

Cinematization of Myths and the Problematic of Representation: A Study of Select Indian Mythical Characters

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Abstract:

One of the post-modern ventures of progressive creative writers has been to relook into the myths, mythical episodes and characters present therein. Their revisiting is triggered by a kind of dissatisfaction with and grudge against the established narrative of the past. The established narratives have been perceived as highly discriminatory, as they figure out, in terms of gender, race and caste. Consequently, an existing myth, its character and the whole context in which they operate are recreated with a newer perception of the subject. The newer perception is based on the politics of inversion, subversion and protest, as the case may be, aiming to challenge the existing base of the myth. As such, the rewriting of myths from the epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata in entirety to the individual characters thereof has emerged across the genres today. The multiplicity of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata texts in different languages is a testimony to the fact that the readers' sensibilities to reconcile with the extant myths have been tremendously critical. This results in the emergence of the remake of stories and characters in different genres that speak volume of the problematics of the earlier myths simultaneously. The characters of Sita, Ram, Karn, Ahalya etc., to name a few, have been represented both in literature and cinema with an inversive ideology and interpretation. The newer representations are essentially assertive and intended to protest and disown the earlier narratives. In the process, they emerge as a counter-discourse for the critical thinkers in the contemporary time. As such, the paper under discussion titled "Cinematization of Myths and the Problematic of Representation: A Study of Select Indian Mythical Characters" is an endeavor to examine the veracity of the lateral representations of select characters from Indian myths. The prime objective of the paper is to bring out the problematic of mythical representations and critically study the patterns of perceptions facilitating such representations across genres.

Key Words: Myths, Retelling, Politics, Inversion, Counter-narratives, Representations

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