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R. Venkatesh Aravindh
Doctoral Research Scholar,
Department of Journalism and
Mass Communication, Periyar
University, Salem, Tamil
Nadu, India

Theeran- The Intelligent Cop

R. Venkatesh Aravindh

Abstract

Films are an important form of media outlet in the society. They portray various aspects of issues or theme or concepts which are known to us in the purview of a director and through other elements like story, screenplay, music etc. Films portray a variety of issues and aspects. There happen to positive and negative aspects that are being understood by the audience. However there are many genres and aspects which have had been portrayed especially in cop story base movies. The current research paper looks at the recent box office hit film by H. Vinoth - THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU. The research paper will critically review various aspects of interrogation done in the right way by the Police department in the film through iconography.

Keywords: Cinema, Box Office, Theeran Adhigaram Ondru, Analysis, Iconography

1. Introduction

1.1 Role of Film in Society

The President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences or popularly known for their academy awards aka Oscars, Tom Sherak (2017) in an interview said “Film is a reflection of society, both present and past. I think the film and its innovations sometimes has to catch up to society but sometimes it leads society too. Movies are stories; movies are people who come out with ideas about something they want to say something they want to tell someone.”

2 Review of Literature

2.1 Cinema and Social change

Lanham R.A. (2010) quotes Perumal ET. Al (2015) that cinema has been one of the greatest influences in our modern life, and it's also a form of art, the seventh art along with photography, architecture, literature, play, painting and music. It's the combination of technology, business, entertainment and aesthetics, each and everything of these four has important role in present day world and it's also visible in the variation of its forms, Film is technology (picture taken in the celluloid camera and editing), movie is the business and entertainment, and cinema is the aesthetics. According to Anisul Haque (1992) films gave a social pattern to the most fundamental inward need of both the individual and the group. The mythological films made the people aware of their cultural heritage and inspired them to develop and cultivate the Indian reality.

3 Objective of The Study

- To analyse the various aspects of interogation done by the Police department in the film ‘THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU’ through iconography.

4 Methodology

The researcher has envisioned analysing the various aspects of interrogation iconographic elements present in the film ‘THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU.’

Correspondence:

R. Venkatesh Aravindh
Doctoral Research Scholar,
Department of Journalism and
Mass Communication, Periyar
University, Salem, Tami Nadu,
India

5 Analysis

Iconography

The current research study focusses on the depiction of a story based on true events from the Operation Bawaria case, which involved the nefarious activity of dacoits and its eventual containment by Tamil Nadu police. During the early 19th century several common people and traders went missing in suspicious manners. On the orders of the then Governor Willaim Benedict a troop was commisioned under Willaim Henry and found out that people were getting murdered by people belonging to Daggis community who were killing people in the guise of traders and sepoy. Upon further investigation, thousands of skeletons we found buried and confirmed to be done by the same gang. More deeper investigation by the British governemnt revealed a shocking fact that over 450 years with the help of certain rulers, these gangs were involved in the murders of atleast 20 lakh people. After this revelation, the British strengthened laws and action and gave death penalty to thousands of Daggis people, the majority of the other people were tortured and burnt the jungles that housed the Daggis and totally extricated the Daggis. Citing them, and these incidents the British claimed that Indians

are barbaric in nature and can't govern themselves and added that they are the tight persons to rule and govern the Indians. They also declared 250 specific castes as crime castes. After the independece, the government under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehu nulified the crime caste law and helped them to re-establish themselves by prividng job oppurtunie and earn some means of livelihood. A lot of these gangs and castes were living peacefully after such a move by the government. However, there were certain castes and gangs that were still indulging in crimes. There were gangs which were operating without even realising that it was a crime - poor this, Keravas, Thangaloos, Sansis, Gingerballs, Bingaloos and Hawarias.

Poorthis have migrated from Maharashtra and are operating at various places across the country. Keravas have migrated from Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu to Chandrapur (Maharashtra) and in Urappakkam and Guduvamcherry areas in Tamil Nadu. Thangaloos have come from Bangladesh and operate in Outer Delhi. Hawaria operate from UP and Noida. Being hunters by nature, they use the same hunting technique used to kill animals on humans as well



ICON 1, 2 & 3 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 4, 5 & 6 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 7, 8 & 9 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 10, 11 & 12 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD

Icons 1 to 12 helps to establish a basic introduction to what the actual case around which the movie is based on. Theeran the protagonist then starts working by putting up a tent with his team in Rajasthan and the other 7 team set their teams and tents in other states in the pursuit of the gang that is actually behind these crimes. With the help of fingerprints and the Police department they set out to the village to find one of the accused named Banne Singh but are forced to retreat soon as the villagers gather to defend them in their domain. The police department in Rajasthan

aids Theeran by asking them to contact Pandit, one of the main informers to the Police and also has close contact with the Hawaria gang that is being pursued by Theeran. They later zero in on Harma Singh(55) who happens to be a relative of the accused Banne Singh and is working as a VAO. He also happens to be the organizer of the gang and is the only educated person in their caste. He helps the gang to solve their problems within their community and also mainly to convert the gold looted by the gang as money and also with the legal issues



ICON 13 & 14 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 15 & 16 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 17 & 18 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 19 & 20 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD

Icons 13 to portray the brilliant of Theeran through his interrogation skills. Theeran is unable to get any information out of Dharam Singh when he gets the procedure to interrogate him in Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu. Upon Dharam Singh's release he plans meticulously to trap Dharam Singh again who is in his village. Theeran decides to use his intelligence to get the best out of Dharam Singh and Banne Singh. He initially arrests Dharam Singh and is rebuffed by his repeated response Mein Behuna Saab

(*I am innocent...*). He arrests Banne Singh and shows a clip of Dharam Singh writing something on a piece of paper. He tells Banne Singh that based on Dharam Singh's confessions and statement which was recorded only they have arrested Banne Singh and are interrogating him. Banne Singh also repeats the same dialogue Mein Behuna Saab (*I am innocent...*). At this juncture, Theeran asks Banne Singh to check the loot to confirm his suspicion of whether Dharam Singh had confessed

everything. This dialogue plays into the mind of Banne Singh psychologically. He doesn't check the loot and he is asked by Theeran as to why their gang was inactive for four years. Banne Singh tells the interrogation team that their gang was arrested by UP's Sikara Police team when they were returning from one of their loots. Later, they tried to escape from custody and were caught. When they had applied for bail, they came out and re-started their job of looting and crime. Banne Singh is pushed back into the room where Dharam Singh is lodged and is being interrogated. Banne Singh then rebuffs his uncle asking as to why he confessed everything. This surprises and debunks Dharam Singh and he retorts saying that he only wrote Gossip and not anything in the statement. Banne Singh then looks at Dharam Singh who tells him that this is the reason why he asked people of his caste to get educated. Banne Singh then looks at Theeran

crying and Theeran says *Mein Behuna Saab (I am innocent...)*. His whole team laughs at their success at that point. Theeran's team then checks the aforementioned records to gain more intel and forms a list of the accused that are involved chiefly in the crime so that they can nab all the accused who are involved in the crimes. They form a list of 17 accused who are involved including their leader Oma who is the chief accused and their gang leader who is based from Haryana to the last accused Tola who is a snatcher. The list also included these two people viz. Dharam Singh and Banne Singh. The last set of interrogation scenes which depict Theeran's intelligence and brilliance is SOF the accused no.9 Rukesh Singh.



ICON 21 & 22 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray –DVD



ICON 23 & 24 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray -DVD



ICON 25 & 26 Courtesy: Theeran Athigaram Ondru Blu ray –DVD

Rukesh Singh then tells that the UP Police were very strict and hence their leader shifted their operating area. He also tells that the UP Police had guns and their TN counterparts do not have guns and would let them off with just 20 rupees when their vehicles are being checked at the check posts. He also goes on to add that they saw women in Tamil Nadu wearing more gold on their necks in comparison to their counterparts in the north. This prompted them to think that if there is this much gold on their neck itself how much gold and jewellery would be there at home and hence they decided to loot the homes and kill people for the same.

Conclusions

The current research study was undertaken with an objective of analyzing the iconographic elements present in the film THEERAN ADHIGARAM ONDRU, which released on November 17, 2017. The iconographic elements were analysed by focussing on the core objective of looking at the scenes which portrayed the intelligence of the Police department in their interrogation and being instrumental in solving one of the most notorious cases by busting a very notorious gang of Hawarias and thereby ensuring that no gang or any other gang indulges in such crimes henceforth.

Disclaimer All the images used in this research film work have been taken from Theeran Athigaram Ondru Bluray DVD.

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