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SCIENCE FICTION AND FILM: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF TWO SELECT INDIAN MOVIES

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Abstract

Science fiction is a genre of art that caters to the popular taste of the people. It presents a world mixed with science and fictional elements. It can be taken as a microcosm of fictional literature. It uses to present unfamiliar and unknown things in a familiar and known way. It provides its diverse themes and issues not only in texts but also in films. When science fiction is adapted into movies, it is able to attract a large number of audiences specially the young generation of writers. Science fictional films cover the issues like future society, challenges created by scientific developments, human enhancement through science and technology, human-machine clash, hybrid identity, world of aliens, and Artificial Intelligences. There are many films in western countries covering the issue of science fiction. Production houses designed the films in such a way that it can make an appeal to the audience. Even in India, there are several science fiction films. From 1952 to the present, Indian cinema contributes a lot by producing one after another attracting films on the theme of science fiction. The present paper is going to analyze two films *Koi...Mill Gaya* and its sequel *Krish 3* from the perspectives of science fiction. The paper will also try to present the history of science fiction films in India and in the West. It attempts to depict the science fictional elements and new techniques shown in the films. These films are the representations of future society which accepts the inhabitation of different beings like modified human, superhuman and aliens.

Keywords: *science fiction, hybrid identity, human-machine clash, Artificial Intelligence*

Introduction

Science fiction is a genre of literature that tries to “represent the world without reproducing it. That is what dealing with a world of possibilities probabilities means” (Delany, 1977, p. 197). It helps to understand the forthcoming changes taking place in the world due to the development of science and technology. Science fiction attempts to familiarize the citizens with the future society and its new words, structure, patterns, rhythms, and methods of understanding novel dimensions. It deals with the issues like current political mood, transport system, planned city information, technological incorporation, artificial insurgence, and hybrid figures. It analyzes scientific knowledge and beliefs with the help of arts, and thereby provides a scope to reconnect with the larger communities. It is a type of writing that fictionalizes the themes of the rest of the literature incorporating new connections and perspectives. That is why science fiction is full of variety. Manlove (1986) comments that it “is a literature concerned with the possibilities of the future and the survival of the race through change” (p. 13).

Science fiction which is a genre of speculative fiction encompasses the issues like science, technology, space, time travel, technological singularity, brain emolution, and mind uploading. These issues are successful in creating a mass appeal. The readers of science fiction get enthralled by the new tastes that it delivers. It opens up a scope to the people to broaden their perspectives. It not only entertains the common masses but also able to create a sense of wonder among all which make them more curious regarding the future remodeling of society. It entertains the readers with new emerging issues that are shaping the world.

Science fiction attempts to show the transformation from an existing human world to a different world crowded with various species, from the traditional world of aliens to the modern technologized world. It is a world full of technology-based artificially created beings like the sentient computer, syntec, robot, cyborg, superhuman figure, transhumant one, mutant, clone and alien. Technology is the central indicator of change in science fiction as it talks about the progress of humanity. Among all the technology-based beings, the terms 'robot' and 'cyberspace' are directly associated with technological innovation. The word 'robot,' first used in 1920 by Karel Capek in R.U.R., initially suggests heavy labor or slavery. Later, "it came to mean a self-contained, maybe remote-controlled 'artificial device' that mimics the actions and, possibly, the appearance of a human being" (Seed, 2011, p. 59). The first use of the robot in the literary text may be found in Edward S. Ellis' *The Huge Hunter or The Steam Man of the Prairies*. In that text, Ellis showed a ten-foot-tall iron-constructed robot with a boiler in its body. It is steam-driven with a human-like shape, locomotive power, and horse-like working directed by reins. 'Cyberspace', coined by the American writer William Gibson in 1982, refers to a virtual world surrounded by computers, internet devices, computer network, routers, and artificial intelligent beings.

The ongoing focus on technology has been gathering its head since the 1930s, the decade which identifies two popular strands of technology in science fiction: the optimistic side and the pessimistic side. The former analyses the developments machines have been bringing into our society, and the latter surrounds the negative aspects of machines getting out of control. Not only that the twentieth-century machines are designed in such a way that they resemble humans. Sometimes it isn't easy to distinguish humans from machines. The film *Blade Runner* (1982) is one in which humans and machines are analogized. In this film, the replicants are designed so similarly that they resemble actual humans; the only difference one can point out is the larger eyes. Even the city that is described here is a technologized one where there are flying cars, and it is full of humans as well as other technological beings like syntec. But it should also be remembered that such a multi-species living society can be a threat to humans, as it raises the identity crisis of the humans in front of many types of beings. Even the machines, so powerful than the humans,

may try to control the power of the society by replacing the humans. They may lead the other beings and machines against the humans. And it should be accepted that after the robots come, the economy's total condition is changed as the machines try to take over the economic world, forecasting the issues of human displacement and the replication of human feelings.

History of Science Fiction Films in the West

Science fiction gains momentum when its stories start to be adapted into films. The films' audio-visual effect is able to create a deep impact in the minds of the audience. The films make it easy to visualize the situations described in science fiction books. This presentation of science fiction themes into films started approximately around the twentieth century. There were only silent films that usually took one or two minutes to deliver its theme to the audience. The first major film of science fiction was *Le Voyage dans La Lune* (1902), directed by George Melies. It is based on the theme of space travel and innovation effect. The decade 1910s influenced film industry very much as it produced the horror but futuristic sci-film *Frankenstein* (1910). Though the film's duration was only 10 minutes, it was able to attract the audience due to its sense of dark mode. In 1920s, many countries like Germany, England and America tried to produce films covering novel aspects of science fiction. These films were successful in providing the war effected people a solace. The silent film *Metropolis* (1926) gave the audience a ray of hope through its screening of future society that may help people to come out of the Great Depression. Film production houses like Tracy Dick Films and Gordon Films emerged at that time. These production houses tried to ease the mind of the audience by providing films mixed with science and technology. *Invisible Man* (1933) is one of the examples that presented a world where one can see how the scientific experiments led to the formation of a different human being who is neither fully visible nor invisible. He is in a middle state and urges repeatedly to come back to his former self. His inability makes an emotional appeal to the audience and also advises the audience about the risks lies in scientific experiments.

After the Second World War, the film industries tried to produce animation films, fantasy films and literary films, and thereby broaden the area of science fiction movies. Most of the films tried to cover the theme of the textbook and present it through screens. Such an attempt was helpful for the literary people as it provided them the scope to understand the texts in a better way. This gave birth the concept of film as part of literary studies. Earlier people used to watch film for their enjoyment. Now they would take film as a genre to analyse the literary elements present in the film. Short story, novel, fiction and other literary genres are adapted into films and the result was the films like *Time Machine*, *War of the Worlds* etc. Such films intensified the reading tendency of the science fiction readers. Even the production houses started to adapt apocalyptic themes into films. It is mainly done around 1950s. The movies use to cover the themes like cold war, emergence of monster trends, humans' emergence into space, and hybrid human figures. *The Angry Red Planet* (1959) and *First men into Space* (1959) are two films which cover the journey of humans from earth to space. Another path breaking film was *2001: A Space odyssey*. It is based on the theme of space travel and presents a realistic picture of space travel. It also deals with the problems that humans use to face while travelling in space. Due to this film, the director Stanley Kubrick became famous overnight. Besides films, television series developed at this time featuring the issues of space travel through a series of episodes. *Planet of the Apes* is one such series. It has four sequels. *Fahrenheit 451* is another one based on the theme of restrictions of the government and the freedom of speech.

After 1970, dystopian and utopian themes entered into the world of fictional films. The films at that time presented two different worlds. One is the utopian presentation of world where everything is in right

order. It is world where reigns equality, liberty and fraternity. The second is the reverse picture of world where everything is in distorted way. It presents a horrifying world mixed with the issues of identity crisis, existential crisis, death, decay and destruction. It presents the dangerous sides of space travel, use of technology, ecological threat and others. They present humans as foil to machines who try to dominate the other. *Westworld* is a film in which the audience can experience the fight between humans and machines. Whereas *THX1138* present a dystopian state where man is in conflict with the state. *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* screens the scary nature of a monster. Ridley Scott, who produced the 1982 famous film *Blade Runner*, made another gigantic film *Alien* dealing with the encounter of the alien and the humans, and what would be the effect of this encounter.

1990s onwards incorporated the issue of cyberpunk in science fiction. *The Lawnmower Man* and *Virtuosity* are the two films that hint at the dangerous interface of humans and computers. Most of the cyberpunk films project the dangerous aspects of machines' progress, and thereby possess a question of dichotomy to the audience regarding the acceptance of machines. Whether humans should accept the devices as usually or they should be more cautious while handling those machines as there lie an inherent threat regarding the use of the machines. Sometimes the dangerous aspects of the machines may spoil the healthy relationship between humans and machines. *Star Trek: Generation* (1994) is the film in which one can find the AI figure Data who is a self-aware android. He can imitate human actions and can calculate risks better than any human on earth. He is more powerful than any human. *The Matrix* (1999) presents a dystopian world centring on the issue of human fear of the super intelligent AI. It provides the readers a picture of the dark side of AI with few lessons regarding the use of AI. *I, Robot* (2004) deals with the evil function of a supercomputer VIKI that deliberately collects information from all over the world and tries to control the workings of the robots. This is a world full with robots. Later, one of the robots helps humans by stopping VIKI. Therefore, the film portrays the darker sides of AI which tries to take the control of the world. *Her* is 2013 Oscar winning science fiction film centering around the love of a man for an artificially intelligent OS. It gives a glimpse of the future prospects of voice assistants and how these roles are performed by the artificial intelligence which may become the object of humans' attraction. The Film *Chappie* (2015) is the story of the positive sides of the droids which are used by the government to control mankind. Through the neighbour's behaviour and actions, the droids learn how to behave perfectly like humans and to maintain ethics in life.

Science Fiction Films and India

In India, there are many science fiction films that cater to taste of the audience. This genre has been prevalent in Indian films since the second half of the twentieth century. The first science fiction film in India was the Tamil film *Kaadu*, produced in 1952. Subtitled as *The Jungle*, *Kaadu* is about the strange behaviour of some animals that caused the death of some people. The whole film centres upon the investigation of that cause of the strange behaviour of the animals. This film gives a glimpse of the Indian wildlife. After it, *Shikari* (1963) stars Indian science fiction world with the story of a scientist who makes an experiment on the life of humans and gorillas. 1963 saw the production of another science fiction film *Kalai Arasi*. This is the first film in Indian cinema that describes the story of aliens, alien abduction, alien weapons, space travel and futuristic technology. *The Alien* (1965) is a Bengali science fiction film that based on the story of the encounter of a spaceman Mr. Ang and a village boy. This film gives the idea of spaceship which lands on a village pond, image of the alien, and the friendship that develops between the village boy and the alien. In Malayalam, science fiction takes its entry with the film *Karutha Rathrikal* (1967). It is directed by Mahesh. It is a revenge film in which a doctor named Madhu takes revenge of his uncle's death by inventing a medicine which has the power to make split personality. It is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

1980 Bengali film *Hirak Rajar Deshe* deals with different themes like educational crisis, tyrannical king, greedy ministers, and the concept of monopoly. It is the story of a king who brainwashes the minds of the people who protest against him. He used to believe that education is the cause of this protest. So, the less you read the less there would be any protest. *Jaithra Yaathra* (1987) is the first film in India dealing the issue of invisibility. It involves a scientist who invents a locket that makes men invisible. He used this locket as weapon to take revenge against the villain figure Babu Antony. Like *Yaatra, Mr. India* (1987), a hindi film, is based on the theme of invisibility of a man. It centres on a poor violinist who through a clocking device becomes invisible. Science fiction deals not only with invisibility but also the theme of immortality. *Nalaya Manithan* is the example which centres on the theme of immortality. It is the film set in 21st century. A doctor discovers a drug that can give back life to the dead people if the drug will be injected into any human body after two hours of death.

After 2000, the issue of robot, android and AI enter into the field of Indian science fiction. *Hollywood* (2002) is the film dealing with the story of a scientist who created an android which resembles him. The android is created to win over a girl. But the problem arises when the android falls in love with the girl and tries to eliminate his master. Therefore, the film portrays the war between the scientist and the android. *Taarzan: The Wonder Car* (2004) is a bollywood revenge film. It deals with the story of a car having artificial intelligence. This film is the first example of a car's artificial intelligence. *Friend* (2009) is another sci-film about the friendship between a child and a robot. *Robot* (2010) is an Indian Tamil science fiction action film about the dual role of a robot created by a scientist. At first, the robot is used to help humans to come out of trouble. But after sometime, the same robot is used to kill many people only to win a girl. This dual role of the robot brings out the dichotomy of the acceptance of the android robot, whether humans should accept androids as the developer of humanity or as agents of destruction. Its sequel *Robot 2.0* (2018) is also based the same story, depicting the dual roles of machines.

The present paper is going to analyse *Koi...Mill Gaya* and *Krish 3*, two films dealing with several aspects of science fiction. *Koi...Mill Gaya* is a Hindi bollywood science fiction film produced in 2003. It is directed by Rakesh Roshan, starring Hrithik Roshan and Preity Zinta. This is the story of a boy named Rohit who is mentally retired. Somehow, he has an encounter with an alien named Jadoo. After the meeting, Rohit gets back his normal human self. Its sequel *Krish 3* is also Hindi film produced in 2013 and directed by the same director Rakesh Roshan. It is the third film in *Krish* series. The actors and actress of this film are Hrithik Roshan, Vivek Oberoi, Kangana Ranaut, Priyanka Chopra. The film is a 2d format film. The story follows a scientist and his superhuman son Krishna Mehra. They face the conspiracy of Kaal, an evil genius and his gang of mutants represented by Kaya and Maanvars, a hybrid animal. This is how Krishna and his family face one after the other problematic situations due to Kaal's conspiracy.

Koi...Mill Gaya: Human and Alien Interface

The film *Koi..Mill Gaya* deals with the encounter of an alien and a human named Rohit. From the beginning of the film, Rohit is a mentally retired child. But he accepts the alien as his friend. He saves the alien from the clutches of wild dogs. As gratitude, the alien touches his hand and with its superpower he clears all the scratches of dogs on Rohit's hand. The alien has magical power. Due to this he is called Jadoo by Rohit's little friends. Though Jadoo belongs to another planet, it can understand human languages and human emotions. When Rohit is crying for the marriage of Nisha with another person and his mother is giving consolation to him, Jadoo understands Rohit's mental condition. When he is sleeping, Jadoo comes close to him and puts its hands on his head and blesses him with magical powers. On the next morning, Rohit can visualise everything without his spectacle. This is called 'Chamatcara'. It results in the transformation in the physical and mental characteristics of Rohit. After that he solves a ten standard

math though he is in class seven. Not only that, he replies to his computer teacher's question how to copy a file without opening any browser. He also dances well in a club. This is how, the encounter of the human and alien results in the optimistic benefits.

Apart from physical changes, the blessings changes Rohit psychologically. He behaves in front of Nisha's father in such a way that a normal human does. Earlier when he came to their house, her father considered him as special child. Now, such kind of change in his behaviour leads him to drop the pre-arranged marriage of Nisha with Raj. In the school also Rohit becomes famous overnight due to his instant knowledge. School's father calls his mother and praises him very much. In the basketball game, Rohit and his friends perform unbelievably. They catch the basketball and start to fly with the ball. This is how they win the game with the help of Jadoo. Though Jadoo is unknown to them, it accepts all of them almost like dearest and nearest friends. Jadoo always helps Rohit and his friends. Rohit also returns it. When Jadoo is caught by the police officer Khurshid Khan, he rescues Jadoo from the hands of the policemen who decide to send Jadoo to the Indian Space Research Organisation. Risking his own life, Rohit goes against the policemen and helps Jadoo to return to his spaceship. Rohit, though does wrong according to law and order, sets an example of true friendship by helping Jadoo to return to his space. That is why he is accepted by the whole society as the statue of humanity. If Jadoo is caught by the policemen, they can make experiment with him. It may result in the death of Jadoo. But by helping Jadoo to return to its space, he proves that humanity still exists in humans.

Krish 3: Concept of Mixed Future Society

It is a movie charged with the superhuman motif. Krishna who works as Krish is the superhero shown in the movie. His first superhuman activity comes to the front when he saves an Airbus A380 from an accident as its front wheels are not working. Krish reaches to that place and put himself there by holding the landing gear in place to allow the tyres to support the nose of the craft. For a human, it is impossible to do so. He here performs the superhuman role and thereby saves a plane from being crashed. He is above the normal human is also proved when Rohit's father, a scientist by profession, discovers that the virus has no effect on Krishna. If he will be normal human, he can be affected by the disease.

The movie describes a multi-species world in which humans as well as other species like mutants and maanvars live. Krish is the superhuman. Rohit Mehra is a human being, whereas Kaal is technologically advanced human, more to say a transhuman. Kaya is a mutant. Maanvars are the composition of manav and jaanwar. They are created by Kaal for the assortment of evil mutants. They are red-eyed antmen or frogmen as they can spread their tongues as long as they can. Therefore, the film presents a mixed society in which different species use to live. It is the future society where each one has the right to live. Though the mutants and maanvars are used by Kaal to spread virus in the society, it presents the amalgamation of various beings. Their purpose is bad still they are the members of society. It hints a posthumanist society. A posthumanist society is one which accepts the citizenship of humans as well as other beings like robots, cyborgs, mutants, AIs and other artificially created beings. It accepts the people not on the basis of humanhood but on the basis of personhood. Though the beings are artificially created, they have their own consciousness. Such as Kaya is a mutant, a genetically modified human or mutant. She has her own consciousness. She has likes and dislikes. She loves to do things according to her wish. That is why she falls in love with Krish. She knows it that she is a mutant and her job is to destroy humans. Still, she wants to help humanity. She wants to rescue Priya, Krish's wife from the hands of Kaal. This makes it clear that genetically modified beings have their own consciousness. They also want to live like other humans. Before death, she urges Kaal not to destroy her. She wants to live. Her earnest desire for survival creates sympathy in the minds of the audience.

This post humanist society faces the existential crisis. Due to the coexistence of various beings within a society, a power struggle is going on. The normal human beings are the sufferers of this power struggle. They have not such extraordinary power like the modified beings or artificial beings. In the film also, common men suffer a number of times due to Kaal's power acquiring nature. Only to control the society, Kaal spreads the virus in the society. He has kept the anti-dote secretly in his lab. Due to this virus, many people die on the street. Little children died on their parents' lap. The virus kills almost half of the citizen. These deaths are caused deliberately by Kaal. His purpose is to gain money from their deaths. Death of people has become a business to them. Even at the end of the film, Kaal, using technological modification, becomes superhuman figure and tries to destroy the whole society. Common people have nothing to do with his work. But he tries to destroy the society to show his power. So, this multi-diverse society may be a threat for the common humans. Existential crisis is a common issue in this future society.

Conclusion

Science fiction as a genre of literature includes diverse aspects like future city formation, artificial beings, technological invention and scientific discoveries. It tries to present the forthcoming changes happening in the world. Films are the representation of these themes. Through its audio-visual presentations, films attract the people by presenting those issues. Films have mass appeal. Films have become the part of popular culture. These two films *Koi...Mill Gaya* and *Krish 3* have a large mass appeal. Whereas the former is the presentation of the alien encounter, the later provides the concept of mixed society. The former brings out the positive aspects of the alien beings. Alien can be the object which can help humans to overcome their shortcomings. The later describes the existential threat in a society which gives shelter to various beings irrespective of human, animal, superhuman and technological beings. Both movies present different aspects of science fiction.

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