

Investigating the Representation of Heroes, Heroism, Violence, and Technology in Recent Tamil films

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this article is to explore the characterization of the heroes and violence in recent Tamil filmmaking. Recent films, such as the films of Asuran, Bigil, Ratchasan, Kala and Vada Chennai, were incorporated into the study. Furthermore, the characters in the movies were subjected to content search. This research shows that these films have more violent scenes. The heroes and main characters from the film above have a criminal background. These movies pointed out that violence is the only way to solve all social problems. Moreover, the fact that movie heroes with criminal histories create negative and violent thoughts in the minds of those watching them. The involvement of young children at crime scenes is a crime. The psychological impacts resulting from recent changes in contemporary film are highlighted in this research article. The violent scenes from these films affect the youth's mind. This affects young children in particular. Although these movies contain good ideas, the high prevalence of violence can be regarded as preventable. The film is not just an excellent means of entertainment, it is also a reflection of society. There should therefore be a social objective and social concerns. There can be differing perspectives. But the young audience shown culpable will create negative feelings amongst the younger generation. This may lead to misunderstandings amongst young people. Not just that, but later, they may become more violent and criminal. This type of representation of hero characters in recent Tamil cinema is expected to create insensitivity to violent behaviour and antisocial activities among new generations and future generations.

Keywords: Portrayal of hero, Heroism, Violence, Violent behaviors. Recent Tamil cinema, Insensitivity

Introduction

Tamil cinema has its own unique style. Tamil cinema is slightly different from Indian cinema. Its music and style are diverse. The storyline of Tamil cinema has changed in the same way that the heroes are portrayed. The appearance of the heroes, in particular, has come up with various changes. Stories also changed according to the social context of the time. Tamil cinemas were first adapted to the mythological content and storylines of the Indian society. But then there were variations and changes that happened in the story. The first Tamil cinema was produced, directed, and edited by Mr. Nataraja Mudaliar in 1918. The cinema industry at that time was not great. Drama artists were acting in cinema. The story was important in those times. In the 1930s, big changes appeared after the release of the film Kalidas. A film named Pavalakodi was released in 1934. The actor drama artist M. K. ThyagarajaBhagavathar played the lead role in that film. It was a huge success in those days. Because of its huge box office hit and collections, M. K. ThyagarajaBhagavathar became a superstar of Tamil cinema. He sang twenty-two songs in that film. His mannerisms, hairstyle, and costumes were liked and admired by the film-goers. Acting, singing, and dancing were the essential qualifications of that time. Vocal prowess was important at the time.

The talkie movies Ambagapathy, Haridas, and Amarakavi, starring ThyagarayaBhagavathar, were a big hit. But the stories were not written for the heroes. The heroes adapted to the characterization of the story. Stories were not written for heroes at that time. Chandrakantha (1936) and Uthamaputhran (1940), and Harichchandra (1944), were huge successes, and the performance of P.U. Chinnappa was greatly appreciated. Arignar Anna wrote many scripts related to social themes in those days. His notable films were Nallathambi (1948), , Velaikari

(1949), and Or Eravu (1951). Parasakthi (1952) which starred ShivajiGanesan, was a huge success and created a new dimension and trend in Tamil cinema. It created, the importance of story, dialogues, and narration techniques. Also, it showed the importance of acting performance. It helped to disseminate the Dravidian ideologies by KalaighnarKarunanidhi in those days. The writers got importance equivalent to the film heroes in those days because of the excellence in literary skills. Names like M. G. Ramachandran and ShivajiGanesan were also prominent during their active period. During that time, children were given names such as Bharathiraja and Ilaiyaraja.

Scope of this research

By analyzing the history and heroes of Tamil cinema, we can keep track of changes and trends. The names, manners and style of the heroes of Tamil cinema have been used by the Tamil people in their lives. To this day, the name Shivaji has been used in filmmaking. The focus on heroes continues to evolve. By studying characterisation, this research aims to study the values and belief system of today's Tamil society. It is therefore important to predict the situation and the changes.

Literature Review

NithinKalorth conducted research on the screen shifts in Tamil cinema. The research concluded that there was a new wave found in the recent Tamil cinema (NithinKalorth, 2016). Also, that research found out the changing nature of characterization in Tamil cinema. Amuthamanavalan and Shailashree conducted research to study interlinks between the Tamil cinema and its political, socio-cultural ideologies. The research concluded that there were strong links found between the Tamil cinema and the portrayal of characters. Also, Tamil cinema was the reflection of Tamil society and identity. Furthermore, the research showed the portrayal of hero characters. Amuthamanavalan, Sharilashree, 2016).

The new third wave of Tamil cinema had full of violence and gender bias. There was a misconception found between the background of the hero characters and their violent behaviors. D. Karthikeyan's research showed the misconception about the hero's nativity and their characterization in Tamil cinema (D. Karthikeyan, 2011). The researcher David discussed the portrayal of characters in cinema and its influence. According to him, cinema helped to shape the morality, paths, belief system, and social-cultural norms. Also, it helped to create role models for the younger generations (David, 1983). Furthermore, the cinema helped the social development process through effective communication. According to Valicha Tamil cinema paved the way to create social, moral, artistic, and intellectual construct. But there was a difference between social reality and cinematic views (Valicha, 1999).

Research Methodology

The recent films with more violent scenes released in the Tamil film industry were taken for inspection. The movies selected were Asuran, Bigil, Ratchasan, Kala, and Vada Chennai. The selected movies were subjected to the analysis of this study. In the above pictures, more violent scenes were present. It included the most violent scenes like killing by knife, guns, bottles, and sharp weapons. Apart from violent scenes the hero's of the above-selected movies had criminal backgrounds.

In the above films, various violent scenes are presented in horrific scenes. It included scenes like cutting the head by knife and killing the human by sharp weapons. Also, those films had stories related to children, young people, and their revenge. It was an offense.

Steps involved in this research

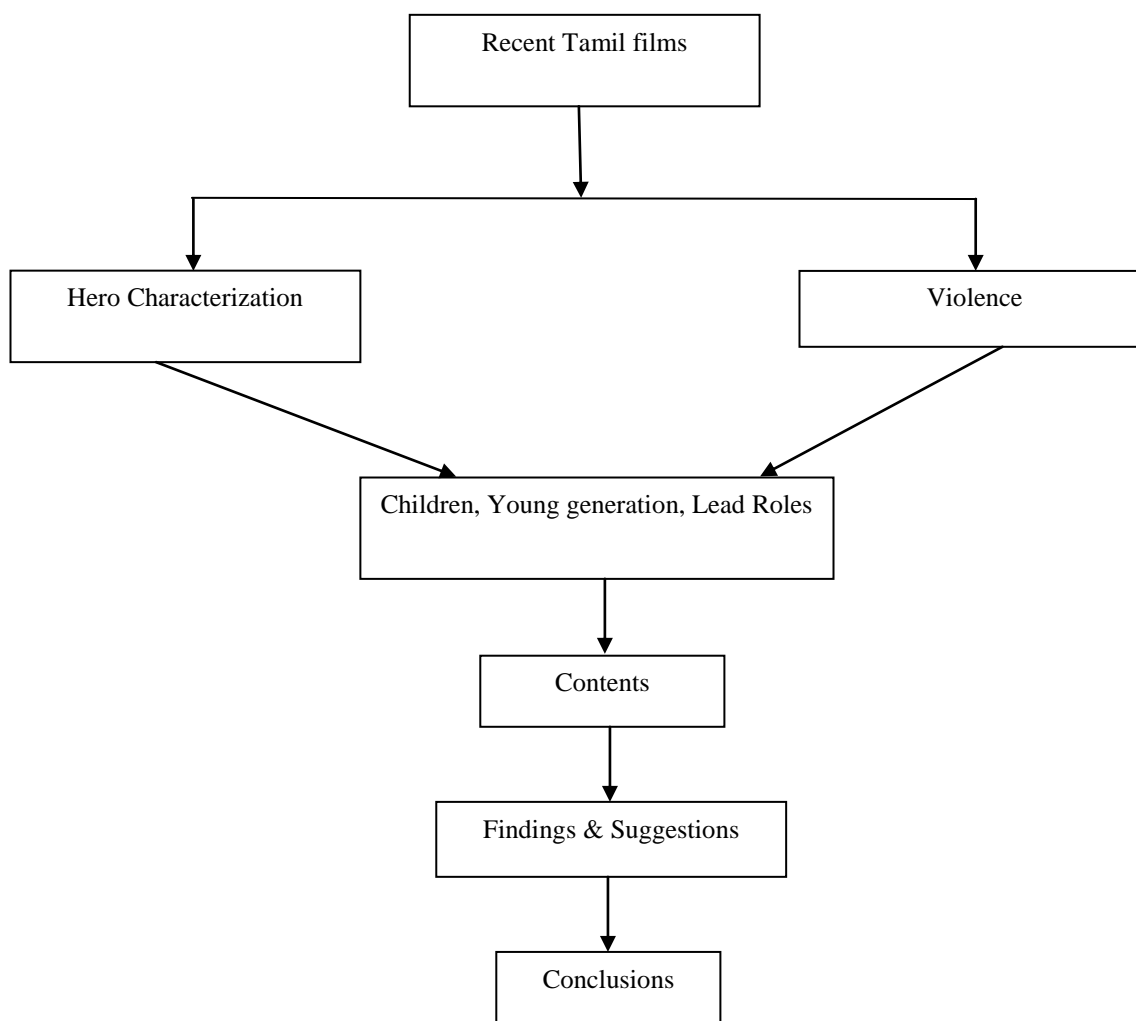


Figure: 1 Method of Research

Figure 1 helps to understand the research method followed to analyze the hero characterization and violent content in the recent Tamil cinema.

The recent successful Tamil movies Asuran, Bigil, Ratchasan, Kala, and Vada Chennai were analyzed. Those films were selected for this study because of its unique nature of the, heroism, hero characterization, storytelling methods, and box office collections. The contents in dialogues, fight sequences, symbolic representation, and stories were analyzed.

Findings of the Research

The results of the study show that the dominance of heroes in contemporary cinema is not declining. At the same time violence is increasing. The dominance of the next generation of actors emerges in contemporary cinema. Cinema is once again used as a political platform. This can be seen as a recent change. Actors like MGR and S.S. Rajendran has used cinema in the past to disseminate their political ideology. Now the actors like RajniKanth, Kamal Hasan, and Vijay are using the medium to show their political views. Heroic speech and songs in modern cinema attract people's minds. People believe in cinematic views. The importance of fighting sequences and loving scenes gets continuous importance. Very few scientific ideas emerge. The romantic stories get more importance in Tamil cinema. But importance given to scientific stories and ideas is increasing. It clearly shows the continuation of superstitions exhibited in contemporary cinema. Asuran is a movie adapted from the novel Vekkai which was written by Poomani. It is a good-scripted story. It is directed by the young director, veterinarian and acted by Dhanush, a well-established star actor of Tamil cinema. The plot of the story lies in line with the revenge of a teenage boy named as Chidambaram.

The young teenager's brother is killed by an upper-caste landlord. Due to this murder, the teenage boy Chidambaram took revenge. The film has too much violence, blood, and gore. This film comes under the category of more violent revenge drama films. Bigil is a sports drama film. It is directed by the young director Atlee Kumar. It is acted by the mass hero Vijay. This film has many violent scenes. The actor Vijay has performed a double role. The father's character of the movie has a criminal background and he is portrayed as a gangster. Ratchasan's movie is a psycho-thriller drama. It is directed by the young director Ram Kumar. This film has many violent scenes. The main lead role in the film is portrayed as a serial killer. The serial killer is a psychologically affected boy. The murder scenes are filmed without any considerations of the young audience. Kala movie is directed by Pa. Ranjith and acted by Rajinikanth. The film has many violent scenes. This film is about the gangster of Mumbai. The background of the story lies in gangsters, criminals, and youngsters. This film also shows the involvement of youngsters and teenagers in criminal activities. The movies such as Vada Chennai and Psycho also have many violent scenes. Apart from murder scenes, the dialogues of those films have many obscene words. It shows the current situation faced by Tamil society.

Conclusion

Contemporary cinema is full of violent scenes. There is increasing evidence that children are involved in violent acts. Well-intentioned stories are also provoking a violent culture. Stories of revenge come out the most. The dialogues and songs in Tamil cinema contain obscene words. Technological stories are emerging slowly now. The dominance of heroes is changing slowly. The quality of the stories is rising. The actor's adaptation of stories is a recent development. There is a growing demand for cosmetics by films like Ratchasan, 2.0, and Psycho. This is an

improvement. Young generation actors are getting more opportunities in Tamil cinema. The star actors like Kamal Hasan and Rajinikanth are entering into politics of the cinema industry. So there are opportunities for newcomers. A new generation of actors is likely to emerge. Actors like Vijay Sethupathi are welcome to play any role. The way many actors work together has increased. There are ways to make high budget, quality films with big investments. The directors are shining as actors. All of this has been proven in this research as the conclusion of the above study.

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