

## **Transformation of Protagonist to Antagonist by the Character Shammi in Kumbhalangi Nights**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study focuses on the “transformation of protagonist to antagonist by the character Shammi in Kumbhalangi Nights”. Shammi is the prominent character in the movie shows his muscular, perfect nature to the society. The inside evil, patriarchal, dominating, mysterious, insecure, confused characteristic behavior or attitude of Shammi also analyzed through the study. The aim of the study is to identify the hidden characteristic features of Shammi that creates an abnormality. The objective of the study explains the plot over analysis of the movie and the also identify the despondence thought through the questionnaire survey method. The researcher wants to find out how the transformation from protagonist to antagonist happens in the character Shammi or not. The total change in his character will persuade the people to think over the character. The muscular and strange iconic behavior of Shammi creates a scared atmosphere throughout the movie. As per the survey conducted most of the people agreed that the transformation in Shammi happens from the beginning to end of the movie. Shammi keeps the protagonist behavior in the beginning of the movie then finally his style of response changes because of the psychic disorder in him.

**Key words:** protagonist, antagonist, psychic, muscularity, Shammi, Kumbhalangi Nights.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The world wide range of communication made possible through visual communication and the other visual arts like film and social media. Film constitutes of Hollywood, Bollywood, Kollywood, Mollywood, etc. are some of the majorly discussing areas of the film industry. Valuable movie scripts result in deeper discussions in the critic's world. Mollywood industry also faces extreme criticisms based on the script and with the meaningful dialogues in a positive way. Kumbhalangi Nights, the 2019 premiere film became one of the best Malayalam films of the decade. This Indian Malayalam drama film was directed by Madhu C. Narayanan and each character and the script have significance. The protagonist to the antagonist transformation of Shammi in Kumbhalangi Nights will be analyzed through the study. Shammi belongs to the masculinity of men as being a perfect husband and a member of a decent family. An upper class attitude and family structure has been maintained in the whole movie where Shammi becomes the nephew or being like an owner of the house. Shammi is a sensitive person with a kind aggressive character and always keeps a smiling face. He controlled his face for not being aggressive, especially baby mol falling for bobby. The personification of an ideal toxic male can be seen throughout the movie itself. With these perspectives the plot and the psychic character should be identified with quantitative analysis.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

An individual's face which is positive or negative could be reflected by his or her desire to be liked, and that will be respected and appreciated by other people. But his or her negative face not is the desire impeded or put upon, but has the freedom to choose the act to which character (Thomas,

1995). The protagonist should have the negative features and positive features and that could be distinct and noticeable to develop the series they precede. (Haglund, 2013). The film makers have a tendency to create a tension in between the protagonist and the antagonist and that will help them to precede the story forward and developing characteristics of both type of characters. (M., 2020).

The protagonist is inflexible in their actions and feelings but sometimes it becomes complex. They find out the new ways to dealing with or get the better of antagonist. These two differential characteristic features we called as flat and round characters. They will be predictable and simple in their thoughts and actions but later it changed to complex (Burman, 2012). Shammi's toxicity comes from his own emotions and the violence he expressed through the patriarch behavior. He feels entitled to make decisions for women in a female-run household. There is a discomforting on his face when he emotionally becomes manipulative. (Amla Pisharody, 2020). The brothers exhibit similarities to Gillette's and Moore's four archetypes and stand in contrast to the antagonist Shammi, the ultimate dysfunctional male. (Bhaskaran, 2021). He is not someone with negative thoughts, but someone with his own understandings of life. So, he doesn't get along with the other characters of the film. In that sense, he is an antagonist. He is not a villain-villain kind of a person. He is very different from whatever I have played so far, and it's going to be very fresh on screen. (Soman, 2019).

"A scene that stands out is when Shammi- played by Fahadh Fasil is standing in front of the mirror admiring his moustache- the symbol of masculinity. He takes in his reflection and sees a pottu (bindi) that is stuck in the mirror. He scraps it off, and follows this up by saying "Raymond-the complete man". The complete man is one who has a moustache, is in control, and has the ability to do away with the feminine." (Amla Pisharody, 2020). This scene thinks about the man who was not at all devoted of any women even though he got married. The Malayalam movie industry has symbolically representing the women and their role in the society. The complete man concept has portrayed very identically as relevant with the application of a psychic character. By portraying the character Shammi, Narayan not at all revealing Shammi's muscular nature but rather than it has explored through its flaws and glorified on celluloid, by pointing how the psychic exaggeration affects the home, as heroism as ridiculous devastating attributes which, when unchecked, can result in something destructive and grotesque. (Sengupta, 2019).

Along with these beliefs the planned behavior theory says that, a set that deals with the presence or absence of requisite resources and opportunities. These control beliefs may be based in part on past experience with the behavior, but they will usually also be influenced by second-hand information about the behavior, by the experiences of acquaintances and friends, and by other factors that increase or reduce the perceived difficulty of performing the behavior in question (Martin, 2017). Shammi has become a modern man who can give and take the freedom from the women on their family. Shammi always try to compare with the four brothers and ashamed them with his perfect man concept. Shammi was dressed up well and the bothers imperfect while the movie contrast these characters with their imperfections and perfections. The male stereotype patriarchal system of the house and the vulnerable nature and house of saji become the identical comparisons in the movie. This was also face by bobby when Shammi Not at all agree with the living condition of Bobby.

## METHODOLOGY

The methodology is structured as a descriptive study of analysis in a quantitative and qualitative method. The first objective of the study analysis over the plot and dialogues of Kumbhalangi Nights will be analyzed through the qualitative content analysis. The second objective will answer through the quantitative survey method and the transformation of goodness to evilness of Shammi, the psychic change will also be identified.

### Research question:

- How the hidden characteristic psychic features of Shammi create an abnormality?
- Is there any systematic unique character to Shammi apart from other characters?

## **Objectives of study:**

### **Primary objective**

- To identify how the character “Shammi” developed from the beginning to end in the movie Kumbhalangi Nights through the plot and dialogue analysis.

### **Secondary Objective**

- 2. To identify the transformation of goodness to evilness and the psychic change in Shammi

## **Hypothesis:**

- The transformation of a character not depends upon the same but with the opposite reaction of the other characters.
- The psychic disorder in Shammi diverts his thoughts and emotions suddenly that made him as an antagonist.
- A strategic study can help to analyze how the transmission occurred. So the study basically experiment the character changes of Shammi over the plot and survey analysis of Kumbhalangi Nights.

## **Theoretical Frame Work**

### **Planned Behavior Theory**

The theory of planned behavior suggests how the behavioral changes effect a person's beliefs and attitudes. The theory was propounded by Icek Aizen to develop the theory of reasoned action. The theory says that human behavior is controlled by normative beliefs, control beliefs and behavioral beliefs. The perceived behavior is not only effect the behavior directly but will effect indirectly through the behavioral intentions. This behavioral change can be seen in the character Shammi from the beginning to end. Shammi concept contain the stereotypical muscular who protect the family. Rather than he try to conceptualize the audience to this in good with his character. When the other characters question his muscularity he becomes aggressive. Unconsciously Shammi changed his attitude towards psychic. The concept of social influence has been discussed in the theory of planned behavior. People are individually adopting thoughts and norms in their perception. They expect the people to perform particular behavior but when it comes worse the real character unconsciously changed. One of the Shammi barber shop friend is also something related to his own character. When Shammi wife once talk to him she also feel that some kind of abnormality in him. As the theory says subjective norms of the individual attaches to peer group thoughts. Shammi could be comfortable in between such friends. From this thought the social influence and behavior can adopt and compare from the planned behavior theory.

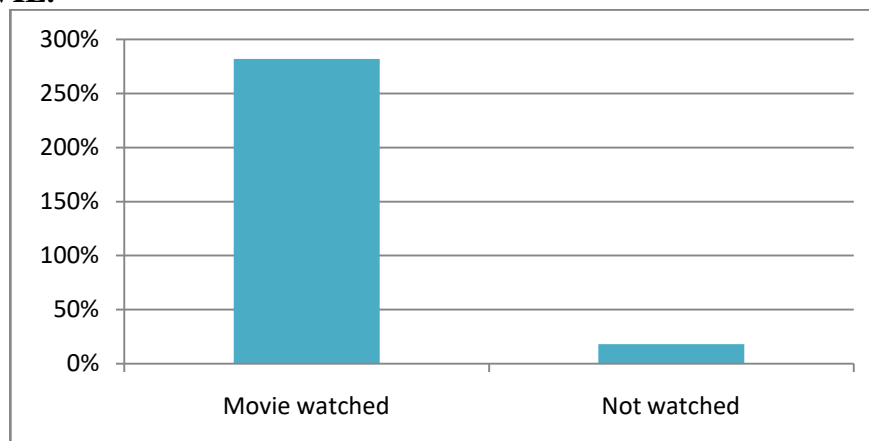
## **Research Design**

The primary data collection conducted through survey method and simple random probability sampling will be done in between the respondents. The sample sizes selected for the study are 300 in between the age 18 to 35. The respondents between 18 to 35 will be more interactive and they have the sensibility to access the character of Shammi. This film is also popular in between the youngsters so that the survey becomes more comfortable and communicative. The data collected through a well structured questionnaire in between the respondents. For getting more ideas the secondary sources are also used. The second objective will help to identify the transformation occurred in the character of Shammi from the protagonist to antagonist. The sample size should be calculated according to the variable selected for the study. The anxiety level of the audience becomes the independent variable because somehow audience anxiety completes a characters transformation. To create this anxiety the characteristic qualities like the concept of complete man, a man for caring, a suspicious husband, self obsessed, unpredictable etc becomes the dependent variables for the study. From this aspect the data should be presented in a tabulation format and the analysis shows as a graphical representation. The popular statistical tools are also used for the analysis of the data.

## FINDINGS

The researcher conducted a survey using simple random sampling. From the 300 of population people who reacted are graphically represented as follows.

### 4.1 FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS ON WATCHED KUMBHALANGI NIGHTS MOVIE.

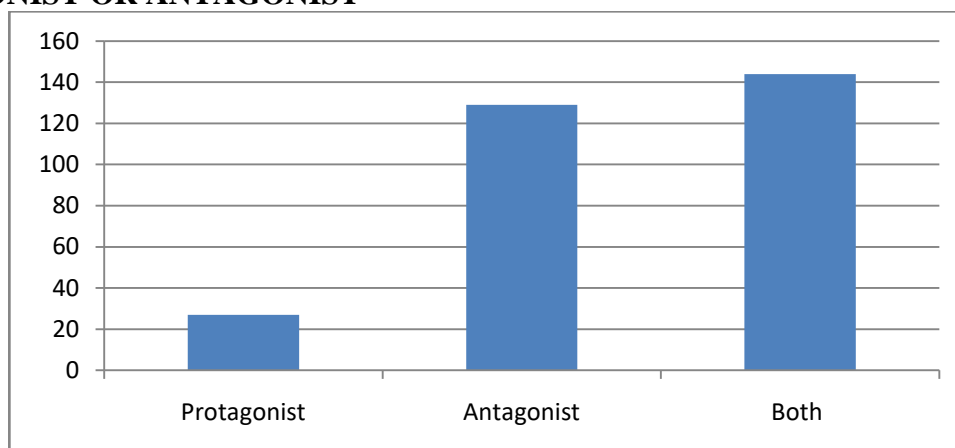


**Table 4.1: Frequency analysis of respondents on watched Kumbhalangi Nights movie.**

The survey was mostly concentrated under the age group of 18- 35 ages. With the help of simple random sampling 252 respondents are under the 18 to 35 age. The most of the youngsters will watch the Kumbhalangi Nights because the movie was centered on the youth. The second necessary need was how many people had watched the movie Kumbhalangi Nights. The result founded as follows in the graph (4.1) proved that most of the people among the age group are watched Kumbhalangi Nights. The 59 percentage of the people who reacted as females and 41percentage of the people are males. These age group people are remembering the name Shammi very well. From total 97 percentages of the people who knows Shammi after watching the movie Kumbhalangi Nights. The characteristic features are the reason to notice the character. Some of the people said that Shammi belongs to muscularity. When the researcher asked the question regarding the muscularity behavior of Shammi some of the people agreed without any doubt. One of the features is that he becomes psychic when other characters question their muscularity. When the question raised about muscularity 63 percentages of the people agreed that he have a muscular nature.

The other characteristic feature analyzed that somehow Shammi have a mental illness. This has been proved that 82 percentages of the people are agreed with the concept regarding mental illness. But the 18 percentage of the people are also disagreeing with the fact that they didn't feel any kind of mental illness in him. This mental illness can lead to an abnormality in the movie Kumbhalangi Nights. This kind of abnormality is the most noticeable factor in the film. Especially in Shammi's character there is abnormal behavior that leads to the climax of the movie. 90 percentages of the people understand that there is a kind of abnormality in the movie which easily visible to common man too. In that perspective Shammi become the protagonist in the beginning of the movie. 56 percentage of the people agreed that Shammi becomes the protagonist in the beginning of the movie. Because Shammi want to known for the best man rather than others in the kumbalangi. He keeps a smile in his face and becomes the hidden psycho attacker. This question become very much relevant as per the protagonist and antagonistic features considered. So that the analysis also done through these features. The analysis drawn as follows.

## 4.2 FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS ON WETHER SHAMMI IS PROTAGONIST OR ANTAGONIST

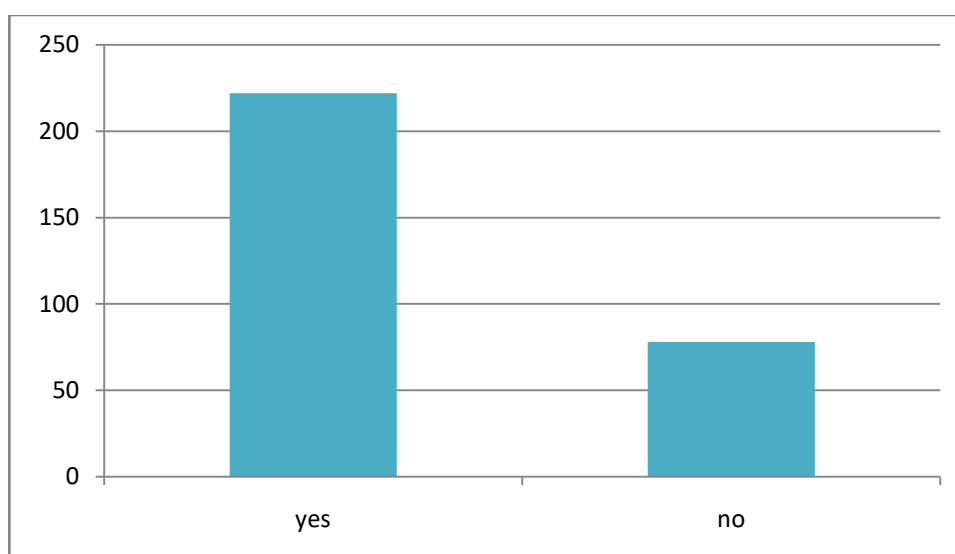


**Table 4.2 frequency analysis of respondents on whether Shammi is protagonist or antagonist**

Every character when it comes to visual presentation or cinematic presentation that becomes something complicated and layered. Here also that kind of transmission happens in between the character Shammi in Kumbhalangi Nights. On the basis of this complication the study asks the question whether Shammi belongs to a protagonist or antagonist. After collecting the respondents it is clear that the respondents have different kind of opinions. Some of them have said that they believe that Shammi is a protagonist in the movie.

When it comes to the beginning of the movie it is clear that Shammi has a sharp look and a gentle man attitude with some irregularities. These could be considered as the attitudinal change in him. But rather than considering him as a protagonist he becomes silent inside and being behaved as an owner of the house. From the total number of 300 around 27 people are only agreeing that he is a protagonist in the movie. 129 people opted that Shammi was the antagonist in the movie. Rather than both most of the people agreed that Shammi has both protagonist and antagonist behavior. From total 144 people agreed that they support the change in antagonist to protagonist transformation in Shammi. So the objective should be proved with this one statement from the public opinion.

## 4.3 FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS ON TRANSFORMATION OF SHAMMI FROM THE BEGINNING TO END IN THE KUMBHALANGI NIGHT



**Table 4.3 frequency analysis of respondents on transformation of Shammi**

From the beginning to end in the kumbalangi night

Convincing people though visually with the impact is the best result of that movie. Kumbhalangi Nights also build up such kind of fragments realistic approach to the characters in this movie. The People get the impact to analyze the characters especially Shammi. Once we watch the character deeply we get the idea that there are some special physic aspect to the character Shammi. This becomes the most appropriate answer for the study. These responses (table4.3) are based on how people have noticed the transmission happened in the character Shammi. From 300 people 222 agreed that the transformation in the character Shammi happens from the beginning to end of the movie. But 78 respondents are disagreeing this concept and they didn't found any kind of transmission in the character Shammi. So it is said that the transmission of Shammi happened in the movie Kumbhalangi Nights.

#### 4.3 FREQUENCY ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENTS ON PROTAGONIST TO ANTAGONIST TRANSFORMATION OF SHAMMI IN THE KUMBALANGI NIGHT

Shammi's Character Transformations	People agreed	Total prpulation
Protagonist	27	} 300
Antagonist	129	
Both protagonist & Antagonist	144	
Psychic change in Shammi	258	300
Muscularity in Shammi	189	300

Table 4.3 frequency analysis of respondents on protagonist to antagonist Transformation of Shammi in the kumbalangi night

##### Plot over analysis

The film Kumbhalangi Nights critically states the hypermusculinity and the morality especially the characters like Shammi and saji are comparable. Both the character has different kind of thoughts and the way they are expressing is totally different. The study focused on the character Shammi and he just putting smile on her face and pretending happy. Shammi was introduced by the children's who are playing cricket near to Shammi's home. They says that Shammi is very serious and not at a good man. The first scene of Shammi visualized when he was looking up his clean and mustache face standing in front of the mirror. When a bindi stick in to the mirror Shammi clean smoothly with a blade. Thus the protagonist is being ready for going to his barber shop. This symbolizes how he cleans up the feminine shades from his life.

He says "Raymond the complete man" indicates his perfection of life and thoughts. The next moment arriving the friend of Shammi and he just explains how Shammi is saying "Shammi is a typical character". He came to deliver the plate that Shammi eats food regularly. From this perspective onwards Shammi becomes typical kind of protagonist. The doubtful thought of baby mol and simmy clearly explains that mood in film. When Shammi leaves the home he answers his wife that "leaving early for shop is an insult". Shammi stick on his idea but for became a good husband he says that he will come Late and putting smile on simmy's face. But suddenly his expression changes when the football comes and touches his bike. When the perfection touches the ball he become angry but he handled it buy making sound of the bullet. But Simmy feared about this psychic nature but Shammi handled it nicely.

When Simmy says "chittappan is good cook" he replied that "he is doing a good job". This reflects the muscularity of Shammi and he proves that he become the perfect gentle man. When other men

did cooking Shammi mocked and toned them. If critically analyze these perspective of Shammi this connects the transformation to antagonist movement. Simi seems to be a stereotypical husband type women and her voice is very much kind. Shammi always ask Simmy that “why you are always frightening?” This symbolizes Shammi also know that he is a kind of a person having some behavioral changes in him. The under developed concept of Shammi become psychotic and also took look brilliantly polished. From all these perspective Shammi become the protagonist of the movie in the beginning. But when it comes to the climax or the second part the scenes create some fear in the audience. When Shammi faced the question he cannot handled himself and explored the character with the psychic behavior.

At the end scene baby mol expressed his love towards bobby Shammi can’t handle himself. He expressed his violence towards baby mol but suddenly Simmy break the stereotype and react against Shammi. This results the Shammi’s original attitude and psychic behavioral change. He just puts a smile on him that creates an abnormality in the house. At last Shammi explains himself as by saying “Shammi is a hero”. Shammi himself creates an abnormality and breaks muscularity after become psychic. At the end he totally becomes the psychic character with all his disturbing nature. The ownership of the house changed totally at end. The braking up of stereotype also become reason to made Shammi as an antagonist. So from the beginning to end Shammi has been transformed as a protagonist to antagonist.

## CONCLUSION

The study focused on the protagonist to antagonist transformation of Shammi in Kumbhalangi Nights. The results are collected though the survey questionnaire and a plot over analysis of the movie. Around 74 percentages of the people are agreed that there are transformation happened in the character Shammi from the beginning to end. Shammi character has widely noticed by the despondence. Because 97 percentage of the despondence are hear about the character Shammi. This becomes the ultimate positive response of the survey. Most if the people are agree that Shammi becomes the protagonist of the movie in the beginning and become antagonist in the end of the movie. The plot over analysis also provides the detailed expiations for why Shammi becomes the protagonist and antagonist. The first object should be conducted through the plot over analysis and the second objective resulted through survey. The hypothesis are proved through the variables had choose for the study. 82 percentage of the despondence agreed that Shammi have a kind of mental illness in him that lead as become psychic. From all the perspective of study Shammi had a great transmission from protagonist to antagonist.

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