backdrop of 1947 partition of India. The Novel was adopted into film named 'Earth' in 1999 directed by Deepti Mehta.

4. Hamlet (Haider): Hamlet is a revenge tragedy written by William Shakespeare published in 1603. It was adopted into films in directed by Vishal Bhardwaj.

Tragic Effect: In Act III, Scene IV, Hamlet stabs Polonius through the arras, he comes into violent action. The result turns to death of Polonius.

5 Namaskar: Namaskar is a novel by Jhumpa Lahari published in 2003. It was taken into film with the name Here's a list of some notable Indian writers' works adapted into films:

1. Devdas

- Original work: Devdas (novel), 1917
- Writer: Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
- Climax (original): Devdas dies near Chandramukhi's house
- Central theme: Love, sacrifice, and tragedy
- Characters (original): Devdas, Parvati, Chandramukhi
- Adaptation: Devdas (film), 1955
- Director: Bimal Roy
- Climax (film): Devdas dies near Chandramukhi's house
- Central theme: Love, sacrifice, and tragedy
- Characters (film): Devdas (Dilip Kumar), Parvati (Suchitra Sen), Chandramukhi (Vyjayanthimala)

2. Guide

- Original work: The Guide (novel), 1958
- Writer: R.K. Narayan
- Climax (original): Raju dies after a prolonged fast
- Central theme: Spirituality, redemption, and self-discovery
- Characters (original): Raju, Rosie, Marco
- Adaptation: Guide (film), 1965
- Director: Vijay Anand
- Climax (film): Raju dies after a prolonged fast
- Central theme: Spirituality, redemption, and self-discovery
- Characters (film): Raju (Dev Anand), Rosie (Waheeda Rehman), Marco (Kishore Sahu)

3. Satyajit Ray's Feluda Series

- Original work: Feluda Series (short stories and novels), 1965-1995
- Writer: Satyajit Ray
- Climax (original): Varied across stories
- Central theme: Mystery, detective fiction
- Characters (original): Feluda, Topshe, Lalmohan Ganguly
- Adaptation: Sonar Kella (film), 1974
- Director: Satyajit Ray
- Climax (film): Feluda solves the mystery
- Central theme: Mystery, detective fiction
- Characters (film): Feluda (Soumitra Chatterjee), Topshe (Siddhartha Chatterjee), Lalmohan Ganguly (Santosh Dutta)

4. Rajesh Khanna's Arth

- Original work: Arth (play), 1978
- Writer: Mahesh Elkunchwar
- Climax (original): Inder's transformation
- Central theme: Marriage, relationships, and identity
- Characters (original): Inder, Pooja, Kavita
- Adaptation: Arth (film), 1982
- Director: Mahesh Bhatt

- Climax (film): Inder's transformation
- Central theme: Marriage, relationships, and identity
- Characters (film): Inder (Rajesh Khanna), Pooja (Shabana Azmi), Kavita (Smita Patil)
- 5. Om Puri's Sadgati
 - Original work: Sadgati (short story), 1971
 - Writer: Munshi Premchand
 - Climax (original): Dukhi's death
 - Central theme: Social inequality, exploitation
 - Characters (original): Dukhi, Ghisu, Pandit
 - Adaptation: Sadgati (film), 1981
 - Director: Satyajit Ray
 - Climax (film): Dukhi's death
 - Central theme: Social inequality, exploitation
 - Characters (film): Dukhi (Om Puri), Ghisu (Suresh Oberoi), Pandit (Mohan Agashe)
- 6. Shyam Benegal's Manthan
 - Original work: Godhan (novel), 1961
 - Writer: Bhisham Sahni
 - Climax (original): The dairy cooperative's success
 - Central theme: Rural development, cooperative movement
 - Characters (original): Dr. Rao, Bhola, Desai
 - Adaptation: Manthan (film), 1976
 - Director: Shyam Benegal
 - Climax (film): The dairy cooperative's success
 - Central theme: Rural development, cooperative movement
 - Characters (film): Dr. Rao (Girish Karnad), Bhola (Naseeruddin Shah), Desai (Amrish Puri)
- 7. Vishal Bhardwaj's Maqbool
 - Original work: Macbeth (play), 1606
 - Writer: William Shakespeare (adapted by

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