



The Artistic Quality of Dramatic Text and the Creative Performance

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ABSTRACT

Drama is a unique genre of literature as it is intended for performance. It is usually thought of as a cultural activity. A playwright creates a text with many inherent parts like plot, character, idea and language. The aspects of play script are transformed into performance to attain its completeness. The actor, audience and actions are the important incarnations of theatrical performance. Drama had its growth from time to time and achieved diversity with its variations. In this modern world, cinema, a varied form of drama stays as the most influential art form. Theatre and cinema are two different art mediums that incorporate some similar aspects such as acting and theatrics. Drama entertains all sections of society with its immediacy and cinema with its effective audio visual nature. This paper discuss about the creative process of drama and cinema and its efficacy of visual impact upon the audience.

KEYWORDS : cultural activity, theatrical performance, immediacy, visual impact

Literature as a whole flourishes and changes from generation to generation. It is not static but dynamic. The subject matter of literature is as extensive as human experience itself. Drama is a unique genre of literature as it is intended for performance. It is usually thought of as a cultural activity. And it is the only art which is still inevitably communal. Drama at its best is an exercise of the imagination not only for the writer, producer and actors but also for the audience. The playwright creates characters and places them in situations that are interesting and in some way relevant to general human experience. The management of the material of drama is, consequently, different from that of a novel. Novel is carried out according to the line the author pleases, but a play must deliver its whole message within a very few hours. To achieve this, dramatist has to exercise great economy in the management of the plot and delineation of character.

Dramatic Craftsmanship

The elements of a dramatic text make the drama perfect with its characteristic features. The text is the written record of a play, including dialogue and stage directions and therefore it is called a play script. The dramatic text is the basic for performance and the histrionic talent completes its effect on the audience. A playwright creates a text with many inherent parts like plot, character, idea and language. Plot is internally consistent and constitutes the main part of the play with the ordering of incidents. Characters make a play active and have function throughout. Idea or meaning is embodied in character and plot, and therefore it is inherent in every play text and adds value to the text. Language is expressive and acts as the medium for conveying the meaning or idea of the play.

Dramatic Performance

The elements of play script are transformed into performance to attain its completeness. The actor, audience and actions are the important embodiments of theatrical performance. The most important aspect of theatrical performance is immediacy which provides an inherent intensity. The physical presence of the live actor on stage presents a more immediate image of human behaviour and brings up an effect close to life. The creative process in theatre involves work of a playwright, director and actors. The dramatic experience becomes a natural extension of human life to both of the individual and of the social being. The purpose of drama is to enlighten the thoughts of people and their way of living.

Drama had its growth from time to time and achieved diversity with its variations. The evolution of drama shows different form in its growth. From the origin of theatre to the present day, drama engrosses a wide attention of the people. In this modern world, cinema, a varied form of drama stays as the most influential art form. Cinema is widely popular for its audio visual nature which provides a pervasive power of social influence. It is a means of creative expression of script writer, director and many other technicians. Like drama it informs, educates, entertains and transmits culture.

Theatre and Cinema

Theatre and cinema are two different art mediums that incorporate some similar aspects such as acting and theatrics. They have many major differences as well. Play actors and behind-the-scenes crew workers together prepare and put on each theatrical performance. Theatrical drama occurs live in front of an audience and differ each time in respective to the difference in culture and place. The meaning of the play text is explicit only when it presents the intended effect of the playwright. To achieve this director involves in organising the performance as a whole. The director unifies within two categories such as interpretation and presentation. By interpretation, one means not only the analysis of the dramatic text but also the evaluation of the nature of the audience and the assessment of the abilities and potentials of the theatre artists.

In cinema, the alteration in presentation is not allowed after the end of the making process. The mise-en-scene of cinema is formed with the setting, properties, costume and with the actions captured by the camera. The meaning of the film is conveyed not only by the actors but with the wide elements of spectacle. For instance the music, locale and the angle of the camera supports in conveying the core idea of the scene.

Another aspect of theatre that can work for its effectiveness is its scenic and spatial limitation. Space and locale provided by the scenic design increase the audience's enjoyment as it appeals to their visual sense. The atmosphere created by the set designing along with other aspects of the performance creates the mood of the performance. The scenic environment stands as a symbolic representation for the action. Though the stage is filled with artificiality, the artificial nature of theatre gives everything put on the stage a paradoxically heightened reality. Theatre however is limited to what can be portrayed on a stage but cinema can portray different locations in various angles. Theatre holds a deeper connection between the audience and actors because the audience is seeing the character's story happen right in front of them. Cinema is limited to a two-dimensional screen and has more distraction over the audience. Theatre involves many different sets and lighting, but never uses many different locations and angles as cinema.

Conclusion

The multifaceted dimensions of Indian society are depicted in the art forms through the various aspects of drama and cinema. Cinema is just a diverse form of drama. They entertain all sections of society through its audio visual nature. Spectacle of the performance embodies the idea of the play text and film script. In many ways, it addresses the audience at a level different from language and intellect. Spectacle is considered as the major part of performance as it attracts the audience in large. Films draw heavily from reality, portraying situations that have close resemblance to society. The ease of comprehension helps the viewer to understand the role of the character and to identify with them quickly and effectively. Thus the paper makes it clear that drama with its diverse forms and transformation through the ages throws itself as strong mode of communication to the society than any other art form of literature.

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