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Literature Adapted Through the Medium of Films

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Abstract:

This paper is a try to show how literature and film are complementary to each other. This gives a detailed explanation of some popular English novels that were turned into films.

A film adaptation is the transfer of a written work, in whole or in part, to a feature film. It is a type of derivative work. A common form of film adaptation is the use of a novel as the basis of a feature film.

Key Words: *Literature, Film, Adaptation, Books*

Content

"Books and movies are like apples and oranges. They both are fruit, but taste completely different."

-Stephen King

A film adaptation is nothing but to transfer the novel, short story or any written work into film. I think it is turning pages of the book into screen. With the help of live components like characters, singers and directors; it gives a non-living thing a living form.

The first adaptation was *Alice in Wonderland* (1903), a live-action British film which was restored in 2010. Only one copy of the original film remains and is being kept at the British Film Institute.

Literature is the reflection of society so is the film. Society has developed many perspectives through both mediums. And these mediums have proven it, too.

It is proven scientifically that audio-visual aids are more helpful to imbibe any teaching. It is logical and unquestionable as it involves more senses. It is the basic thing that gives importance to film. So the result of literature with film is always magical!

Some movies are made from English written work into English itself. Another type is where English-written works inspired Bollywood too. So the transformation is from one language into another i.e., from English to Hindi. So it is with a global approach!

A. Film Adaptation of English Works into English

- *The Godfather* (1969)

Mario Puzo's best crime novel ever, which was published in 1969, got the limelight again when the film of the same name directed by Francis Coppola was released in 1972.

- *Jaws* (1974)

The bestseller book by Peter Benchley was filmed with the same name by the Jurassic Park inventor Steven Spielberg in 1975. You can imagine the level of thrill now!

- *The Shining* (1977)

Stephen King's 'The Shining' got a film version of the same name by Stanley Kubrick in 1980. But the ending of the book was changed by the director.

- *Nothing Lasts Forever* (1979)

This book written by Roderick Thorp (Author of *The Detective*) got the screen when John McTiernan took its inspiration to make a phenomenal movie 'Die Hard' in 1988 with some striking changes at the end.

- *Fight Club* (1996)

Chuck Palahniuk's 'Fight Club' got justice with the movie having the same title directed by David Fincher (1999).

- Shrek (1990)

The picture book by William Steig was good. But the movie with the same name by Adamson and Jenson was awesome (2001).

- Wise Guy (1985)

Nicholas Pileggi's book having sub-title 'Life in a Mafia Family' was filmed as 'Goodfellas' (1990) in the best manner by Martin Scorsese.

- Oil (1926)

A brilliant social satire by Pulitzer prize winner Upton Sinclair got its film version in 2007 named as 'There Will Be Blood', the Oscar-nominated epic.

- L. A. Confidential (1990)

James Ellroy's book also was filmed by Curtis Hanson in 1997 having the same name.

- Queen Bees and Wannabes (2002)

This book by Rosalind Wiseman was filmed in the best way with the title 'Mean Girls' in 2004 directed by Mark Waters.

- Madame Doubtfire (1987)

Known as 'Alias Madame Doubtfire' in the United States is a 1987 novel written by Anne Fine for teenage and young adult audiences. The movie with the same name in 1993 by Robin Williams was a hands-down winner with proper comic timing.

- Forest Gump (1986)

Winston Groom's book, when transformed into a film with the same title in 1994, got the Oscar. With several changes, the movie is best by all measures.

- The Bladerunner (1974)

This 1974 science fiction novel by Alan E. Nourse got the film version with the same name in 1982. It is very relevant to the novel.

- Psycho (1959)

This 1959 thriller novel by American writer Robert Bloch saw a pivotal plot change in Alfred Hitchcock's adaptation in 1960.

- The Exorcist (1971)

This book with supernatural explanations and horror got the film version in 1973. It was scripted and produced by its author William Blatty. It was directed by William Friedkin. The interesting fact is that there is an entire book written

on this movie being “the scariest film ever made” by renowned critic Mark Kermode.

- The Silence of the Lambs (1988)

Thomas Harris wrote this chilling book and it was equally picturized with Sir Anthony Hopkins in 1991.

- Jurassic Park (1990)

This book written by Michael Crichton got the movie version directed by Spielberg in 1993 and got the fantabulous series. Rest is the history!

- Sense and Sensibility (1811)

The complicated story by Jane Austen was made into a film by And Lee. The film was simple and sober in all way of 1995.

- The Body (1982)

Stephen King, who has written this novella has declared the adaption ‘Stand By Me’ to be the closest-to-his-books film so far which was directed by Rob Reiner. This was released in 1986.

- The Orchid Thief: A True Story of Beauty and Obsession (1998)

A non-fiction by American journalist Susan Orlean got the film version named as ‘Adaptation’ in 2002.

- To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)

Harper Lee’s book was directed by Robert Mulligan in 1962 with the same promising story.

- The Executioners (1957)

John MacDonald got its classic film version in 1991 under the direction of Martin Scorsese with the new name ‘Cape Fear’.

- The Lord of the Rings Trilogy (1954 to 1955)

This trilogy by J R R Tolkien was filmed by Peter Jackson with a beautifully portrayed set of visuals. The series came in three years starting from 2001 to 2003.

- The Notebook (1996)

Nicolas Spark’s over-emotional romantic book with the sub-title “Can You Ever Escape Your Past?’ has a film version with the same name in 2004 directed by Nick Cassavetes and no doubt, it steals the show!

- Revenge Wears Prada (2003)

This one by Lauren Weisberger was filmed by David Frankel in 2006 by the name 'The Devil Wears Prada'.

- The Prestige (1995)

Christopher Priest's book got its film version in 2006 by none other than Christopher Nolan with the same name.

- Casino Royale (1953)

The book 'James Bond's First Adventure' by Fleming Ian was picturized by Martin Campbell in 2006.

- The Mist (1980)

One of Stephen King's books was turned into a movie by Frank Darabont in 2007 making its ending more terrifying.

- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (1922)

F. Scott Fitzgerald's graphic novel got a film version in 2008 by David Fincher making it an epic cinematic experience.

- Les Miserables (1862)

The book by Victor Hugo got the best film version by Tom Hopper in 2012 with the same title. The movie version is just too good.

- The Great Gatsby (1925)

American author F. Scott Fitzgerald's celebrated novel was transformed into a movie in 2013 by Baz Luhrmann.

- Harry Potter Series (1997-2007)

The fantasy novel series written by J. K. Rowling the film version from 2001-2011

- Life of Pi (2001)

Yann Martel's novel got the best film version by Ang Lee in 2012.

- No Country for Old Men (2005)

This amalgamation of thriller and suspense by Cormac McCarthy was picturized by Ethan Coen and Joel Coen in 2007.

- The Hobbit (1937)

J. R. R. Tolkien's fantasy novel got the screen by Jackson in a trilogy from 2012-2014.

- Q and A (2005)
- This novel by Vikas Swarup was loosely adapted into the multiple Oscar-winning movie Slumdog Millionaire by Danny Boyle in 2008.
- The Mistress of Spices (1997)

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's book was turned into a movie having the same name in 2006 directed by Paul Mayeda Berges.

B. Film Adaptation of English Novels in Hindi

- Chetan Bhagat's books

The next generation of writer's books is promising. The following are some of his novels turned into movies.

I. Three Mistakes of My Life (2008)

This book was turned into a film named 'Kai Po Che' in 2013 by Abhishek Kapoor.

II. One Night at the Call Centre (2005)

Having a different and striking story it got the film version 'Hello' in 2008 by Atul Agnihotri.

III. Five Point Someone (2004)

This book based on engineering student life was picturized by Rajkumar Hirani in 2009. It is the iconic movie on college life.

IV. Two States (2009)

With the same name and direction by Abhishek Verma, this book was filmed in 2014.

V. Half Girlfriend (2014)

This novel got the film version by Mohit Suri in 2017.

- Shakespearean Plays

I. Vishal Bhardwaj's 'Omkaara', 'Maqbool' and 'Haider' are based on 'Othello', 'Macbeth' and 'Hamlet' respectively. This trilogy was adapted in a good manner.

II. Comedy of Errors

Angoor by Gulzar of 1982 was based on Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors.

- Ruskin Bonds Books

I. Susanna's Seven Husbands (2011)

Published in 2011, this book got its film version '7 Khoon Maaf' in 2011 by Vishal

Bhardwaj.

II. The Blue Umbrella (2005)

The 2005 book was picturized by Vishal Bhardwaj in 2007 by the same name.

III. A Flight of Pigeons (1978)

This novella got the film version 'Junoon' in 1978 by Shyam Benegal.

- The Namesake (2003)

Jhumpa Lahiri's 2003 novel was picturized in 2006 by Mira Nair with the same name.

- Great Expectations

Charles Dickens's celebrated novel of 1861 got the Hindi film version as 'Fitoor' by

Abhishek Kapoor in 2016.

- Emma (1815)

This novel was turned into a Hindi movie as 'Aisha' in 2010 by Rajshree Ojha.

- Calling Sehmat (2008)

Harinder Sikka's thriller novel was picturized as 'Raazi' by Meghna Gulzar in 2018.

- The Accidental Prime Minister (2014)

This book by Sanjay Naru in 2014 was filmed by Vijay Gutte in 2019 with the same name.

- Guide (1958)

R. K. Narayan's Sahitya Akademi Award winner novel got the film version with the same name in 1965.

- The Citadel (1937)

This A. J. Cronin's novel got the Hindi film version in 1971 by Vijay Anand as "Tere Mere Sapne".

- O. Henry's Short Stories

I. The Gift of the Magi (1905)

This short story got the Hindi film version by Rituparno Ghosh in 2004 with the name 'Raincoat'.

II. The Last Leaf (1907)

Lootera of 2013 was based on this short story.

- White Nights (1848)

Fedor Dostoyevsky's short story was picturized by Sanjay Leela Bhansali in 2007.

- Love Story (1970)

The evergreen love story by American writer Erich Segal got the Hindi film version in 1978 named 'Ankhiyon Ke Jharokhon Se'.

- The Promise (1978)

Danielle Steel's novel was the base for Kapil Kapoor's film 'Yeh Waada Raha' of 1982.

- Man, Woman and Child (1980)

This Erich Segal novel was adapted by the name 'Masoom' in 1982. It was having screenplay by Gulzar.

- Ice Candy Man (1988)

This novel written by Bapsi Sidhwa, which is known as 'Cracking India' was transformed into a film in 1999 by Deepa Mehta.

- The Judas Tree (1961)

'Mausam' film of 1975 directed by none other than Gulzar is loosely based on this novel by Scottish novelist A. J. Cronin.

- Black Friday: The True Story of the Bombay Blasts (2002)

J. Hussain Zaidi's book got a film version in 2007 by Anurag Kashyap.

- The Godfather (1969)

Mario Puzo's crime novel which was turned into the movie 'Sarkar' in 2005, was directed by Ram Gopal Verma.

- Pride and Prejudice (1813)

The Romantic drama film 'Bride and Prejudice' of 2004, directed by Gurinder Chadha was based on Jane Austen's romantic novel.

- Rebecca (1938)

This Gothic novel by Dame Daphne du Maurier was adapted into a Hindi movie of 1964 named 'Kohra' directed by Biren Nag.

- The Notebook (1996)

This romantic novel by American novelist Nicholas Sparks got the Hindi film version of the name 'U Me aur Hum' directed by Ajay Devgan in 2008.

- Q and A (2005)

This novel by Vikas Swarup was loosely adapted into the multiple Oscar-winning movie Slumdog Millionaire by Danny Boyle in 2008.

- The Mistress of Spices (1997)

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's book was turned into a movie having the same name in 2006 directed by Paul Mayeda Berges.

- Wuthering Heights (1847)

This classic novel by Emily Bronte was adapted into a Hindi film named 'Dil Diya Dard Liya' in 1966 directed by Dilip Kumar and Abdur Kadar.

- Dongri to Dubai: Six Decades of the Mumbai Mafia (2012)

This crime book by former investigative journalist Hussain Zaidi became the base for the movie 'Shootout at Wadala' in 2013 directed by Sanjay Gupta.

Conclusion

There has been a long tradition of adaptations from English novels to English or Hindi novels. Though the source is different, they never fail to impress us. Novels are the reflection of our society and movies help society to rejuvenate by making adaptations. Both are not only sources of entertainment but help to revolutionize the society.

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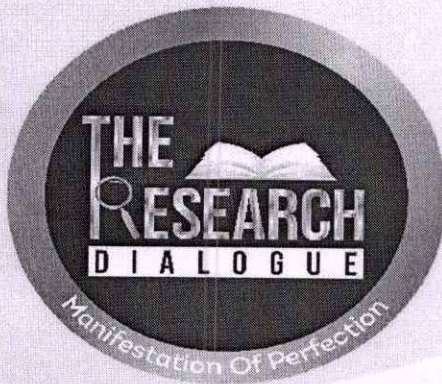
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