

## The Art and Craft of Cinema

Dr Surabhi Biplove

There are multiple metaphors within cinema which are deeply associated with each other yet independent. All these add to the overall cinematic language of the film. Though the invention of film was a scientific affair but it developed as an art form because of various artistic professionals working within the film that include director, actor, cameraman, music composer, writer, set designer and other cultural artists. The artists working as a team express their thought process in cinema and through this different visual languages are developed. The language has a craft through which a shot is presented. This paper will try to analyze the deep connotations and notions using several classics as a case study. These classics have helped to define cinema as an art form which involves the craft of various art forms.

Modern inventions resulted in the birth of cinema art which is nothing short of a miracle. In the initial phase, people could not believe that there could be a world of pictures which could be moving. This world first came in the form of photography, which later started to portray our dynamic world as it is. We used this invention as entertainment, expression and communication. Art was introduced in cinema as an expression, but it was not the technologist who gave it the status of art, but the director, camera man, musician, writer and other cultural workers. Cinema was born after photography. Cinema is made up of scenes and scenes are made of images. Thus, one can assume that the film is a series of images. While watching the film, the images constantly pass in front of our eyes on the screen, this gives us the illusion that it is like a continuous bandage which actually it is not because the film runs intermittently. The birth of cinema and *"every frame at the time of filming and film launch needs to be completely paused before proceeding, thus filming by camera is possible and through this process we are able to see the projected image. This is called intermittent motion mechanism."*<sup>1</sup>

In 1893, Edison and Dixon succeeded in producing a model of the kinetoscope that could be placed for commercial display. After becoming familiar with the results of the above search, Edison made several improvements to his instrument, succeeding in the method of being able to wrap a very long film strip with the help of latham-loops, and by clear-motion-processing.

Edison's camera shot forty frames of film in a second. The Lumier brothers immediately began production of cinematography and decided to show the film to the group for a film screening. Thus the future of cinema was decided. It became a means of entertainment and business, but it developed into a new art form by joining other arts. Today cinema has become a powerful medium of entertainment and knowledge as a developed art. Cinema has created its own unique craft by absorbing the qualities and elements of all arts, having its own language

### **The concept of cinematic craft**

To understand the cinematic craft, it is necessary to know what the craft is. The artist expresses her feelings through craft. Different art areas have different means to express the experience. Language scientists have expressed different views of the subject of the craft. According to Dr. Kailash Vajpayee - "*Shilpavidhi is an account of the main features of the composition, on the basis of which the composition has been made tangible or written by the stylus with a specific gesture*". . Meaning of craft also means manner, legislation or method. Craft is a special method and response of the Abhivyangana, which is tangible through special elements from the beginning of the composition to the end of the composition. According to the Hindi Sahitya Kosh - "*Craft is the name of the way of decorating a particular object, which makes the expression of that subject beautiful and effective*". Thus it can be said that the soul of the craft is mainly the relation in which the subject is accommodated in the framework.

Through cinema, the director expresses his feeling and cinema is composed in different genres. Each style has its own craft, in which scenes are rendered through shot configuration. . The writing of visual language is called screenplay and this path is the basis of the film. Prior imagery is produced as the script of the film, which is a very important part of the cinematic craft. Director, screenwriter, cinematographer, editor, lyricist, composer, sound design, black director, etc. all play an important role in presenting cinema as art. Filmmaking is in itself a group art. Where all the aspects related to cinema under the leadership of the director give artistic support in the creation of a visual language.

It is in the form of a screenplay, embodies it through the technique of cinema. Under this technique, acting, style, dialogue, cinematography, editing, set design, sound design, song-music,

visual effects, animation etc. are adjusted. In cinema, the visual writing is performed, through which scenes are dispersed. The scenes are characterized by a specific gesture in their presentation through which the director presents his feeling. The craft of cinema becomes attractive as the director's meaningful expressions come in tangible form. Cinema has its own style, method and method of expressing the screenplay through visual and audio medium, which is presented through specific elements of cinema from the beginning of the composition to the end of the composition. Under cinema production, the subject object is adjusted or arranged in a style specific to the director's point of view. Apart from the technical side in the production and performance of cinema, there is also the aspect of the emotion. Dialogues, visuals, songs, music, editing etc. have their technical regrets, but this technical regression is a means of expressing their inner feelings. This allows the story to be presented effectively. Craft is an important factor in the impressive performance of the cinema. Observing from the point of view of the definition of craft and language, it is known that cinema contains elements of language but it has better ability to exchange ideas like the language of human speech. On doing this, it is reflected that in cinema, views can be exchanged through visuals. Teleconference is a form of visual medium if seen from a wide viewpoint, but it is not a form of fiction and non fiction.

With appropriate analysis, it is clear that cinema has its own distinct craft which is presented through visual and audio. Bimb (shot) experiment, chitramakta, (cinematography) sequence of scene, (editing) style, symbol, sound design, (voice combination) song-music, visual effect, animation etc. are all placed under the craft. Thus, one can say that the craft has its own important place in the making of the film.

1. Bhartiya Cine Siddanth, Dr Anupam Ojha

*Author's profile:*

*The author is Assistant Professor in the Department of Performing Arts (Film and Theatre) at the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra, India and may be reached at [surabhibiplove@gmail.com](mailto:surabhibiplove@gmail.com)*