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Hindi Cinema: Changing Portrayal of Female Characters

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During its awesome journey of 100 years, the Indian Cinema has been a witness to a sea-change in the presentation of the female protagonists. Showing many shades, the portrayal of women not only touched the lives of the audiences but also showcased the strength, beauty and complexity that define a woman. The picture of woman presented by the Hindi Cinema is changing in more than one sense. Women still play the same role as wife, mother, beloved or vamp, but the presentation has changed a lot. The aim of this paper is to locate this journey of changes in the portrayal of female characters in Hindi cinema with a focus on some representative Bollywood films.

Introduction

Cinema is a very powerful medium of reflecting the culture and ethos of any society. Bollywood or Hindi film industry is one of the biggest film industries. Hindi cinema has been a major point of reference for Indian culture in this century. It has shaped and expressed the changing scenarios of modern India to an extent that no preceding art form could ever achieve. Hindi cinema has influenced the way in which people perceive various

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